



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

AAI seeks info on fuel stocks from airport operators

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 3 March

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has directed operators of all major airports in the country to share updated information on the availability of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) and projected requirements for the coming week, according to industry sources, amid rising tensions in West Asia.

The government-run

entity's communication to major airport operators comes as the recent conflict has disrupted the movement of oil shipments through sea routes across parts of the Middle East. This has pushed up the global oil prices.

Sources said that each airport operator has been asked to provide a daily update to the AAI about the ATF stock they hold, daily consumption level and

expected demand. These major airports handle international flights and the government wants to ensure that they are fully prepared, they added.

Sources said airport operators have also been asked to inform the AAI about their next scheduled replenishment. India currently operates 33 international airports, including key hubs in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and

Chennai. Many of these are run by private operators and few are run by the AAI.

About half of India's crude and LPG imports transit the Strait of Hormuz, the key energy chokepoint that has seen disruptions after US and Israeli attacks on Iranian military and nuclear facilities. Iran warned shipping away from the strait, and insurers withdrew coverage, effectively halting tanker movements.



Corporate Communications Directorate

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MUMBAI

4 MARCH 2026

AAI seeks info on fuel stocks from international airport operators

PTI
NEW DELHI

State-owned Airports Authority of India has asked all international airport operators in the country to provide details of available fuel stocks as well as estimated requirements for the next seven days amid the escalating Middle East crisis, sources said on Tuesday.

The communication comes against the backdrop

of the escalating conflict in the Middle East involving the US, Israel and Iran, which threatens to impact global oil supplies.

One of the sources said the details have been sought as a "precautionary measure" to have a clear understanding of the fuel supply situation at international airports.

The sources told PTI that, following directions from the Civil Aviation Ministry,



the Airports Authority of India has sought details about the current fuel supply status from all international airport operators.

The operators have also been asked to provide details of average daily fuel consumption, estimated fuel requirement for the next

seven days and the date of the next scheduled fuel replenishment, the sources said.

India has 33 international airports, including those in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai.

In terms of international flight operations, there were 355 departures and 344 arrivals at airports across the country on March 2, according to data available with the ministry.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

AAI seeks fuel stock info from airport operators

New Delhi/ Mumbai: State-owned Airports Authority of India (AAI) has asked all international airport operators in the country to provide details about available fuel stocks as well as estimated requirements for the next seven days amid the escalating West Asia crisis, sources said on Tuesday.

One of the sources said the details have been sought as a "precautionary measure" to have a clear understanding about the fuel supply situation at the international airports. Following directions from the civil aviation ministry, AAI has sought details about the current fuel supply status from all the international airport operators.

The operators have also been asked to provide details about average daily fuel consumption, estimated fuel requirement for the next seven days and date of next scheduled fuel replenishment, the sources said.

India has 33 international airports, including at Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai. **PTI**

Kannadigas unite to aid stranded tourists in UAE



Emirates airplanes are parked at the Dubai International Airport after its closure in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Sunday

Community leaders, ministers, embassies coordinate assistance, medical support, emergency relief for stranded Karnataka tourists in UAE

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Non-resident Kannadigas in the United Arab Emirates have united to support tourists from Karnataka who remain stranded in Dubai, launching coordinated relief efforts and seeking urgent intervention from the state government. Under the leadership of Ronald Colaco, the Kannadigas Help Line team convened a virtual meeting to assess the situation, compile details of those affected,

and streamline support on the ground. Community leaders stressed that the UAE remains safe and authorities are protecting expatriates, while urging people to avoid spreading unverified information on social media.

MLC SL Bhojgowda, who is stranded in Dubai, said he pushed for a Rs 2 crore emergency relief package and received assurance that authorities will place the matter before the Chief Minister. MLC and Deputy Chairperson of NRI Forum of Karnataka Aarti Krishna said she is in touch with embassies across Gulf nations

and coordinating efforts with the Karnataka government. Community organisations in Dubai, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, and Ajman are reaching out directly to stranded Kannadigas. Coordinator Hidayat Adoor said volunteers are meeting affected tourists and providing assistance, including medical help where needed.

Meanwhile, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said 109

“Arrangements, including special or regular flights, will be made once restrictions are lifted

—Revenue Minister
Krishna Byre Gowda

people contacted the state helpline and shared their details, prompting intensified response efforts through the Disaster Management wing and senior officials since Saturday night. Of them, 100 remain stranded in the UAE, mainly in Dubai, while nine are stuck in Bahrain. District-wise data showed Ballari accounts for 32 stranded persons, followed by Bengaluru with 25. Others include Davanagere (9), Chikkamagaluru (5), Madikeri and Vijayapura (4 each), Shivamogga, Raichur and Mangaluru (3 each), Udupi, Chitradurga, Kalaburagi and Chikkaballapura (2 each), Tumakuru (1), while three have not confirmed district details.

Gowda clarified that the Centre informed the state that flights cannot operate due to suspended air traffic but assured arrangements will be made once restrictions lift.

कई हवाई अड्डों पर अटका सामान

एयर कार्गो एजेंटों ने नागर विमानन मंत्रालय को लिखा पत्र, कार्गो टर्मिनल ऑपरेटर्स से डिमरेज शुल्क माफ करने की मांग

दीपक पटेल
नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च

एयर कार्गो एजेंटों ने नागर विमानन मंत्रालय से कार्गो टर्मिनल ऑपरेटर्स को डिमरेज शुल्क माफ करने का निर्देश देने का आग्रह किया है, क्योंकि ईरान पर इजरायल और अमेरिका द्वारा सैन्य हमलों के बाद उड़ान में व्यवधान के कारण निर्यात खेप हवाई अड्डों पर ही फंस गई हैं। डिमरेज शुल्क वह होता, जो सामान के मुफ्त भंडारण अवधि से अधिक समय तक हवाई अड्डे के टर्मिनल पर पड़े रहने के कारण लगाया जाता है।

एयर कार्गो एजेंट्स एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया ने 2 मार्च को लिखे पत्र में कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया में हालिया भू-राजनीतिक तनाव के कारण निर्यातकों और एयर कार्गो से जुड़े लोगों को चुनौतीपूर्ण स्थिति का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

एसोसिएशन ने उल्लेख किया कि मौजूदा स्थिति के कारण अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान संचालन में व्यवधान पैदा हो गया है। एयरलाइनों को उड़ान प्रतिबंध, मार्ग परिवर्तन, समय-सारणी में बदलाव और कुछ विदेशी हवाई अड्डों पर परिचालन संबंधी बाधाओं के कारण परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

इजरायल और अमेरिका ने बीते शनिवार को संयुक्त कार्रवाई में ईरान पर सैन्य हमले शुरू किए थे, जिसके जवाब में ईरान ने खाड़ी के कई देशों में कार्रवाई की। दोतरफा हमलों के कारण पश्चिम एशिया के कुछ हिस्सों में वाणिज्यिक हवाई यातायात बाधित हो गया है। कई देशों ने अपने हवाई क्षेत्र के कुछ हिस्सों को या तो बंद कर दिया है या आंशिक रूप से प्रतिबंधित कर दिया है।

एयर कार्गो एजेंट्स एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया ने कहा कि उथल-पुथल की स्थिति के कारण निर्यात किया जाने वाला सामान देश भर में जहां-तहां हवाई अड्डों के कार्गो टर्मिनलों पर फंस गया है। पत्र में कहा गया है, 'माल के उठान में देरी पूरी तरह बाहरी कारकों के कारण हो रही है, इसमें निर्यातकों, सीमा शुल्क दलालों या एयर कार्गो एजेंटों की कोई गलती नहीं है। बाहरी हालात उनके नियंत्रण में नहीं हैं।' हवाई अड्डों पर कार्गो हैंडलिंग सुविधाओं का प्रबंधन करने वाले कार्गो टर्मिनल ऑपरेटर्स के मौजूदा टैरिफ ढांचे के तहत जब कोई सामान निर्धारित मुफ्त भंडारण अवधि से अधिक समय तक टर्मिनल पर पड़ा रह जाता है तो उस पर डिमरेज शुल्क लगाया जाता है। अब उड़ानें बाधित होने से यही स्थिति पैदा हो गई है। बड़ी मात्रा में सामान हवाई अड्डों के कार्गो टर्मिनल में पड़ा है। कार्गो एजेंट एसोसिएशन ने कहा कि वैश्विक हवाई रसद श्रृंखला में मौजूदा व्यवधान असाधारण है और बाहरी कारकों के कारण इससे बचा भी नहीं जा सकता। ऐसे में यदि निर्यातकों पर डिमरेज



मुंबई के छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज इंटरनैशनल एयरपोर्ट पर पहुंचे यात्री

फोटो-पीटीआई

देश भर में 250 उड़ानें हुई रद्द

पश्चिम एशिया में संघर्ष की वजह से लगातार चौथे दिन मंगलवार को भी उड़ानें प्रभावित हुईं। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि दिल्ली, मुंबई, बेंगलूरु और चेन्नई के हवाई अड्डों पर सबसे ज्यादा 250 से अधिक उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर 80 उड़ानें रद्द हुईं, जबकि मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर 107 तथा बेंगलूरु में कम से कम 42 विमान नहीं उड़ सके। चेन्नई हवाई अड्डे ने सोशल मीडिया मंच 'एक्स' पर पोस्ट कर कहा कि 30 उड़ानें रद्द की गई हैं। पश्चिम एशिया में 28 फरवरी को संकट शुरू होने के बाद से भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों ने पिछले तीन दिनों में 1,117 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द की हैं।

एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि नई दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे से 36 प्रस्थान उड़ानें और 44 आगमन उड़ानें प्रभावित हुई हैं। एमिरेट्स समेत कुछ एयरलाइन ने पश्चिम एशिया के लिए आंशिक रूप से सेवाएं दोबारा शुरू कर दी हैं। उड़ानों पर नजर रखने वाली वेबसाइट 'फ्लाइटरेडार24 डॉट कॉम' पर उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार, दुबई जा रही एमिरेट्स एयरलाइन की उड़ान संख्या ईके-513 वायुक्षेत्र संबंधी प्रतिबंधों के कारण राष्ट्रीय राजधानी लौट आई। दिल्ली अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा लिमिटेड (डायल) ने 'एक्स' पर पोस्ट किया, 'पश्चिम एशिया की मौजूदा राजनीतिक स्थिति के कारण पश्चिम की ओर जाने वाली कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में देरी या समय-सारणी में बदलाव किया जा रहा है।'

इसी बीच, एयर इंडिया ने मंगलवार को दुबई से दिल्ली के लिए एक उड़ान संचालित की जिसमें 149 यात्री सवार थे। एयरलाइन ने 'एक्स' पर पोस्ट किया, 'किसी भारतीय एयरलाइन की पहली उड़ान है जो आज 149 यात्रियों और चालक दल के आठ सदस्यों के साथ नई दिल्ली पहुंची है।' अधिकारी ने बताया कि मंगलवार तड़के दुबई से एमिरेट्स की उड़ान ईके512 दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर उतरी।

शुल्क लगाया गया तो यह उन पर अतिरिक्त और अनुचित वित्तीय बोझ होगा। एसोसिएशन ने मंत्रालय से कार्गो टर्मिनल ऑपरेटर्स को निर्यात होने वाले सामान पर डिमरेज शुल्क की छूट देने के लिए उपयुक्त दिशानिर्देश

जारी करने का अनुरोध किया है, क्योंकि हवाई अड्डों पर पड़ा सामान उड़ान व्यवधान या वैश्विक भू-राजनीतिक परिस्थितियों के कारण उपजी हवाई क्षेत्र की बंदिशों के कारण फिलहाल उठाया नहीं जा सकता।

एएआई

ईंधन स्टॉक को लेकर सतर्क

दीपक पटेल
नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च

पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते तनाव के बीच भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) ने देश के सभी प्रमुख हवाई अड्डा संचालकों को विमानन टर्बाइन ईंधन (एटीएफ) की उपलब्धता और आने वाले सप्ताह के लिए अनुमानित जरूरतों के बारे में ताजा जानकारी उपलब्ध कराने का निर्देश दिया है।

इजरायल और अमेरिका द्वारा ईरान पर सैन्य हमले के बाद पश्चिम एशिया के कुछ हिस्सों में समुद्री मार्गों से तेल शिपमेंट की आवाजाही बाधित हो गई है। इससे वैश्विक स्तर पर तेल की कीमतें बढ़ गई हैं।

विमानन उद्योग के सूत्रों के अनुसार प्रत्येक हवाई अड्डा ऑपरेटर को एएआई को उनके पास मौजूद एटीएफ स्टॉक, दैनिक खपत और अपेक्षित मांग के बारे में हर रोज जानकारी देने के लिए कहा गया है। जिन हवाई अड्डों को ये निर्देश दिए गए हैं, वे अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों का संचालन करते हैं। सरकार यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहती है कि बदलते हालात में ये हवाई अड्डे पूरी तरह तैयार रहें।

सूत्रों ने कहा कि हवाई अड्डा ऑपरेटर्स से यह भी कहा गया है कि वे एएआई को अपनी अगली जरूरतों के बारे में बताएं। भारत में वर्तमान में दिल्ली, मुंबई, बेंगलूरु, हैदराबाद और चेन्नई में प्रमुख हब सहित 33 अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे संचालित हैं। इनमें से कई हवाई अड्डे निजी ऑपरेटर्स द्वारा चलाए जाते हैं और कुछ अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे एएआई द्वारा संचालित हो रहे हैं।

भारत के कच्चे तेल और एलपीजी आयात का लगभग आधा हिस्सा होर्मुज स्ट्रेट से होकर गुजरता है। इजरायल-अमेरिका के साथ युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद ईरान ने इस स्ट्रेट को बंद करने का ऐलान कर दिया है। इससे माल दुलाई में बड़ा व्यवधान पैदा हो गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

Over 250 flights cancelled at 4 airports, airlines operate repatriation flights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 3 March

More than 250 flights were cancelled at Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Chennai airports on Tuesday due to the West Asia conflict, officials said. Flight operations continued to be disrupted for the fourth day as airlines cancelled flights.

As many as 80 flights were cancelled at the Delhi airport, while 107 services were cancelled at the Mumbai airport, the offi-

cials said. At Bangalore, at least 42 flights have been cancelled for the day. The Chennai airport said 30 flights have been cancelled. They include departures and arrivals. Indian airlines have so far cancelled 1,117 international flights in the last three days.

Meanwhile, IndiGo on Tuesday operated four repatriation flights to Jeddah and plans to have another flight to Muscat later in the day to bring back passengers stranded

due to the conflict.

There are also plans to operate repatriation flights to UAE on March 4, the airline said. It said it would start reinstating select flights to Muscat (Oman), Jeddah, Madinah (Saudi Arabia) and Athens (Greece). The airline would operate a total of 26 flights to and from these four destinations. The airline said four repatriation flights are enroute to Jeddah and one is expected to/from Muscat, later on Tuesday.

Air India said it is oper-

ating two special relief flights to Jeddah and Dubai on Tuesday to bring back stranded passengers. It will also be operating a special relief flight to Dubai from Mumbai on March 4.

SpiceJet will operate four special flights from Fujairah in the UAE to bring back stranded passengers. SpiceJet said it would operate four special flights to connect Fujairah with Delhi, Mumbai and Kochi on Tuesday and for the next few days.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

युद्ध का असर

देश के 4 एयरपोर्ट पर 250 उड़ानें रद्द

भास्कर न्यूज़ | मुंबई/नई दिल्ली

मध्य-पूर्व में बढ़ते संघर्ष का असर भारत की हवाई सेवाओं पर भी दिख रहा है। मंगलवार को दिल्ली, मुंबई, बंगलुरु और चेन्नई एयरपोर्ट पर 250 से ज्यादा फ्लाइट्स रद्द कर दी गईं। इन आंकड़ों में डिपाचर और अराइवल दोनों शामिल हैं। 28 फरवरी को युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद से अब तक भारतीय एयरलाइंस ने 1,117 इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स रद्द की हैं। इससे हजारों यात्री एयरपोर्ट पर फंस गए हैं। दरअसल, युद्ध के चलते पश्चिम एशिया के 8 देशों ने एयरस्पेस पूरी तरह बंद कर दिए हैं। बता दें कि मुंबई एयरपोर्ट भारत के सबसे व्यस्त इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट्स में से एक है और मिडिल ईस्ट के लिए यहां से ज्यादा उड़ानें होती हैं। इसी वजह से इस संकट का असर यहां ज्यादा दिख रहा है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

3 MARCH 2026

Airports in Abu Dhabi, Dubai open

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 2

Dubai Airports and Abu Dhabi Airports have resumed limited operations on Monday with a small number of flights operating from from Dubai International Airport, Dubai World Central Airport and Zayed International Airport.

However, both the airports have advised passengers against travelling to the airports unless they received a confirmed departure time of their flight directly from their airline.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

3 MARCH 2026



Dubai skies tense after recent attacks, missile interceptions visible; limited flights resume cautiously as residents stay alert, slowly witnessing a fragile return to normalcy. — BY ARRANGEMENT

RGIA sees 3rd day of West Asia flight chaos

**SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL I DC
HYDERABAD, MARCH 2**

Flight operations between Hyderabad and several West Asian destinations were disrupted for the third consecutive day on Monday, with 44 services, 22 arrivals and 22 departures, getting cancelled at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in the wake of escalating hostilities between the US and Iran.

The affected routes include Doha, Sharjah, Kuwait, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Dammam and Ras Al Khaimah. An airport official said passenger advisories were issued in advance and updates were being shared through official social media handles.

Authorities said nor-

mal operations would resume after clarity on the shutdown-related cancellations, adding that services remain subject to prevailing conditions.

Several travellers, including Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) visiting Hyderabad, reported uncertainty over revised schedules. Rev. Samuel Earnest Paul, in the city to meet his siblings, said, "There is so much uncertainty; it forced me to postpone my travel dates." His return flight was scheduled for March 3.

A group of tourists from Hyderabad in Bahrain was concerned about the disruption in air connectivity. "We arrived in Bahrain on February 24 by Gulf Air

and were supposed to leave for India on February 28. When we were about to check in at the airport, Iran launched air strikes on the US Naval base in Bahrain. There are more than 100 Telugu speaking people in the airport," a member of the group said.

He complained of receiving no proper response from the Indian embassy and Gulf Airways. "Telugu families settled in Bahrain are supporting us by providing food."

Alok Singh of SNVA Travel Tech Ltd, who is in Dubai, said he was unable to confirm his return to Hyderabad due to lack of clarity. He wants the Indian Embassy to intervene and provide safe travel for Indians.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

3 MARCH 2026

DHOLERA

Flying training organisations to be set up at Dholera airport

In a significant move to bolster India's aviation sector, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has invited proposals to establish Flying Training Organizations (FTOs) at the upcoming Dholera Airport. This initiative aims to encourage domestic pilot training and reduce reliance on overseas programs. The project is being spearheaded by the Dholera International Airport Company Limited (DI-ACL), a joint venture between the Airports Authority of India (holding 51%), the Government of Gujarat (33%), and the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (46%). The selected company will be responsible for the Design, Build, Operate, Maintain, and Transfer (DBOMT) of the FTO and its necessary infrastructure, including hangars and aprons. The lease period is set at 25 years (an initial 20 years with a potential five-year extension, subject to government approval).



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

3 MARCH 2026

Surat Airport PTT project complete, awaits AIP & NOTAM clearance



FPJ News Service

SURAT

The Surat airport authorities have stated that the Parallel Taxi Track (PTT) and apron expansion projects at Surat Airport have been completed and that they are awaiting the approval from NOTAM and documentation in the AIP India- maintained by AAI, ensures safe, efficient, and standardized aviation documentation.

"The PTT and apron expansion projects have been completed and we are waiting for the AIP documentation and NOTAM approval" said the office of the Surat airport director.

The official communication on February 23, 2025 stated that 99.5% of the work had been completed and that the remaining 0.5% would be finished by March 31, 2025. However, the work has been delayed.

The announcement, shared publicly, gave an impression that a long-delayed

project was finally nearing completion. Yet, sources and on-ground observations indicate that significant work still remains incomplete. This has led to questions about whether the Chairman's office was provided misleading information by local airport authorities in Surat.

What further raises eyebrows is the timing and manner of the announcement. The update was issued in what appears to be a hurried communication on a Sunday, suggesting a possible lack of thorough verification before making such a critical public statement.

The PTT project, which is part of a larger ₹353 crore development plan for Surat Airport, has already been delayed by nearly five years. While COVID-19 has been cited as a reason, stakeholders argue that such prolonged delays point more towards administrative lethargy than unavoidable circumstances.

Airports in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha, which are important hubs for travel between Europe, Africa and the West to Asia, remained closed

Chaos in air



Global air travel chaos intensified on Monday as the US and Israel continued to bombard Iran, which struck back at targets across the Middle East, leaving airports closed and stranding travellers including those in far-away areas who were scheduled to transit through the region. Governments were scrambling to help their citizens get home after the conflict erupted on Saturday, throwing travel plans into turmoil. Tourists, business travellers and religious pilgrims found themselves stuck unexpectedly in hotels, airports and on cruise ships, with no word on when many airports would reopen or when flights to and through the Middle East would resume. Airports in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha, which are important hubs for travel between Europe, Africa and the West to Asia, remained closed after they were all directly hit by Iranian strikes. Emirates said it will resume operating a “limited number of flights” on Monday evening.

DID U KNOW?

About 30,000 German tourists are currently stranded on cruise ships, in hotels or at closed airports



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

हवाई अड्डों से ईंधन के विवरण मांगे

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण ने पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते संकट के मद्देनजर देश के सभी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा संचालकों से उपलब्ध ईंधन भंडार और अगले सात दिन के लिए अनुमानित आवश्यकता का विवरण देने को कहा है।

यह निर्देश अमेरिका-इजरायल और ईरान के बीच बढ़ते संघर्ष की पृष्ठभूमि में आया है, जिससे वैश्विक तेल आपूर्ति प्रभावित होने का खतरा है।

WAR IN WEST ASIA

80 international flights cancelled at IGI Airport, additional facilities set up to aid stranded passengers

Express News Service
New Delhi, March 3

ON TUESDAY, 80 international flights were cancelled at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), as the country's busiest airport faced disruptions of operations on its westbound routes for the fourth consecutive day amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East region.

Officials said 36 departures and 44 arrivals were cancelled on Tuesday.

Airport operator DIAL issued an advisory for passengers regarding the delays and "operational adjustments" due to the current geopolitical situation in the Middle East. Passengers were advised to check with the respective airlines before travelling to the airport and, if necessary, consider alternate routes or connections, as suggested by the airlines. DIAL also said that all other flight operations were running as per schedule.

Sources said that to manage passenger movement, DIAL also initiated several facilitation measures at IGIA.



Passengers arrive at IGI Airport on Tuesday. GAJENDRA YADAV

Two additional information desks were set up inside the International Security Holding Area and at the departure forecourt to assist passengers.

Terminal Operations Quick Reaction Teams were deployed in the check-in and arrival halls, boarding gates, international transfer area and ticketing desks to guide passengers.

Airport authorities also distributed over 1,500 water bottles, tea and over 500 refreshments through mobile food kiosks. Meals were served to stranded passengers in the international transfer area and at departure gates. More than 100 hygiene kits were arranged,

while washroom teams were augmented to ensure clean facilities.

Over 400 additional seats, including recliners, were arranged across airport terminals. Two additional medical teams were also stationed.

Sources added that over 3,000 bags belonging to passengers of flights that were cancelled were returned to them. New processing zones were also made operational in the international transfer area.

IGIA handles over 1,500 flights daily. In the last three days, Indian airlines cancelled 1,117 overseas flights owing to the West Asia crisis.



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष से उपजा संकट

चार हवाई अड्डों पर 250 से अधिक उड़ानें रद्द

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च।

अमेरिका, इजराइल और ईरान के बीच पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संघर्ष को देखते हुए मंगलवार को भारत के चार महानगर दिल्ली, मुंबई, बंगलुरु और चेन्नई के हवाई अड्डों पर 250 से अधिक उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं। दिल्ली-मुंबई से एयर इंडिया के दो विमानों को मंगलवार को जेद्दा-दुबई के लिए रवाना किया गया। एक विमान बुधवार को रवाना होगा। बुधवार को करीब 900 यात्रियों की वापसी होगी।

विमानन कंपनियों से जुड़े अधिकारियों ने बताया कि संघर्ष की वजह से लगातार चौथे दिन उड़ानें प्रभावित हुईं। मार्ग खुले न होने के कारण विमानन कंपनियों को अपनी कई उड़ानें रद्द करनी पड़ीं। अधिकारियों का कहना है कि

पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष में फंसे भारतीय को वापस लाने के लिए एअर इंडिया के दो विमान मंगलवार को अलग-अलग समय पर दिल्ली व मुंबई से जेद्दा और दुबई के लिए रवाना हुए। वहीं एक विमान आज रवाना होगा। यह तीनों विमान अनुमति मिलने के बाद बुधवार को ही होली के दिन मुंबई और दिल्ली की वापसी करेंगे।

मंगलवार को दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे से 80 उड़ानें रद्द की गईं जबकि मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर 107 तथा बंगलुरु में कम से कम 42 उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं। वहीं चेन्नई हवाई अड्डे ने सोशल मीडिया पर 30 उड़ानें रद्द करने की सूचना जारी की। पश्चिम एशिया में 28 फरवरी को संकट शुरू होने के बाद से यह सिलसिला जारी है।

पश्चिम एशिया के लिए आज 58 उड़ानें संचालित करने की योजना

केंद्र सरकार ने मंगलवार को कहा कि विभिन्न एअरलाइन ने अपनी समयसारिणी में सुनियोजित समायोजन किए हैं और पश्चिम एशिया संकट के मद्देनजर चार मार्च को 58 उड़ानें संचालित करने की योजना है। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में कहा, 'फंसे हुए यात्रियों की आवाजाही को सुगम बनाने के लिए विशेष व्यवस्था की जा रही है। विमानन कंपनियां आवश्यकतानुसार अतिरिक्त कर्मी तैनात कर रही हैं और विदेशी विमानन अधिकारियों तथा विभिन्न भारतीय दूतावासों के साथ मिलकर सुरक्षित और सुचारु यात्री आवाजाही सुनिश्चित करने के लिए समन्वय कर रही हैं।'



Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

पश्चिम एशिया संकट का असर: दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से 80 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्य।

पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते संघर्ष के चलते उत्पन्न परिचालन व्यवधानों के कारण मंगलवार सुबह दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर कुल 80 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं। एक अधिकारी के अनुसार इनमें 36 प्रस्थान और 44 आगमन उड़ानें शामिल हैं। पश्चिम एशिया का हवाई क्षेत्र आंशिक रूप से खुला और अबू धाबी से पहली उड़ान भारत पहुंची।

एमिरेट्स समेत कुछ एयरलाइन ने पश्चिम एशिया के लिए आंशिक रूप से सेवाएं फिर शुरू कर दी हैं। उड़ानों पर नजर रखने वाली वेबसाइट 'फ्लाइटरेडार24 डॉट कॉम' पर उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार, दुबई जा रही एमिरेट्स एयरलाइन की उड़ान संख्या ईके-513 वायुक्षेत्र संबंधी प्रतिबंधों के कारण राष्ट्रीय राजधानी लौट आई। दिल्ली अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे



● दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर प्रतिदिन 1,300 से अधिक उड़ानों का संचालन किया जाता है

लिमिटेड (डायल) ने 'एक्स' पर पोस्ट किया, पश्चिम एशिया की मौजूदा राजनीतिक स्थिति के कारण पश्चिम की ओर जाने वाली कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में देरी या समय-सारिणी में बदलाव किया जा रहा है।" दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर प्रतिदिन 1,300 से अधिक उड़ानों का संचालन किया जाता है। पिछले तीन दिन में पश्चिम एशिया संकट के चलते विभिन्न भारतीय एयरलाइन ने 1,117 अंतरराष्ट्रीय

उड़ानें रद्द की हैं। इसी बीच, एयर इंडिया ने मंगलवार को दुबई से दिल्ली के लिए एक उड़ान संचालित की जिसमें 149 यात्री सवार थे। एयरलाइन ने 'एक्स' पर पोस्ट किया, "हम उड़ान एआई 916डी से दुबई से आए अपने मेहमानों और चालक दल का स्वागत करते हुए खुश हैं। पश्चिम एशिया की मौजूदा स्थिति के बीच, यह किसी भारतीय एयरलाइन की पहली उड़ान है जो आज 149 यात्रियों और चालक दल के आठ सदस्यों के साथ नई दिल्ली पहुंची है। अधिकारी ने बताया कि मंगलवार तड़के दुबई से एमिरेट्स की उड़ान ईके512 दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर उतरी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डों से ईंधन भंडार विवरण मांगा

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्या। पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते संकट को देखते हुए सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) ने देश के सभी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा संचालकों से वर्तमान ईंधन भंडार और अगले सात दिनों की अनुमानित आवश्यकता की जानकारी मांगी है।

सूत्रों ने मंगलवार को यह जानकारी दी। यह निर्देश पश्चिम एशिया में अमेरिका-इजरायल और ईरान के बीच बढ़ते संघर्ष की पृष्ठभूमि में आया है, जिससे वैश्विक तेल आपूर्ति प्रभावित होने का खतरा है। एक सूत्र ने बताया कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डों पर ईंधन आपूर्ति की स्थिति को स्पष्ट रूप से समझने के लिए एहतियाती उपाय के तौर पर ये विवरण मांगे गए हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

Cargo agents seek relief as war grounds shipments at airports

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NEW DELHI

India's air cargo agents have urged the government to step in and provide relief to exporters hit by flight disruptions caused by the escalating war between Iran and the US, which has led to widespread airspace closures across parts of West Asia.

In a letter dated 2 March to the economic adviser of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the Air Cargo Agents Association of India (ACAAI) sought a waiver of demurrage charges on export cargo stranded at airport terminals due to cancelled or delayed international flights. Mint has seen a copy of the letter.

Demurrage charges are daily penalties imposed when a cargo remains inside the terminal, port, or depot beyond the agreed "free time".

The letter highlighted that geopolitical developments have led to route restrictions, diversions, schedule irregularities and operational constraints at certain overseas airports,



Airspace closures have forced rerouting. ISTOCKPHOTO

"The delays in upliftment are purely on account of external factors beyond the control of exporters, customs brokers, or air cargo agents," the letter said.

As per industry estimates, only 12 hours of free storage time is available to forwarders and shippers. After that, charges range from ₹2-3 per kg per day for normal cargo to ₹8-9 per kg per day for special cargo, with costs increasing with each passing day.

Air cargo agents are seeking relief because they handle exporters' shipments and are

directly affected by flight disruptions. Airspace closures have forced rerouting, pushing up freight costs and causing delays. This hits margins, locks up working capital and raises the risk of penalties for late deliveries.

Emails sent to Adani Airports Holdings Ltd and GMR Airports Ltd—two of the largest private airport operators in India—did not elicit any response. Aviation regulator DGCA, too, did not respond to requests for comment.

IndiGo, Air India Group, Akasa Air and SpiceJet cancelled flights to the Middle East, US, Canada, Europe and UK over the weekend.

The aviation safety regulator on 28 February advised airlines to avoid operating across eleven Flight Information Regions, including Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, and Oman, until at least 2 March.

Indian airports handled around 3.3-3.7 million tonnes of air cargo in recent years, estimates EY.

For an extended version of the story, visit [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com)



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

AAI COMMUNICATION AMID MIDEAST CRISIS

Info on fuel stocks sought from int'l airport operators

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI: State-owned Airports Authority of India (AAI) has asked all international airport operators in the country to provide details about available fuel stocks as well as estimated requirements for the next seven days amid the escalating Middle East crisis, sources said on Tuesday.

The communication comes against the backdrop of the escalating conflict in the Middle East involving the US, Israel and Iran that threatens to impact global oil supplies.

One of the sources said the details have been sought as a "precautionary measure" to have a clear understanding about the fuel supply situation at the international airports.

The sources said that following directions from the civil aviation ministry, AAI has sought details about the current fuel supply status from all the

KEY POINTS

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- » They have also been asked to provide details about average daily fuel consumption, estimated fuel requirement for the next 7 days and date of next scheduled fuel replenishment

international airport operators.

The operators have also been asked to provide details about average daily fuel consumption, estimated fuel requirement for the next seven days and date of next scheduled fuel replenishment, the sources said. India has 33 international airports, including at Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai.

In terms of international flight operations, there were 355 departures and 344 arrivals at the airports in the coun-

try on March 2, as per the data available with the ministry.

According to reports, many ships have come under attack in the Strait of Hormuz, a key conduit for global energy flows. Around one-third of the world's seaborne crude oil exports and about 20 per cent of liquefied natural gas shipments transit through the Strait of Hormuz.

It is located between Oman and Iran and connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

West Asia crisis: Kolkata airport sees intn'l flight cancellations

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: At least 20 international flights to and from Kolkata were cancelled on Monday amid escalating tensions in West Asia, disrupting travel plans for hundreds of passengers bound for key Gulf destinations.

Officials at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport said the cancellations were prompted by operational constraints faced by international carriers in view of the prevailing conflict in the region. Airport authorities are closely coordinating with airlines as the situation evolves.

Among the affected services were eight flights operated by Emirates — four arrivals and four departures. Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways each cancelled four services, comprising two arrivals and two departures. Air Arabia and Flydubai cancelled one arrival and one departure each.

Passengers travelling to major Gulf hubs such as Dubai, Doha and Abu Dhabi were

Cancellations

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the worst affected. These cities function as crucial transit points for flyers from eastern and northeastern India connecting onward to Europe, North America and other global destinations.

Airline counters at the airport saw long queues through the day as stranded passengers sought clarity on rescheduling and refunds. Carriers arranged alternative bookings on subsequent flights and, in some cases, offered accommoda-

tion support to international travellers.

“Flight schedules are being monitored on a real-time basis. Passengers are advised to check the status of their flights with the respective airlines before leaving for the airport,” an airport official said.

While domestic operations remained largely unaffected, uncertainty over international schedules is likely to persist if tensions in West Asia continue, officials indicated.

दुबई में डर का साया, देश वापस आकर मिली राहत

IGI एयरपोर्ट पर लोगों ने शेयर किया एक्सपीरियंस, लोग बोले- जब रात में सायरन बजता था, तो काफी डर लगता था

■ नवीन निश्चल, IGI एयरपोर्ट

पश्चिम एशिया में एयर स्पेस बंद होने के बाद अलग देशों में फंसे भारतीयों का दिल्ली लौटने का सिलसिला शुरू हो चुका है। मंगलवार को दुबई, ओमान, मस्कट के शहरों से लौटे भारतीय हवाई यात्रियों ने अपना एक्सपीरियंस शेयर किया। बोले जब रात में मिस्सइलो की आवाज आती थी, तो रूह कांप जाती थी। बहुत डरवाना मंत्र था, चतन लौटकर हम लोगों को बहुत ही खुशी हो रही है।

दिल्ली पहुंचे यात्री सुमित ने कहा कि सिम्बोरीटी तो दुबई में बहुत अच्छी है। लेकिन जब सायरन बज रहा था तो काफी डर लग रहा था। हर 2 घंटे पर सायरन की आवाज सुनाई पड़ती थी। लेकिन मोहम्मद इदरीश का कहना था कि मस्कट से ओमान पहुंचे तो यहां सब कुछ ठीक है। वहां पता हो कि ऐसे कुछ पैकिंग

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अपनों के बीच, सुकून की सांस: ईरान-इजरायल युद्ध के तनाव के बीच दुबई में फंसे भारतीय यात्री मंगलवार को जब सुरक्षित दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पहुंचे, तो उनके चेहरों पर घर लौटने की खुशी साफ झलक रही थी। कुछ पैसेजर वहां का हाल बताकर भावुक भी हुए। लोगों का कहना था कि वहां खीफ में बीते पलों को भूलना मुश्किल है

‘दुबई में रुकना टूरिस्ट के लिए साबित हो रहा है महंगा’

■ नोएडा की रहने वाली दीपा ने बताया कि वह पति और बच्चे के साथ दुबई घूमने गई थी, 28 फरवरी को वापस आना था। लेकिन एयरपोर्ट पहुंचते ही पता चला कि हालात अचानक खराब हो गए हैं। पहले काफी समय तक एयरपोर्ट पर ही रुके रहे, लेकिन जब ज्यादा देर हो गई तो फिर वहां से जाकर दूसरे जगह रुकना पड़ा। उन्हें रुकने का चार्ज भुगतान करना पड़ा। वहां की सरकार को मदद करनी चाहिए।

■ वरुण का कहना था कि यूएई गवर्नमेंट को टूरिस्ट का ध्यान देना चाहिए। क्योंकि दुबई बहुत महंगा है, जिनको वहां रुकना पड़ जाए उन्हें दिक्कत हो सकती है। इसी बीच एयर इंडिया ने भी दुबई से पहले दिल्ली आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पहुंचे एयर इंडिया की पहली फ्लाइट की तस्वीर शेयर की। फ्लाइट मंगलवार सुबह 149 हवाई यात्रियों को लेकर एयरपोर्ट पहुंची।

■ दुबई से लौटे पीयूष ने कहा कि एयरपोर्ट तक पहुंचना दिक्कत है। दुबई से ओमान बॉर्डर तक कैब लेकर आना बहुत ही मुश्किल रहा। कई तरह की चेंकिंग हो रही थी, चीजा की बारीकी से जांच हो रही थी। इस सब में बहुत समय लग रहा था, जिसके पास रिमोसेंस नहीं है उन्हें बहुत फ्रिब्लम हो रही है। मिसाइल की जो आवाज आ रही थी वह बहुत डरावनी थी।

■ नई दिल्ली: शनिवार की रात में अचानक सायरन बजा और दिल की धड़कने तेज हो गई। होटल स्टाफ ने कहा कि तुरंत बेसमेंट में चले जाएं। अगले 20 मिनट जैसे घंटों में बदल गए। लोगों के चेहरे पर डर और खौफ छाय हुआ था। यह आपबीती है चांदनी चौक से सांसद प्रवीण खंडेलवाल की बेटी सोम्या की। जो तीन दिन तक दुबई से दिल्ली की फ्लाइट थी, लेकिन मिडल ईस्ट में छिड़ी वॉर की वजह से दोपहर में फ्लाइट कैन्सल कर दी गई। इससे टेशन बढ़ गई। परिवार के सदस्य भी परेशान हो गए। किसी तरह दिन तो कटा, लेकिन रात में अचानक सायरन की तेज आवाज



बताया, मोबाइल अलर्ट ने बचाई जान

दुबई से लौटी सांसद खंडेलवाल की बेटी ने बताया हाल

‘खौफ के वो 20 मिनट, सायरन बजते ही होटल के बेसमेंट में छिपे लोग’

के साथ ही होटल में अफरा-तफरी मच गई। लोग अपने-अपने कमरों से निकलकर भागते हुए बेसमेंट की ओर पहुंचे। बच्चे रो रहे थे, लोग घबराए हुए थे और हर किसी के चेहरे पर डर साफ दिख रहा था। बेसमेंट में हम सब चुपचाप बैठे थे। ऊपर कुछ हो रहा है, कोई नहीं जानता था। बाहर धमकों की आवाजें आ रही थीं। करीब 20 मिनट तक लोगों को बेसमेंट में रखा गया।

सौम्य काती है कि खिड़की से फूले जो आसमान साफ दिख रहा था। लेकिन धमकों की वजह से काले धुएं के बादल छाए थे। उस दौरान मोबाइल फोन पर लगातार अलर्ट मैसेज आ रहे थे। सरकार की ओर से संपादित खतरे और सुरक्षित स्थानों पर रहने की सूचना दी जा रही थी। मोबाइल पर आए अलर्ट ने हमें स्थिति समझने और घबराहट पर काबू रखने में मदद की। उन्होंने बताया कि इन तीन दिनों तक परिवार का हर सदस्य परेशान था। हालांकि, सरकार की ओर से मदद भी मिल रही थी।

बताया, मोबाइल अलर्ट ने बचाई जान



बताया, मोबाइल अलर्ट ने बचाई जान

फंसे इंडियंस को लेकर आने लगीं फ्लाइटें

Maneesh Aggarwal @timesofindia.com

■ नई दिल्ली : युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद खाड़ी देशों में फंसे भारतीय अब अपने देश लौटने लगे हैं। दुबई, जेद्दा और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात से सोमवार रात से मंगलवार शाम तक करीब दो हजार लोग भारत लौटे। इनमें सबसे अधिक 1200 से अधिक लोगों ने दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर लैंड किया।

दुबई से एयर इंडिया की दो फ्लाइट्स मंगलवार को दिल्ली पहुंचीं। एक फ्लाइट से 143 पायलट और केबिन कर्मी और दूसरी फ्लाइट से 149 लोग दिल्ली पहुंचे। जबकि सोमवार रात 8:40 बजे 310 यात्रियों के साथ एतिहाद एयरवेज की और सोमवार-मंगलवार आधी रात के बाद 2:40 बजे एमिरेट्स की फ्लाइट 325 यात्रियों को लेकर दिल्ली पहुंची। मंगलवार दोपहर 1:20 बजे भी ओमान एयर की एक फ्लाइट 300 यात्रियों के साथ मस्कट से दिल्ली पहुंची।

इसी तरह से करीब 700 लोगों के साथ दुबई से एमिरेट्स की दो फ्लाइट्स मंगलवार सुबह और दोपहर को मुंबई पहुंचीं। एक फ्लाइट बेंगलुरु पहुंची।

दुबई से एयर इंडिया की दो फ्लाइट्स मंगलवार को दिल्ली पहुंचीं। एक फ्लाइट से 143 पायलट और केबिन कर्मी और दूसरी फ्लाइट से 149 लोग दिल्ली पहुंचे। जबकि सोमवार रात 8:40 बजे 310 यात्रियों के साथ एतिहाद एयरवेज की और सोमवार-मंगलवार आधी रात के बाद 2:40 बजे एमिरेट्स की फ्लाइट 325 यात्रियों को लेकर दिल्ली पहुंची। मंगलवार दोपहर 1:20 बजे भी ओमान एयर की एक फ्लाइट 300 यात्रियों के साथ मस्कट से दिल्ली पहुंची।

इंडिगो जेद्दा से भारत के लिए 10 स्पेशल रिलीफ फ्लाइट ऑपरेंट कर रही है। जिसमें यह 3 मार्च से अगले कुछ दिनों तक संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के फुजैराह इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से दिल्ली, मुंबई और कोच्चि के लिए अपने फ्लाइट ऑपरेंट करेगी। एयर इंडिया ने भी कहा है कि उसने मिडिल-ईस्ट के अलावा अमेरिका, कनाडा, यूके और यूरोप वाली फ्लाइट भी शुरू कर दी है। कुछ फ्लाइटों छोड़कर वह अपनी लंबी दूरी की शोर्टवेल फ्लाइटों को ऑपरेंट कर रहा है।

दूसरी तरफ, एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (AAI) ने दिल्ली और मुंबई समेत देश के तमाम 33 इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को लेटव लिखकर पूछा है कि उनके पास अगले 7 दिनों के लिए कितना एविएशन ला सकते हैं। मंगलवार तड़के सुबह एक फायलटों को यह निर्देश दिए गए हैं कि वह

इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइटों को टेक ऑफ कराने से पहले एक्सट्रा फ्यूल लेकर उड़ें, जिससे बीच रास्ते में अचानक फ्लाइट को डाइवर्ट करना पड़ जाए तो पर्याप्त फ्यूल हो। वही, स्पाइसजेट ने कहा है कि वह यूएई में फंसे यात्रियों को वापस लाने के लिए फुजैरा से 6 स्पेशल उड़ानें संचालित करेगी। ये फ्लाइट्स दिल्ली, मुंबई (दो उड़ानें) और कोच्चि के लिए होंगी।

दुबई जा रही फ्लाइट ने दो बार बदला रास्ता: मुंबई से दुबई जा रही एमिरेट्स की फ्लाइट EK501 को मंगलवार को दो बार रास्ता बदलना पड़ा। एयरबस A380 विमान दुबई के पास पहुंच चुका था, तभी यूएई रक्षा मंत्रालय से अलर्ट मिला और तुरंत प्रतिबंधित एयर कॉरिडोर छोड़ने का निर्देश दिया गया। कुछ समय तक होलिंग पैटर्न में रहने के बाद विमान सुरक्षित रूप से दुबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट (DXB) पर उतर गया।

इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइटों को टेक ऑफ कराने से पहले एक्सट्रा फ्यूल लेकर उड़ें, जिससे बीच रास्ते में अचानक फ्लाइट को डाइवर्ट करना पड़ जाए तो पर्याप्त फ्यूल हो। वही, स्पाइसजेट ने कहा है कि वह यूएई में फंसे यात्रियों को वापस लाने के लिए फुजैरा से 6 स्पेशल उड़ानें संचालित करेगी। ये फ्लाइट्स दिल्ली, मुंबई (दो उड़ानें) और कोच्चि के लिए होंगी।

दुबई जा रही फ्लाइट ने दो बार बदला रास्ता: मुंबई से दुबई जा रही एमिरेट्स की फ्लाइट EK501 को मंगलवार को दो बार रास्ता बदलना पड़ा। एयरबस A380 विमान दुबई के पास पहुंच चुका था, तभी यूएई रक्षा मंत्रालय से अलर्ट मिला और तुरंत प्रतिबंधित एयर कॉरिडोर छोड़ने का निर्देश दिया गया। कुछ समय तक होलिंग पैटर्न में रहने के बाद विमान सुरक्षित रूप से दुबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट (DXB) पर उतर गया।

मंगलवार को IGI एयरपोर्ट पर रह गईं 80 इंटरनेशनल उड़ानें

■ NBT न्यूज, एयरपोर्ट: ईरान-इजरायल युद्ध के बाद एयर स्पेस बंद होने के कारण दिल्ली के इतिहा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर लगातार अंतर बना हुआ है। इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट रद्द होने का सिलसिला मंगलवार को चौथे दिन भी जारी है। मंगलवार को कुल 80 उड़ानें कैन्सल हुईं। इनमें से 36 फ्लाइट आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट से दूसरे देशों के शहरों को जाने वाली थी, जबकि 44 फ्लाइट अलग-अलग

देशों के शहरों से आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर आने वाली थी। जब तक एयर स्पेस बंद होने का सिलसिला रहेगा, इंटरनेशनल उड़ानों पर व्यापक अंतर रह सकता है। गौरतलब है कि आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर सोमवार को 87 उड़ानें कैन्सल हुई थीं। इनमें 37 डिपार्चर वाली फ्लाइट थी और 50 आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर आने वाली फ्लाइट थी। इससे पहले रविवार को 100 फ्लाइट एक साथ कैन्सल हुई थी।

36 डिपार्चर और 44 अराइवल वाली उड़ानें हैं शामिल



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

3 MARCH 2026

पश्चिम एशिया में तनाव का असर, दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर तीसरे दिन 87 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द

नई दिल्ली। पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संघर्ष के चलते हवाई क्षेत्र बंद होने से परिचालन प्रभावित हो रही है। सोमवार को राजधानी दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर 87 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं। अधिकारियों के अनुसार इनमें 37 प्रस्थान और 50 आगमन वाली उड़ानें शामिल हैं। अब तक कितनी उड़ानें हुई रद्द? नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय के मुताबिक, पिछले दो दिनों में भारतीय एयरलाइंस ने बढ़ते तनाव के कारण कुल 760 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द की हैं। क्षेत्र में कई एयरस्पेस बंद होने से पश्चिम दिशा की उड़ानों के शेड्यूल पर सबसे ज्यादा असर पड़ा है।

दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल) ने सोशल मीडिया पर कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया की मौजूदा राजनीतिक परिस्थितियों के कारण कुछ पश्चिममुखी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में देरी और समय-सारिणी में बदलाव हो रहा है। देश का सबसे व्यस्त हवाई अड्डा

आईजीआईए रोजाना 1,300 से अधिक उड़ानों का संचालन संभालता है, जिससे व्यवधान का व्यापक असर देखा जा रहा है। इस बीच, आकासा एयर ने अबू धाबी, दोहा, जेद्दा, कुवैत और रियाद के लिए अपनी उड़ानों के निलंबन को 3 मार्च तक बढ़ा दिया है। एयरलाइंस स्थिति पर लगातार नजर बनाए हुए हैं और पश्चिम एशिया से होकर गुजरने वाली उड़ानों के संचालन को लेकर सावधानी बरत रही हैं। एयरलाइन ने सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में कहा कि मौजूदा सुरक्षा स्थिति को देखते हुए इन शहरों के लिए आने-जाने वाली सभी उड़ानें 3 मार्च तक स्थगित रहेंगी। कंपनी ने यह भी स्पष्ट किया कि उसकी टीमें सुरक्षा माहौल पर लगातार नजर बनाए हुए हैं और जरूरत के अनुसार परिचालन में बदलाव करती रहेंगी। आकासा एयर के अनुसार, इन मार्गों पर 7 मार्च तक की बुकिंग वाले यात्रियों को पूर्ण रिफंड या बिना अतिरिक्त

शुल्क के यात्रा पुनर्निर्धारण (रीशेड्यूल) का विकल्प दिया गया है। पश्चिम एशिया में संकट के कारण अन्य एयरलाइंस ने भी टिकट रद्द करने और यात्रा तिथियों में बदलाव के लिए विशेष छूट की घोषणा की है।

इंडिगो और कतर एयरवेज ने जारी की एडवाइजरी

इंडिगो ने यात्रा संबंधी सलाह जारी की है। एयरलाइन ने एहतियाती कदम के तहत चयनित अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के अस्थायी निलंबन को आगे बढ़ाने का फैसला किया है, जबकि बदलती परिस्थितियों के अनुरूप कुछ अन्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय सेवाएं भी प्रभावित हो सकती हैं। एयरलाइन ने कहा है कि यात्रियों की सुविधा को ध्यान में रखते हुए पश्चिम एशिया और अन्य प्रभावित अंतरराष्ट्रीय सेक्टरों के लिए पूरी लचीलापन और शुल्क माफी दी जा रही है। 28 फरवरी 2026 तक की गई बुकिंग पर 7 मार्च 2026 तक यात्री बिना

अतिरिक्त शुल्क के अपनी यात्रा की तारीख बदल सकते हैं या पूरा रिफंड लेने का विकल्प चुन सकते हैं।

इसी बीच, कतर के हवाई क्षेत्र बंद रहने के कारण कतर एयरवेज की उड़ान सेवाएं फिलहाल अस्थायी रूप से निलंबित हैं। एयरलाइन ने स्पष्ट किया है कि कतर सिविल एविएशन अथॉरिटी द्वारा हवाई क्षेत्र को सुरक्षित रूप से दोबारा खोलने की घोषणा के बाद ही उड़ान संचालन बहाल किया जाएगा। कतर एयरवेज ने यह भी बताया कि अगला आधिकारिक अपडेट 3 मार्च को सुबह 9:00 बजे (दोहा समय) यानी 06:00 यूटीसी पर जारी किया जाएगा। दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल) ने बताया कि पश्चिम एशिया में जारी राजनीतिक घटनाक्रम के चलते पश्चिम दिशा की कुछ अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में देरी और समय-सारिणी में बदलाव हो रहा है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

3 MARCH 2026

Over 800 Bengal passengers stranded at Middle East airports

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Kolkata, 2 March

As the situation in the Middle East continues to deteriorate, international flight operators have extended the suspension of services through the region and issued advisories to passengers.

However, several thousand Indians remain stranded at various airports across the Gulf since 28 February. Many are now likely to miss the Holi and Dol Jatra festivals this year due to ongoing disruptions in flight operations.

On 28 February, Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan

Naidu convened a meeting with key stakeholders to address the safety of stranded Indian passengers at multiple airports following the suspension of international flights after the attack on Iran.

The high-level meeting, held with officials from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), reviewed operational preparedness and response measures. It has been decided that no repatriation flights will be operated until the volatile airspace situation in the Middle East de-escalates.

Around 800 passengers from Kolkata and eastern India

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT NO REPATRIATION FLIGHTS WILL BE OPERATED UNTIL THE VOLATILE AIRSPACE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST DE-ESCALATES.

are currently stranded at Dubai International Airport, Hamad International Airport in Doha, and airports in Sharjah and Abu Dhabi in the UAE, and are anxiously awaiting their return to Kolkata, according to Anil Punjabi of the Travel Agents Federation of India.

IndiGo, Air India and STIC Travel Group, which represents several foreign airlines, have already issued travel advisories.

"In view of the continuing situation in the Middle East,

Air India has extended the suspension of all flights to and from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Qatar until 23:59 hrs IST on 2 March 2026," the airline said in an advisory.

At Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata, around 20 international flights have already been cancelled. Passengers travelling from the United States and Europe remain stranded at various transit airports in the Middle East.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

4 MARCH 2026

Airport sets up kerbside desk at Terminal 2

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Passengers at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) received on-ground assistance at Terminal 2 Tuesday as the airport operator activated a dedicated help desk at the kerbside to manage queries and streamline passenger support amid operational disruptions.

Airport officials said the help desk is functioning as a single-window facilitation centre, particularly crucial as multiple international airlines operate from the terminal. With several flights impacted and airline representatives yet to reach the spot in some cases, airport staff stepped in to provide immediate assistance and guide passengers to the ground handlers responsible for specific airline operations.

The help desk is handling a range of services, including ground transport coordination, emergency support, and general passenger queries.

Welfare measures taken

In addition to query resolution, Bengaluru airport has rolled out a series of passenger welfare measures at the terminal frontage. Chairs have been arranged to accommodate stranded travellers, while drinking water and snacks are being distributed to those facing extended waits.

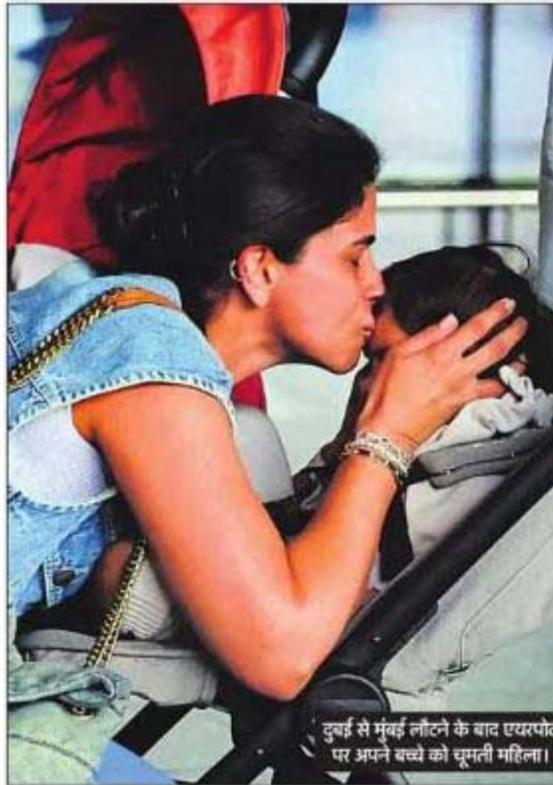
Charging stations have also been set up to enable passengers to power their devices and stay in touch with airline representatives and family members. Medical assistance is being made available on request, with airport medical teams stationed to respond to emergencies.

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

1,500 भारतीय देश लौटे आज भी 58 विशेष उड़ानें



दुबई से मुंबई लौटने के बाद एयरपोर्ट पर अपने बच्चे को घूमती महिला।

नई दिल्ली। भारत सरकार और प्रमुख धरेलु एयरलाइंस ने खाड़ी देशों में फंसे नागरिकों को वापस लाने के लिए आपातकालीन अभियान शुरू किया है। अबू धाबी और दुबई से 24 उड़ानों के जरिये मंगलवार को 1,500 से अधिक भारतीयों को सुरक्षित देश लाया गया। अकेले कतर में ही 8,000 से अधिक भारतीय स्वदेश लौटने का इंतजार कर रहे हैं।

■ एअर इंडिया, स्माइस जेट, इंडिगो जैसी धरेलु एयरलाइन के साथ ही अमीरात एयरलाइन से भी भारतीयों को लाया जा रहा है। दुबई से एअर इंडिया की उड़ान से 149 यात्री और अमीरात एयरलाइन की उड़ान से 350 भारतीय दिल्ली पहुंचे। दुबई से 400 यात्री मुंबई, 300 चेन्नई और 300 बंगलूरू पहुंचे।

■ धरेलु एयरलाइंस बुधवार को 58 उड़ानों के जरिये भारतीयों को लाएंगी। इनमें इंडिगो को 30 व एअर इंडिया व एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस को 23 उड़ानें शामिल हैं।

■ दिल्ली, मुंबई, बंगलूरू, चेन्नई व कोलकाता समेत कई हवाईअड्डों से 250 से अधिक अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द हुईं। खूरी >> परिजनों में भय : पेज 16



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

Indian carriers resume limited Gulf services to select destinations

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

India-based airlines on Tuesday commenced special operations to repatriate stranded Indian nationals from West Asia following recent airspace disruptions that led to widespread cancellations and air fare volatility.

The repatriation flights come even as Indian airlines cancelled scores of flights to the West Asian region. On Monday, airlines had cancelled a total of 357 flights.

Apart from the cancellations, industry insiders said that the crisis had led to a rise in international airfares, with ticket prices increasing 10-15 per cent at the lower end for Europe-bound flights and by 30-35 per cent on certain continental US routes, driven by longer alternative routings and supply constraints.

On Tuesday, Air India brought back 149 passengers from Dubai on flight AI916D, which landed in Delhi at 10.58 am.

AI CREW RETURN

Earlier in the day, 143 cockpit and cabin crew members of Air India and Air India Express, who were stranded in Dubai, arrived in Delhi on



ANXIOUS WATCH. Anxious passengers monitoring a screen displaying flight information at Delhi's IGI airport even as the US/Israel-Iran conflict escalated REUTERS

board flight AI918D.

The airline said that it would be deploying wide-body aircraft, including Boeing 777 and 787 planes, with higher capacity on its services to Jeddah and Dubai on Tuesday and Wednesday to facilitate the return of passengers who were stuck in West Asia.

SpiceJet operated four special flights on Tuesday from Fujairah to Delhi, Mumbai and Kochi, including two services to Mumbai.

INDIGO OPS FROM WED

The airline will restore its scheduled flights between Fujairah and Delhi and between Fujairah and Mumbai from Wednesday.

IndiGo said that it has begun repatriation efforts in coordination with the authorities and will progressively reinstate select scheduled services from Wednesday.

Operations are expected to resume to Muscat, Jeddah and Madinah, as well as Athens, totalling 13 return flights or 26 sectors.

Air India Express said it will continue to operate scheduled flights to and from Muscat on Wednesday, alongside services to Delhi, Kochi, Kozhikode, Mangaluru, Mumbai and Tiruchirapalli, and will operate additional flights to Delhi, Kochi and Mumbai.

More reports p2, p3



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

India-based airlines begin repatriation of stranded nationals from West Asia

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

India-based airlines have commenced special operations to repatriate stranded Indian nationals from West Asia following recent airspace disruptions. Domestic carriers are operating dedicated services from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

BACK IN HOMELAND

Air India said it welcomed back 149 passengers from Dubai on flight AI916D, which landed in Delhi at 10:58 hrs Indian Standard Time. The aircraft, VT-EDC,

was operated as part of what the airline described as the first flight by an Indian carrier facilitating the return of passengers amid the ongoing situation in West Asia.

Earlier in the day, 143 cockpit and cabin crew members of Air India and Air India Express, who were stranded in Dubai, arrived in Delhi on flight AI918D.

The airline stated that its operations control centre and supporting teams had been working around the clock to coordinate the services.

Besides, SpiceJet operated four special flights on March 3 from Fujairah to Delhi, Mumbai and Kochi, includ-



EMOTIONAL RETURN. A woman kisses her child after they returned from Dubai, at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai on Tuesday REUTERS

ing two services to Mumbai, to facilitate the return of Indian nationals following the sudden closure of airspace.

The airline announced that it will restore its scheduled flights between Fujairah and Delhi and between Fu-

jairah and Mumbai starting March 4.

According to Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director of SpiceJet, the airline's priority was to support Indian citizens facing uncertainty, and he added that the carrier stands ready to operate more such services subject to passenger requirements and regulatory approvals.

SPECIAL FLIGHTS

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said on March 2 that IndiGo will operate 10 special relief flights from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to India on March 3.

Apart from this, Air India

Express has resumed services to Muscat, operating six flights from various Indian cities, including Delhi, Kochi, Kozhikode, Mangaluru, Mumbai and Tiruchirappalli.

However, Air India Express stated that its operations to Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE remain suspended until 11:59 pm Indian Standard Time on March 3.

Indian airlines cancelled 357 flights to the West Asia region on March 2, following 350 cancellations on March 1. Foreign carriers operating between India and West Asia were also expected to conduct limited services.

Separately, Air India has extended the suspension of its West Asia services until midnight on March 3, citing the continuing regional situation.

However, drawing on contingency routing plans developed during last year's airspace disruptions, the airline has activated alternative corridors to sustain connectivity to the UK, Europe, Canada and the US.

Speaking to *businessline*, industry insiders said services to Europe, the US and Canada are being routed through airspace over the Red Sea, Egypt and the Mediterranean to bypass constrained zones.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

Gulf airlines' suspension leads to rise in freight rates to the US and Europe

T E Raja Simhan
Chennai

Air freight rates to the US and Europe have doubled from Chennai and surged nearly four times from Delhi over the past two days following the suspension of operations by West Asian carriers amid the Iran-Israel conflict.

With Gulf carriers suspending or reducing services, freight rates from Chennai to Europe have doubled to ₹400 per kg, while shipments to the US have risen to ₹600 per kg from ₹400 per kg, with cargo now being routed via the Far East and Europe, sources said.

All major Gulf airlines, including Emirates, Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways, operate extensively to India and account for nearly 20 per cent of air cargo capacity carried in passenger aircraft belly space. In addition,



COSTLY DETOUR. With Gulf carriers cutting services, Chennai-Europe freight rates doubled to ₹400/kg, while US rates rose to ₹600 from ₹400, with cargo rerouted via the Far East and Europe

some of these airlines deploy dedicated freighters from India, industry sources said.

West Asia airports have also placed temporary embargoes on inbound cargo, further tightening capacity.

CAPACITY HIT

CK Govil, CMD of Delhi-based Activair Airfreight India Pvt Ltd, told *businessline* that freight rates had in-

creased nearly four-fold across European and American airlines operating from Delhi.

The suspension or reduction of operations by major Gulf carriers had led to an immediate global reduction in air cargo capacity of around 18 per cent. This includes routes that typically connect Asia, including India, to Europe and the US

through Gulf hubs, he said.

Several flights are being forced to take detours, or shift to alternative hubs, reducing payload capacity and available lift on both freighter and belly-hold routes. A substantial portion of India-US and India-Europe cargo moves in the belly holds of passenger aircraft. Any tightening or rerouting of passenger networks directly impacts available cargo capacity, said Govil.

While Gulf carriers account for about 13 per cent of global international air cargo capacity, the exposure varies significantly by country.

Tim van Leeuwen, Vice-President and Head of Consulting at Netherlands-based Rotare, says data show that Sri Lanka is the most-exposed market followed by South Africa, India, the Netherlands and Saudi Arabia.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

West Asia flight chaos leads to fare surge on European routes

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Airfares between India and Europe have surged due to limited availability of seats and curtailment of operations by West Asian carriers.

A one-way ticket between Delhi and London is being sold for upwards of ₹78,000 for travel on Wednesday, as seen on online portal MakeMyTrip. While tickets are sold out on all non-stop flights, the lowest priced ticket of over ₹78,000 is for a two-stop flight via Jeddah and Amman operated by IndiGo and Royal Jordanian Airlines. A search on the Air India website on Tuesday evening showed an economy class seat on the Delhi-London route on March 12 priced around ₹1,30,000.

Emirates and Etihad are operating repatriation flights. While flights beyond Wednesday midnight are available for sale, agents say most available seats are being used to accommodate



LONG WAIT. Passengers stranded due to flight disruptions and cancellations at the IGI Airport in New Delhi on Monday

passengers of previously cancelled flights.

“Demand is outstripping supply in a major way. The demand is primarily from those who want to return to their homes or those who want to reschedule their cancelled trips,” said Anil Kalsi, Vice-President of Travel Agents Federation of India.

DAILY FLIGHTS

According to aviation industry sources, as of FY25, Air India carried the most number of passengers between India and Europe, followed by Emirates, Etihad

Airways, Qatar Airways and British Airways.

Data from aviation analytics firm Cirium show there are 38 daily flights (two-way) between Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha and London Heathrow. Besides these, the airlines have extensive networks to other cities in Europe.

“We were operating with 90 per cent plus occupancy prior to the disruption. So, flights were nearly full. Our priority is to rebuild network and support stranded passengers,” an executive from a West Asian airline said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BANGALORE MIRROR

BANGALORE

3 MARCH 2026

K'taka moves to bring tourists back home

Escalating Israel-Iran conflict disrupts airspace, leaving 50 Davangere tourists stranded in Dubai awaiting urgent evacuation support

Around 50 tourists from Davangere district remain stranded in Dubai after their return flight was abruptly cancelled. Around 15 persons from Jagalur taluk and 35 from neighbouring Chitradurga and Ballari districts had left Bengaluru on February 23 for a tour in the UAE. Their return was scheduled for February 28 at 9.30 pm, but it was cancelled due to the Israel-Iran conflict affecting regional airspace.

Dr Prabha Mallikarjun, MP from Davangere, has appealed to the Union Ministry of External Affairs to urgently evacuate the tourists and coordinate with the Indian Embassy in Dubai. In an X post she stated, "Our Kannadigas are in dire need



Indian embassy coordination sought after sudden airspace disruptions cancelled flights regionally

and would require an immediate MEA intervention for a safe return."

According to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, about 100 Kannadigas are stuck in Dubai (UAE) and around nine in Bahrain, as per the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC). All District Emergency Operation Centres have been activated 24/7 to address the evolving war situation. He also mentioned that the Chief Secretary has written to the Union government seeking repatriation assistance and airline co-

ordination for rescheduling flights.

In his letter addressed to Modi, the CM expressed concern over the impact of recent airspace restrictions and NOTAMs issued by multiple West Asian countries, which have disrupted international flight operations. He noted that these developments have left a large number of Kannadigas and other Indians stranded, particularly at major transit hubs such as the UAE (Dubai).

In his post on X, the Chief Min-

“We shall leave no stone unturned for the safe return of Kannadiga people, and the Government stands with the citizens firmly

—Siddaramaiah,
Chief Minister of Karnataka

ister urged citizens to register with the Indian Embassies immediately and shared helpline numbers to expedite assistance. The UAE toll-free number is 800-46342 and WhatsApp +971 5430 90571; for Bahrain, +973-39418071. Karnataka residents can contact the SEOC at 080-22340676 or 1070.

The CM added, "We shall leave no stone unturned for the safe return of Kannadiga people, and the Government stands with the citizens firmly."
— BMB

Stranded Indians return safely as UAE flights resume

Among those to arrive back home are Karnataka Legislative Council member SL Bhojgowda and badminton star PV Sindhu

Indians, including several Kannadigas, who were stranded in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) following flight cancellations triggered by the Israel-Iran conflict, have begun returning home, bringing relief to families in Karnataka. Meanwhile, the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Tuesday set up a dedicated Help Desk at the kerbside of Terminal 2 to assist passengers amid ongoing disruptions to flight operations.

A flight that departed from Dubai on Monday night landed safely at Kempegowda International Airport near Devanahalli in the early hours of Tuesday. Among those on board were Karnataka Legislative Council member SL Bhojgowda and badminton star PV Sindhu.

Speaking to reporters after his arrival, Bhojgowda said he had travelled to South Africa and was returning to Bengaluru via Dubai when the situation escalated. "Only after reaching Dubai did I learn about the problem. Initially, there was a delay in departure. Later, we were informed that the flight had been cancelled. There was such a heavy rush at Dubai airport that there was hardly any space," he said.

He said Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy contacted him and arranged hotel accommodation. "There was a bombing near the



A family stranded in Dubai amid the US-Israel conflict with Iran, arrives at the Indra Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, on Tuesday

hotel as well. Later, we were shifted to a safer location. Even then, there was constant concern about safety," he said. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Ministers Krishna Byre Gowda and HK Patil also called to enquire about the situation, he added.

Recalling tense moments, Bhojgowda said he heard explosions while speaking to Krishna Byre Gowda over the phone. "Three missiles fell at that time. A bomb fell near Burj Khalifa, but it did not have much impact," he said. Even on the morning of departure, he claimed, explosions were heard and the flight route was altered due to security concerns.

Another passenger, Gautham, said he experienced fear as strikes

were taking place, though he did not witness explosions directly. He said several of his friends remain stranded as flights are fully booked. He, however, praised UAE authorities for maintaining security and managing the situation effectively.

The Kannadigas Helpline team, led by non-resident Kannadiga patron Ronald Colaco, extended support by collecting details of stranded individuals and appealing for urgent government assistance. The team expressed readiness to bear emergency expenses and urged those requiring medical help to get in touch.

At Kempegowda International Airport, the Help Desk is managing passenger queries and providing support until airline representatives

After days of uncertainty, several Indians including Kannadigas reached Bengaluru as airport authorities managed delays and assisted affected international passengers

arrive. It is coordinating ground transport, emergency services and general assistance. Basic amenities, including chairs, drinking water, snacks, medical aid, sanitary pads, charging stations and wheelchairs on request, have been arranged to ensure passenger comfort during disruptions. —IANS



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

ओला इलेक्ट्रिक का 'होली महोत्सव'

इलेक्ट्रिक दोपहिया वाहन विनिर्माता ओला इलेक्ट्रिक ने मंगलवार को 'होली महोत्सव' की घोषणा करते हुए अपनी इलेक्ट्रिक मोटरसाइकल खंड की नई शुरुआती कीमतों का ऐलान किया। कंपनी ने कहा कि यह भारत में इलेक्ट्रिक मोटरसाइकल की दिशा में नई शुरुआत है। होली के अवसर पर कंपनी ने बताया कि उसकी रोडस्टर मोटरसाइकिल श्रृंखला अब 79,999 रुपये की शुरुआती कीमत पर उपलब्ध होगी। कंपनी के अनुसार, इस नई कीमत के साथ इलेक्ट्रिक मोटरसाइकलें अब शुरुआती स्तर की पेट्रोल मोटरसाइकलों के बराबर आ गई हैं। कंपनी की रोडस्टर एक्स श्रृंखला 2.5 किलोवॉट प्रति घंटा, 3.5 किलोवॉट प्रति घंटा और 4.5 किलोवॉट प्रति घंटा बैटरी विकल्पों में उपलब्ध है, जिनकी कीमतें क्रमशः 79,999 रुपये, 92,999 रुपये और 99,999 रुपये रखी गई हैं। वहीं, रोडस्टर एक्स प्लस 4.5 किलोवॉट प्रति घंटा और 9.1 किलोवॉट प्रति घंटा बैटरी विकल्पों में उपलब्ध है, जिनकी कीमतें क्रमशः 1,09,999 रुपये और 1,89,000 रुपये तय की गई हैं।

भाषा



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

Air cargo agents write to Centre, seek demurrage charge waiver

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 3 March

Air cargo agents have urged the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) to direct cargo terminal operators (CTOs) to waive demurrage charges — fees levied when goods remain at airport terminals beyond the free storage period.

This comes as export consignments remain stranded due to flight disruptions following military strikes by Israel and the United States on Iran.

In a letter dated March 2, the Air Cargo Agents Association of India (ACAAI) said exporters and air cargo stakeholders are facing “pressing challenges” due to the recent geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

The association noted that the prevailing situation has led to “disruptions in international flight operations, including route restrictions, diversions, schedule irregularities and operational constraints at certain overseas airports.”

Last Saturday, Israel and the US launched military strikes on Iran, promp-



A woman who was stranded in Dubai arrives at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on Tuesday

PHOTO: PTI

ting retaliatory action and halting commercial air traffic across parts of the Middle East. These include strikes targeting neighbouring nations such as Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Several countries have shut or restricted portions of their airspace, forcing airlines to cancel flights.

ACAAI said the fallout has resulted in export cargo “remaining stranded at airport cargo terminals across India”. This is because scheduled upliftment — the loading of cargo onto aircraft for international transport — has been adversely affected.

“The delays in upliftment are purely on account of external factors beyond the control of exporters, customs brokers or air cargo agents,” the letter said.

Under the existing tariff framework of CTOs, which manage cargo handling facilities at airports, demurrage charges become payable when cargo remains in terminal facilities beyond the stipulated free storage period.

However, ACAAI described the situation as “an exceptional and unavoidable disruption in the global air logistics chain.”

It cautioned that levying demurrage “would impose an unjustified financial burden on exporters.”

The association has requested the MoCA to issue suitable guidance to CTOs to grant waiver of demurrage charges on export consignments that are unable to be sent due to flight disruptions or airspace constraints for the affected period.

“Such a facilitative measure would provide timely relief to the exporting community and help maintain continuity and confidence in India’s air cargo trade during this challenging phase,” it said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

भास्कर एक्सक्लूसिव हेलीकॉप्टर इमरजेंसी मेडिकल सर्विस की एसओपी बनाई जा रही हेलीकॉप्टर एंबुलेंस जल्द शुरू होगी; सुदूर इलाकों से रांची लाए जाएंगे मरीज, बेहतर इलाज मिल सकेगा

अमरेंद्र कुमार | रांची

राज्य सरकार अब एयर एंबुलेंस की तर्ज पर हेलीकॉप्टर इमरजेंसी मेडिकल सर्विस (एचईएमएस) शुरू करने जा रही है। मुख्यमंत्री हेमंत सोरेन ने मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय के नागर विमानन प्रभाग के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दे दी है।

प्रस्ताव पहले से तैयार था, लेकिन हाल के एयर एंबुलेंस हादसे के बाद इसे तेजी से लागू करने की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी गई है। स्वास्थ्य विभाग और नागर विमानन विभाग इसे धरातल पर उतारने में जुट गए हैं। इस सेवा के तहत सुदूर और दुर्गम क्षेत्रों से मरीजों को हेलीकॉप्टर से रांची लाया जाएगा। जरूरत पड़ने पर उन्हें यहां से एयर एंबुलेंस के जरिए

नागर विमानन के अनुसार, वर्तमान एयर एंबुलेंस सेवा केवल स्थापित हवाई अड्डों से ही संचालित हो सकती है। राज्य के कई ग्रामीण और पहाड़ी इलाकों में हवाई पट्टी नहीं है। ऐसे में गंभीर मरीजों को पहले सड़क मार्ग से नजदीकी एयरपोर्ट लाना पड़ता है, जिससे समय नष्ट होता है और कई बार जान का खतरा बढ़ जाता है। नई हेलीकॉप्टर सेवा सीधे नजदीकी सुरक्षित स्थल पर लैंड कर मरीज को उठाएगी, जिससे समय की बचत होगी।

देश के अन्य प्रमुख चिकित्सा संस्थानों में भेजा जा सकेगा। दुर्घटना के शिकार मरीजों को भी यह सुविधा मिलेगी।

सरकार न्यूनतम उड़ान गारंटी के आधार पर इस सेवा पर लगभग 79 लाख रुपए प्रतिमाह खर्च करेगी। बाजार दर के अनुसार सिंगल इंजन हेलीकॉप्टर की सेवा करीब 2.25 लाख रुपए (जीएसटी अतिरिक्त)

प्रति घंटा है। 35 घंटे प्रतिमाह की न्यूनतम उड़ान के आधार पर यह खर्च अनुमानित है। मरीज की अति गंभीरता की स्थिति में 108 एम्बुलेंस सर्विस पर हेलिकॉप्टर की सेवा के लिए कॉल करना होगा। जिला स्तर पर सिविल सर्जन, प्रखंड स्तर पर प्रभारी चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी व पंचायत स्तर पर पंचायत सचिव नोडल पदाधिकारी होंगे।

हेलीकॉप्टर एंबुलेंस की क्यों पड़ी जरूरत



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

4 MARCH 2026

Returnees reach Hyd, fares high; India to operate 58 flights today

**SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC**
HYDERABAD, MARCH 3

An Oman Air flight, the first from the Gulf region after the war broke out, landed at the Shamshabad airport at about 3 pm on Tuesday. It was followed by an Emirates flight at about

8 pm. Family members received the returning passengers with deep emotion. The Oman Air aircraft carried only about 30 passengers, as the fare was said to be very high.

The civil aviation ministry late on Tuesday evening said Indian carriers had operated 24 flights

on Tuesday, Emirates and Etihad nine flights each. It said Indian carriers were planning 58 flights on Wednesday, including 30 by IndiGo and 23 by Air India and Air India Express.

■ Pg 7: IndiGo to run 13 UAE repatriation flights



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

3 MARCH 2026

AI Express ops, IndiGo relief flights start today

NEW DELHI/DUBAI,
DHNS & AGENCIES

Air travel to West Asia continued to be impacted with Indian airlines on Monday cancelling 357 services even as Air India announced that its operations to and from Muscat, including services from Mangaluru will resume on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, IndiGo plans to operate 10 special relief flights from Jeddah to various Indian cities on Tuesday to bring back stranded passengers.

In Dubai, the United Arab Emirates said it will resume "limited" flights at Dubai and Abu Dhabi airports on Monday.

Long-haul carriers Etihad Airways and Emirates, based in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and

budget carrier FlyDubai, said they would operate select flights from the country

The Ministry of Civil Aviation in Delhi said in a statement that it was continuously monitoring the situation in West Asia, which remained tense following military action by US-Israel against Iran.

"Due to the ongoing situation, 357 flights planned for operation today were cancelled," it said on 'X'. Altogether, around 760 services were cancelled due to airspace restrictions that set in on Saturday following the military escalation in the region.

Through the Passenger Assistance Control Room (PACR), it said a total of 559 grievances have been addressed during this period.

► **Flights, Page 3B**

AI Express ops, Indigo relief flights start today

Flights, from Page 1

This was done through AirSeva, social media platforms and dedicated helpline calls, in coordination with airlines and stakeholders concerned.

Passengers are advised to check official airline channels for accurate updates regarding cancellations and rescheduling.

For assistance, it said fliers could contact the PACR helpline numbers at 011-24604283/24632987.

Separately, Air India Express said it will resume flight operations to and from Muscat starting Tuesday with scheduled services to Delhi, Kochi, Kozhikode, Mangaluru, Mumbai and Tiruchirappalli.

The first Air India Express

flight from Muscat will operate to Tiruchirappally, departing at 10.25 am local time.

However, an Air India Express spokesperson said, flight operations to Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE remain suspended until 11.59 pm on Tuesday.

The IndiGo website showed that its services continue to be impacted with 162 cancellations on Tuesday.

It has also cancelled 136 services on Wednesday and 15 on Thursday.

Officials also said Air India and Air India Express cancelled over 110 services on Monday while SpiceJet cancelled at least 20 flights. Akasa Air did not operate eight flights. Mumbai airport saw 116 cancellations while Delhi had 87, Bengaluru 72 and

Chennai airport 28.

Air India on Monday said it has extended the suspension of all its flights to and from the Middle East for March 3 while its scheduled operations to US, Canada, Europe and UK have commenced.

Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) said travel bookings for routes linked to West Asia have witnessed 20-25% cancellations and rescheduling. Tension in the region also had an impact on the shares of airline companies and tour and travel-related service providers, which saw a decline.

42 flights to West Asia cancelled at KIA on Tuesday

Helpdesk set up
at airport to assist
passengers

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

A total of 42 flights were cancelled at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Tuesday, due to airspace restrictions in West Asia.

With 21 arrivals and departures each cancelled, flights to Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Dubai and Doha were majorly impacted. There were no flights scheduled until midnight to the impacted sectors, shared an airport representative.

Despite the prevalent airspace restrictions, hopeful passengers trickled into the airport in an attempt to return to the Gulf for personal or private reasons.

A family of five drove all the way from Salem to drop off a single family member. "I was originally supposed to leave for Dubai on Sunday. I had booked my flight from Coimbatore, but that got cancelled. I finally found an Emirates flight from Bengaluru and booked the tickets, but my family was still unsure, so they all came to drop me off in case the flight got cancelled again," said Shaziya, who was heading back home to her husband after spending a



Terminal 2 at Kempegowda International Airport wears a deserted look on Tuesday evening. DH PHOTO/ASRA MAVAD

month in India. Her flight was eventually cancelled.

Another family of four, also meant to take the same flight to Dubai, dejectedly returned home after receiving the cancellation message. Passengers were miffed about not receiving cancellation messages in advance.

To assist passengers and provide on-ground support, KIA has set up a helpdesk at the kerbside of Terminal 2. Bangalore International Airport Limited, the airport operator, has set up chairs, drinking water, charging stations, sanitary napkins, wheelchairs, and medical assistance at the help desk.

On Monday night and Tuesday early morning, Etihad and Emirates airlines began limited operations to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, respectively, with restrictions.

However, a flight to Dubai scheduled for 4.30 am, carrying only UAE nationals and resident permit holders, returned

due to airspace closure, an airport representative informed. It was later postponed to depart at 6.40 pm, and again postponed to 7.35 pm. The airport operator refused to provide further details about the flight's operations.



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4 Mar, 2026

FULL OF DEALS... FU

Travel firms scramble as airspace closures strand Indian travellers

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

Tour operators and online travel companies in India are scrambling to manage the fallout from airspace closures over West Asia, as thousands of travellers face uncertainty and cancelled flights. "Passenger confidence and booking behaviour get affected by changes in departure times, reroutes and advisory updates," said Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) President Ravi Gosain. He added that to aid travellers, tour operators are providing flexible rebooking options, while working closely with airlines to keep them informed.

Companies have ramped up operational measures. MakeMyTrip has increased customer support capacity by 2.5 times and is leveraging AI to deliver timely updates, while ixigo has initiated proactive Voice AI calls to travellers whose plans may be affected. EaseMyTrip Co-founder Rikant Pittie advised passengers on X to keep return travel plans flexible.

According to Gosain, the travel industry has strengthened crisis response systems



after previous disruptions, enabling better operational flexibility for travellers navigating these uncertain times.

The disruptions come amid escalating tensions in West Asia, where missiles and drone barrages by Iran toward targets in the Gulf, aimed at US military assets, have forced temporary closures of key transit hubs including Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha. This has brought one of the world's busiest aviation corridors to a near halt, stranding thousands of Indian travellers and disrupting over 1,000 flights to and from India in three days, according to industry-tracking sites.

"The airspace shutdown in specific regions of West Asia resulted in 100% flight cancellations for Gulf-bound flights from India operated by Emirates, Air India, IndiGo and Etihad Airways, among others,"

Gosain said.

Bloomberg reported that Indian carriers are among the hardest-hit outside West Asia, with 357 flights cancelled on Sunday alone and over 250 cancelled at Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai airports on Tuesday. With West Asia handling over 50-60% of India-Europe transit traffic, these closures have created severe bottlenecks across global aviation networks.

Air India, for instance, said on X that it has "resumed flights to the USA, Canada, Europe and the UK, prioritising safety, while temporarily suspending operations to and from the Middle East until 2359 Hrs (IST) of 3 March 2026".

Outbound tourism has also suffered, particularly with summer approaching. The UAE received about 8.6 million Indian travellers in 2025, with 11.9 million passing through Dubai International Airport. Attractions such as Burj Khalifa and Dubai Mall make the emirate a preferred destination, but airport closures and uncertainty have forced many travellers to cancel or defer plans.

उड़ानें फिर से शुरू होने पर कई भारतीय दुबई एवं मस्कट से सुरक्षित स्वदेश लौटे

दिल्ली, मुंबई और बंगलुरु पहुंचने वाले यात्रियों ने राहत और खुशी व्यक्त की

जागरण न्यूज नेटवर्क, नई दिल्ली : दुबई और मस्कट से भारतीय यात्रियों की सुरक्षित स्वदेश वापसी शुरू हो गई है। दिल्ली, मुंबई और बंगलुरु पहुंचने वाले यात्रियों ने भारत लौटने पर राहत और खुशी व्यक्त की है। विशेष रूप से बच्चों के साथ यात्रा कर रहे परिवार अधिक चिंतित थे। मस्कट और दुबई हवाई अड्डों ने परिचालन आंशिक रूप से फिर से शुरू कर दिया है। इस बीच केंद्र सरकार ने मंगलवार को कहा कि विभिन्न एयरलाइन ने अपने शेड्यूल में थोड़ा बदलाव किया है और पश्चिम एशिया में छाये संकट के बीच चार मार्च को 58 उड़ानें संचालित करने की योजना है।

ग्रेट्र के अनुसार, नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में कहा- 'फंसे हुए यात्रियों की आवाजाही को सुगम बनाने के लिए विशेष व्यवस्था की जा रही है। विमानन कंपनियों आवश्यकतानुसार अतिरिक्त कर्मी तैनात कर रही हैं और विदेशी विमानन अधिकारियों तथा विभिन्न भारतीय दूतावासों के साथ मिलकर सुरक्षित और सुचारू यात्री आवाजाही सुनिश्चित करने के लिए समन्वय कर रही हैं।' इसके अनुसार, मंगलवार को भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों द्वारा कुल 24



एअर इंडिया के विमान में मंगलवार को दुबई से नई दिल्ली पहुंचे यात्रियों के साथ सेल्फी लेते कर्मचारी • एएनआइ

भारतीय ध्वज लगे 37 जहाज और 1100 नाविक समुद्र में फंसे

नई दिल्ली, ग्रेट्र: अमेरिका, इजरायल और ईरान के बीच जारी सैन्य संघर्ष के कारण होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य से होकर गुजरने वाला प्रमुख समुद्री मार्ग बंद हो गया है जिससे 1100 से अधिक नाविकों सहित भारतीय ध्वज वाले 37 जहाज फारस की खाड़ी, ओमान की खाड़ी और आसपास के समुद्र में फंसे हुए हैं। एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि इनमें से कुछ जहाज भारतीय बंदरगाहों की तरफ जा रहे थे। इन जहाजों में कच्चा तेल और एलएनजी है। कुछ जहाज पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद लाने के लिये खाड़ी देशों की ओर जा रहे थे।

उड़ानें संचालित की गईं। इसके अतिरिक्त एमिरेट्स और एतिहाद एयरलाइन ने पिछले 24 घंटों में खाड़ी देशों से नौ उड़ानें संचालित की हैं। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि भारतीय

एयरलाइन कंपनियां चार मार्च को 58 और उड़ानें संचालित करेंगी, जिनमें इंडिगो की 30 और एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की 23 उड़ानें शामिल हैं।

एक लाख में खरीदा टिकट

वरुण भी ओमान की राजधानी मस्कट से नई दिल्ली लौटने वाले यात्रियों के जत्थे में थे। वह कहते हैं कि वहां के हालात ऐसे हैं कि फिलहाल हर कोई अपने अपने वतन लौटना चाहता है। मैं खुशानसीब हूँ कि मुझे उड़ान मिली और मुहमांगी रकम देकर टिकट बुक कराई। मस्कट से यहां तक आने में करीब एक लाख रुपये खर्च हुए।

तत्परता से लोग कर रहे मदद

चांदनी चौक से भाजपा सांसद प्रवीण खंडेलवाल की बेटा सौम्या खंडेलवाल भी व्यापारिक कार्य से पिछले तीन दिनों से दुबई में फंसी हुई थीं, लेकिन मंगलवार सुबह सुरक्षित लौट आई हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि वहां न केवल भारतीय समुदाय बल्कि दुबई के स्थानीय नागरिक भी लोगों की सहायता के लिए पूरी तत्परता से आगे आ रहे थे।

एयरपोर्ट पर पूरा इंतजाम

आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर फंसे यात्रियों के लिए पूरे इंतजाम है। मोबाइल फूड कियोस्क के जरिए 1500 से अधिक पानी की बोतलें, चाय और 500 पैकेट वितरित किए गए हैं। परिया और डिपार्टमेंट गेट्स पर यात्रियों को गर्म खाना भी परोसा जा रहा है।

Air Bridge Amid Fire

Indian airlines step up flight operations to Gulf, but schedules remain disrupted

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Indian airlines stepped up relief services and operated limited commercial flights between India and West Asia Tuesday, even as airspace disruptions continued to roil schedules amid the Iran war.

Carriers deployed widebody aircraft so as to carry more passengers and operated special repatriation flights. They also warned passengers not to head to airports without confirmation on their flights.

“Special arrangements are being made to facilitate the movement of stranded passengers,” the Ministry of Civil Aviation said in a news release Tuesday. Airlines are deploying additional capacity and coordinating with foreign aviation authorities and Indian missions abroad to ensure “safe and orderly passenger movement”, it said.

Indian airlines have planned 58 flights on Wednesday, including 30 by IndiGo and 23 by Air India and Air India Express, the ministry said in a late evening update. So far, 1,221 flights by Indian carriers and 388 by foreign airlines connecting destinations in India have been cancelled due to the ongoing situation, the ministry said.

While Indian carriers are increa-

Relief Ops Intensify

- **Widebody aircraft** deployed to maximise capacity

- **Special repatriation flights** in operation



- Govt coordinating with foreign aviation authorities & Indian missions

Flight Plan (Wednesday)

- **58** total Indian flights planned

- **30** - IndiGo

- **23** - Air India & Air India Express

singly deploying capacity to bring citizens home, continued suspension of hub operations in Dubai and Abu Dhabi threatens to prolong the travel deadlock for international transit passengers. The situation remains fluid, tethered to prevailing airspace conditions and the issuance of emergency permits by aviation authorities. Major Gulf airlines are operating only limited relief services.

IndiGo said on Tuesday that it would operate 10 special relief flights from Jeddah to India during the day, “subject to required approvals and prevailing airspace conditions”, and was coordinating with the Consulate General of India in Jeddah. The airline said it is “progressively reinstating select flights” including to Athens, Muscat, Jeddah and Madinah, and advised passengers to wait for confirmation before proceeding to the airport.

Air India deployed higher capacity widebody aircraft Tuesday and said it would do so Wednesday as well. A Boeing 777 with close to 350 seats departed Mumbai for Jeddah Tuesday evening. The airline said it would operate a Boeing 787-9 with around 300 seats from Delhi to Dubai and a Boeing 787-8 with over 250 seats from Mumbai

to Dubai early on Wednesday. All return sectors are expected to operate at full capacity, arriving in Mumbai and Delhi Wednesday.

SpiceJet operated three special flights Tuesday from Fujairah and said it would fly three more to Mumbai and Delhi Wednesday and again Thursday. The airline also said it also cancelled 42 flights till Thursday.

Low-cost Air India Express said it will continue scheduled flights to and from Muscat Wednesday and operate additional services to Delhi, Kochi and Mumbai.

According to data from aviation tracking firm Cirium, around 9,000 flights have been cancelled globally between February 28 and March 3 (Tuesday).

Gulf carriers haven’t resumed commercial operation. Etihad Airways said all scheduled commercial flights to and from Abu Dhabi remain suspended until 1400 UAE time on Thursday, March 5, though some repositioning, cargo and repatriation flights may operate with approvals. Emirates said flights to and from Dubai are suspended until 2359 UAE time on Wednesday, March 4, with a limited number of repatriation and freighter flights operating.



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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

Inside Akasa's big plans



In an exclusive
chat with ET
Prime's Tarun
Shukla, Akasa
Air CEO Vinay
Dube gives an

unfiltered look at the airline's
growth ahead, timeline for new
orders of Boeing planes, the
recent leadership exodus, its IPO
roadmap despite heavy losses,
and the new pilot flying norms
announced by the regulator.



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4 MARCH 2026

Airline Stocks Slide Further; Fuel Price Spike in Focus



Airline stocks in Asia and Europe extended losses on Tuesday with carriers monitoring fuel price spikes and passengers scrambling to find flights or alternative routes out of west Asia. Major Gulf hubs including Dubai, the world's busiest international airport and normally handling more than 1,000 flights a day, remained closed for a fourth day, leaving tens of thousands of passengers stranded. Qantas Airways' shares fell for a second day, closing down 1.8%. Japan Airlines Shares of Japan Airlines closed down 6.4%, while Korean Air Lines dropped 10.3%, its biggest drop since March 2020. Cathay Pacific shares closed down about 3%. Shares of major Chinese carriers Air China, China Eastern Airlines, and China Southern Airlines, all closed down between 2% and 4% in Hong Kong and Shanghai. In Europe, shares of Wizz Air, British Airways owner IAG, Lufthansa and Air France KLM were down around 5% to 7%. Shares of U.S. carriers United Airlines, Delta Air Lines, American Airlines and Southwest Airlines were down between 3% and 4% in pre-market trading. **Reuters**

Aviation sector bears cost of war

Airlines in India went through probably their worst year in 2025 post Covid, hit by an air crash which killed 260 people, and in November, unable to adhere to the regulator's flight duty time limitation norms, the country's largest airline was forced to cancel hundreds of its flights. The West Asia crisis sparked by the Israel-US-Iran conflict has deepened the woes of an already beleaguered aviation sector, hitting the India-Gulf corridor, one of its busiest routes, which carries lakhs of business and leisure travellers and migrant workers. The crisis has triggered multiple flight cancellations, with airlines expected to incur losses of hundreds of crores, in addition to ICRA's forecast of an Rs 17,000-Rs 18,000 crore loss in FY26.

The aviation turbine fuel, which accounts for 40 per cent of a normal fare, is expected to rise further because of the oil shortage and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. It is one of the most strategically important waterways in the world because it is the primary maritime gateway for Gulf oil and gas to global markets, with no full like-for-like alternative route ensuring that any prolonged disruption will keep fuel costs elevated. According to the International Air Transport Association, long-haul and Gulf routes (where Air India, IndiGo, and a few others operate) tend to generate higher profits per passenger than typical domestic sectors. On average, airlines in India derive around 25-35 per cent of their revenues from international routes.

As domestic air fares are highly commoditised, airlines in India will be forced to pass on higher costs to international passengers rather than to domestic passengers, thereby increasing air fares and making them less competitive against major international players, which have deeper pockets and can absorb higher costs, at least for some time, to defend market share. If the conflict in West Asia drags on for months, Indian airlines will have to redesign their network plans for West-bound operations and use northern routings via Central Asia or Russia, further adding to costs and stretching already weak balance sheets. Crises like these also underscore how fragile the Indian aviation ecosystem is, which is entirely dependent on the ineptitude of state-run agencies. The ability to bounce back from such a scenario will take much longer than expected, and repeated shocks expose how little policy and regulatory reform have done to build resilience. The Open Skies policy, which allowed private enterprises to operate airlines, is over three decades old, and the needle hasn't moved much towards a better, more efficient, and more robust industry.

Constant shocks like this will continue to undermine the industry, which is infamously known for being a graveyard for domestic airlines, with at least one commercial airline on average going down every 1-1.5 years over the past three decades, even excluding cargo and non-scheduled players.

Constant shocks like this will continue to undermine the industry, which is infamously known for being a graveyard for domestic airlines.

विशेष उड़ानें संचालित करने और हवाई किरायों में वृद्धि पर रोक लगाने की भी अपील की

मध्य पूर्व में फंसे हुए पंजाबियों के लिए बचाव उड़ानें शुरू करने की मांग, नायडू से मिले रवजोत

हरिभूमि ब्यूरो ►► नई दिल्ली

मध्य पूर्व में बढ़ते टकराव के कारण बड़ी संख्या में पंजाबियों के फंसे होने के मद्देनजर पंजाब सरकार के एनआरआई मामलों के मंत्री डॉ. रवजोत सिंह ने मंगलवार को केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के.आर. नायडू से मुलाकात की। उन्होंने फंसे हुए लोगों की सुरक्षित और शीघ्र वापसी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए बचाव उड़ानें शुरू करने, विशेष विमान संचालित करने तथा हवाई किरायों में की गई वृद्धि पर रोक लगाने की मांग



की। उन्होंने कहा, “उड़ानों को पुनः शुरू करने और विशेष निकासी सेवाएं चलाने की तत्काल आवश्यकता है। हमारे लोगों को इस संकट की घड़ी में असहाय नहीं छोड़ा जा सकता।”

मध्य पूर्व में जारी चल रहे टकराव और क्षेत्रीय अस्थिरता के कारण प्रवासी पंजाबी समुदाय को हो रही कठिनाइयों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए डॉ. रवजोत सिंह ने कहा, “पंजाब की आबादी का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा विभिन्न मध्य पूर्वी देशों में रहकर काम करता है। निर्धारित उड़ानों के रद्द होने से हमारे अनेक एनआरआई भाई-बहन वहां फंस गए हैं और उनके परिवार यहां गहरी चिंता में हैं।”

उन्होंने केंद्रीय मंत्री से सुरक्षित हवाई मार्गों पर संचालन बहाल करने हेतु एयरलाइनों के साथ समन्वय स्थापित करने और ►► शेष पेज 5 पर

मध्य पूर्व में फंसे हुए ...

फंसे यात्रियों को वापस लाने के लिए विशेष उड़ानों की व्यवस्था करने की अपील की। उन्होंने कहा, “बहुत से महत्वपूर्ण रूट बंद कर दिए गए हैं, जिससे बड़ी संख्या में यात्री फंस गए हैं। उच्च तनाव वाले क्षेत्रों में फंसे लोगों या आपात स्थिति में घर लौटने के इच्छुक यात्रियों के लिए विशेष राहत एवं निकासी उड़ानों की तत्काल आवश्यकता है।” हवाई टिकटों की बढ़ती कीमतों का मुद्दा उठाते हुए डॉ. रवजोत सिंह ने कहा, “उड़ानों की संख्या घटने के कारण कई एयरलाइंस किराए में भारी वृद्धि कर यात्रियों का शोषण कर रही हैं। मैं अनुरोध करता हूँ कि इस संकट के दौरान नागरिकों के वित्तीय शोषण को रोकने के लिए इन रूटों पर किराया नियंत्रण लागू किया जाए।” बैठक के बाद मीडिया से बातचीत में मंत्री ने बताया कि मुख्यमंत्री भगवंत सिंह मान ने भी बैठक के दौरान के.आर. नायडू से टेलीफोन पर बातचीत की और राज्य सरकार को बिना देरी के विशेष उड़ानों की व्यवस्था करने की अनुमति देने की अपील की, ताकि पंजाबियों की सुरक्षित वापसी सुनिश्चित की जा सके। उन्होंने कहा, “मुख्यमंत्री ने स्थिति पर गहरी चिंता व्यक्त की और आवश्यकता पड़ने पर पंजाब को विशेष उड़ानें संचालित करने की अनुमति देने का अनुरोध किया।” डॉ. रवजोत सिंह ने आगे बताया कि केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री ने आश्वासन दिया है कि पंजाब सरकार द्वारा उठाई गई चिंताओं पर प्राथमिकता के आधार पर विचार किया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार पहले से ही इस मुद्दे पर कार्य कर रही है, क्योंकि कई राज्यों के नागरिक खाड़ी देशों में फंसे हुए हैं। एनआरआई मामलों के मंत्री ने खाड़ी देशों से लौटने वाले पंजाबियों की सहायता के लिए आईजीआई हवाई अड्डे पर पंजाब सरकार द्वारा स्थापित सुविधा केंद्र का भी दौरा किया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HARI BHUMI

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

स्पाइसजेट बुधवार को यूएई से आठ उड़ानों का संचालन करेगी

नई दिल्ली। स्पाइसजेट पश्चिम एशिया संकट के कारण फंसे हुए यात्रियों को लाने के लिए बुधवार को संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) के फुजैराह से आठ विशेष उड़ानों का संचालन करेगी। एयरलाइन ने बुधवार को एक बयान में कहा कि वह फुजैराह से दिल्ली के लिए चार, मुंबई के लिए तीन और कोच्चि के लिए एक उड़ान का संचालन करेगी। इससे पहले मंगलवार को विमानन कंपनी ने फुजैराह से दिल्ली, मुंबई और कोच्चि के लिए चार विशेष उड़ानों का संचालन किया था।

एअर इंडिया, इंडिगो और एमिरेट्स जैसी एयरलाइन फुल रिफंड दे रही

फ्री री-शेड्यूल की सुविधा भी दी जा रही

मिडिल ईस्ट में तनाव से ज्यादातर उड़ानें रद्द

एजेसी ►► नई दिल्ली

ईरान और इजराइल के बीच बढ़ते तनाव का असर अब अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई सेवाओं पर साफ दिखाई दे रहा है। मिडिल ईस्ट के कई देशों का एयरस्पेस प्रभावित होने के कारण दुबई, अबू धाबी, दोहा और मनामा जैसे प्रमुख शहरों की उड़ानें बड़े पैमाने पर रद्द की गई हैं। अकेले मंगलवार को 357 उड़ानें कैसिल होने से हजारों यात्री प्रभावित हुए। स्थिति की गंभीरता को देखते हुए भारत सहित कई देशों की एयरलाइंस ने यात्रियों को राहत देने



के लिए विशेष सुविधाएं घोषित की हैं। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय (एमओसीए) लगातार हालात पर नजर बनाए हुए है।

इंडिगो : 7 मार्च 2026

तक नो कैंसिलेशन चार्ज

इंडिगो ने मिडिल ईस्ट स्ट्रिप्स के यात्रियों को 7 मार्च 2026 तक विशेष राहत दी है। प्रभावित यात्री 'प्लान बी' लिंक के जरिए रिफंड के लिए आवेदन कर सकते हैं। एयरलाइन ने यह भी बताया है कि 4 मार्च से मस्कट, जेद्दा और मदीना के लिए कुछ उड़ानें दोबारा शुरू की जा सकती हैं, हालांकि यह स्थानीय प्रशासन की मंजूरी पर निर्भर करेगा।

एतिहाद और एमिरेट्स : अबू धाबी और दुबई स्ट्रिप्स प्रभावित

एतिहाद एयरवेज ने अबू धाबी से आने-जाने वाली सभी उड़ानों को बुधवार दोपहर 2 बजे (यूईई समय) तक सस्पेंड कर दिया है। 7 मार्च तक यात्रा करने वाले यात्री रिफंड फॉर्म भरकर पूरा पैसा वापस ले सकते हैं। वहीं एमिरेट्स ने 5 मार्च तक की बुकिंग वाले यात्रियों को री-बुकिंग या फुल रिफंड का विकल्प दिया है।

एअर इंडिया : 5 मार्च तक यात्रा पर पूरी छूट

एअर इंडिया ने स्पष्ट किया है कि जिन यात्रियों ने 28 फरवरी या उससे पहले टिकट बुक कराई थी और उनकी यात्रा 5 मार्च तक निर्धारित थी, वे बिना किसी अतिरिक्त शुल्क के अपनी फ्लाइट को री-शेड्यूल कर सकते हैं। अगर यात्री यात्रा नहीं करना चाहते, तो उन्हें पूरा रिफंड दिया जाएगा। रिफंड या बदलाव के लिए यात्री एयरलाइन की आधिकारिक वेबसाइट पर आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

कतर एयरवेज: 10 मार्च तक बुकिंग पर राहत

कतर एयरवेज ने 28 फरवरी से 10 मार्च के बीच की यात्रा वाले यात्रियों को लचीला विकल्प दिया है। यात्री अपनी मूल यात्रा तिथि से 14 दिनों के भीतर नई तारीख चुन सकते हैं या टिकट की अनयूज्ड वैल्यू का रिफंड ले सकते हैं। एयरलाइन ने यात्रियों से एयरपोर्ट जाने से पहले फ्लाइट स्टेटस जांचने की अपील की है।

दुबई में फंसे भारतीयों के लिए विशेष मदद

दुबई में फंसे भारतीय नागरिकों की सहायता के लिए ट्रैवल कंपनी ईजी माई ट्रिप ने वापसी प्रबंध में मदद की पेशकश की है। कंपनी ने एक ऑनलाइन फॉर्म जारी किया है, जिसके जरिए इच्छुक यात्री पंजीकरण कर सकते हैं। सीमित सीटों के कारण प्राथमिकता के आधार पर यात्रियों को भारत लाने की व्यवस्था की जा रही है। मिडिल ईस्ट में जारी तनाव के बीच एयरलाइंस और सरकार यात्रियों की सुरक्षा और सुविधा को प्राथमिकता दे रही हैं। यात्रियों को सलाह दी गई है कि वे अपनी फ्लाइट की स्थिति नियमित रूप से जांचते रहें और आधिकारिक वेबसाइट से ही जानकारी प्राप्त करें।

सुखद: विशेष विमानों के जरिये डेढ़ सौ से अधिक भारतीय स्वदेश लौटे युद्ध क्षेत्र से अपनों की सकुशल वापसी शुरू

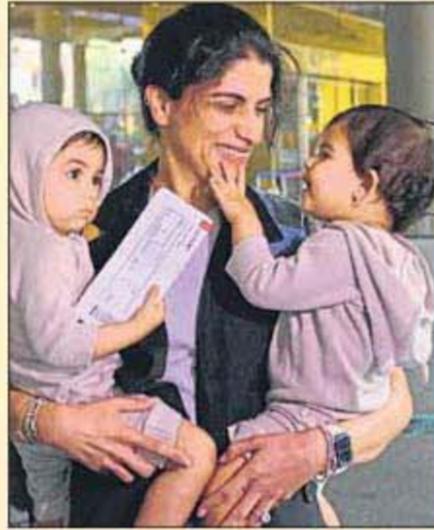
■ सुहेल हागिट/अरुण चट्टा

नई दिल्ली। मध्यपूर्व में अमेरिका-इजरायल और ईरान के बीच चल रहे संघर्ष के कारण बीते कई दिनों से खाड़ी देशों में फंसे भारतीय स्वदेश लौटे रहे हैं। मंगलवार को दुबई में फंसे 149 भारतीयों को लेकर एयर इंडिया का विशेष विमान दिल्ली पहुंचा। बुधवार को भी 50 से अधिक उड़ानें संचालित करने की योजना है।

सऊदी अरब, दुबई और आव्हाबो से एतिहाद, एयर इंडिया और इंडिगो की विशेष उड़ानों से सैकड़ों भारतीय सोमवार देर रात और मंगलवार को भारत पहुंचे। मंगलवार को दिल्ली, मुंबई, पुणे और बेंगलुरु के हवाई अड्डों का माहौल बेहद भावुक था। खाड़ी देशों से लौटने वालों और उन्हें लेने आए लोगों की आंखों में खुशी के आंसू थे।

संघर्ष शुरू होने से मंगलवार शाम तक चार प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय विमान आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर पहुंचे, जिनमें कुल मिलाकर करीब 1,184 यात्री सवार थे। एयर इंडिया के अनुसार, दिल्ली में मंगलवार को उड़ान संख्या एआई916डी से सुबह 10:58 बजे 149 यात्री और आठ चालक दल के सदस्य सकुशल लौटे आए।

आज भी आएंगे विमान: नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय के अनुसार, बुधवार (चार मार्च) को भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों 58 उड़ानें संचालित करने की योजना बना रही हैं। इनमें 30 उड़ानें



मुंबई और दिल्ली हवाई अड्डों पर मंगलवार को खाड़ी देशों से लौटे लोग अपनों से मिलकर भावुक हो गए। • एजेसी



ब्रिटेन से रिश्ते बिगड़े: ट्रंप

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने कहा है कि अमेरिका-ब्रिटेन के रिश्ते पहले जैसे नहीं रहे। इसके साथ ही उन्होंने स्पेन से व्यापार करार रद्द करने की बात कही। दरअसल ब्रिटेन की तरह स्पेन ने भी अमेरिका को एयरबेस इस्तेमाल करने की इजाजत नहीं दी।

इंडिगो और 23 एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस द्वारा चलाई जाएंगी।

दोनों ओर से भीषण बमबारी जारी: अमेरिका-इजरायल और ईरान के बीच चल रही जंग के चौथे दिन मंगलवार को ड्रोन और मिसाइल हमले

संघर्ष गंभीर: भारत

नई दिल्ली। पश्चिम एशिया के बिगड़ते हालात पर भारत ने चिंता जताई है। भारतीय विदेश मंत्रालय ने मंगलवार को बयान जारी कर कहा कि संयम बरतने की अपील के बावजूद रमजान के पवित्र महीने में क्षेत्र में स्थिति गंभीर हो रही है।

से मध्यपूर्व दहल उठा। ईरान द्वारा अमेरिकी एयरबेस को निशाना बनाकर खाड़ी देशों पर किए जा रहे हमले में तीन भारतीयों के मारे जाने की खबर है। ईरान ने मंगलवार को चेतावनी देते हुए कहा है कि पश्चिम एशिया और ओमान को खाड़ी

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- दुबई में अमेरिकी वाणिज्य दूतावास पर ड्रोन हमला
- इजरायल का ईरान में भूमिगत परमाणु स्थल पर हमले का दावा

के बीच के जलमार्ग स्ट्रेट ऑफ होर्मुज से अगर कोई भी पोत गुजरगा तो वो जलकर खाक हो जाएगा। साइप्रस स्थित ब्रिटेन के बेस पर ड्रोन से हमले के बाद ब्रिटेन ने युद्धपोत और हेलीकॉप्टर भेजने का फैसला किया है। इस बीच

मोदी ने ओमान, कुवैत और कतर के नेताओं से बात की

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने मंगलवार को



ओमान के सुल्तान हैथम बिन तारिक, कुवैत के युवराज शेख सबाह अल-खालिद अल-हमद

अल-मुबारक अल-सबाह और कतर के अमीर शेख तमीम बिन हमद अल थानी से बात की। इसमें उन्होंने युद्ध के दौरान उनके देश पर हुए हमलों को लेकर चिंता जताई। प्रधानमंत्री ने इन नेताओं से वहां रह रहे भारतीयों की सुरक्षा को लेकर चर्चा की। > P06

जंग का चौथा दिन

- 1 ईरान ने खामेनेई का उतराधिकारी चुनने के लिए जिस स्थान पर बैठक होनी थी, उस इमारत को इजरायल ने निशाना बनाया
- 2 इजरायल ने लेबनान की राजधानी बेरुत में हवाई हमले किए। हमलों का लक्ष्य हिजबुल्लाह के नेता थे।
- 3 संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने ईरान पर हमले के दौरान एक साथ 165 छात्राओं की मौत की जांच के आदेश दिए।
- 4 लेबनान की राजधानी बेरुत में अमेरिकी दूतावास ने सुरक्षा हालात के बीच कामकाज बंद किया।
- 5 इजराइली प्रधानमंत्री नेतन्याहू ने कहा, हिजबुल्ला ने हमला कर बड़ी गलती की। हमारी सेना पूरी ताकत से हमला कर रही है।
- 6 ईरान ने तेल आपूर्ति रोक दी। चिंता कि होर्मुज से अगर कोई भी पोत गुजरा तो उसे जला देंगे।

> मध्यपूर्व में जंग P06,07

दुबई और अबू धाबी में फंसे भारतीयों को लेकर एयरलाइंस कंपनियां दिल्ली, मुंबई और बेंगलूरु आई होली पर वतन वापसी से आंखें हुईं नम, अपनों को देखकर चेहरे खिले

राहत

नई दिल्ली/मेरठ, संवाददाता। रंगों के त्योहार होली से ठीक एक दिन पहले वतन लौटने लोगों की आंखें नम हो गईं। खाड़ी देशों से लौटने लोगों के चेहरे हवाईअड्डों पर अपनों को देख खिल उठे। मंगलवार को लोगों ने सकुशल वतन वापसी कराने के लिए सरकार का शुक्रिया अदा किया।

बोस्टन से आए महेश ने एयरलाइन की व्यवस्था की सराहना की। बताया कि एक उड़ान अबू धाबी से पहुंची है और सेवा व्यवस्था संतोषजनक रही। हमें अच्छे होटल में ठहराया गया। अभी सीमित वायुक्षेत्र उपलब्ध है और लगभग 15-16 उड़ानें संचालित हुईं।

मेरठ के छोपी टैंक निवासी एयर इंडिया के कैप्टन पार्थ अध्याना पांचदिनों तक दुबई में फंसे रहने के बाद मंगलवार सुबह सुरक्षित दिल्ली पहुंचे। कैप्टन

अध्याना 27 फरवरी को अपनी टीम के साथ विमान लेकर लखनऊ से दुबई के लिए रवाना हुए थे। 28 फरवरी को वापस लौटना था। कैप्टन ने बताया, होटल के पास ही मिसाइल को गिरते देखा, जिससे टीम दहशत में आ गई। दो मार्च को सूचना आई कि भारत सरकार ने बड़ा रेस्क्यू ऑपरेशन शुरू किया है। पहले 120 क्रू मैन को वापस लौटना है। मंगलवार सुबह सुबह करीब चार बजे विशेष विमान कुल 120 पायलट व क्रू सदस्यों को लेकर नई दिल्ली पहुंचा। कारोबारी राम कुमार सराफ के पुत्र संजय और वरिष्ठ समाजसेवी कुंज बिहारी अग्रवाल के पुत्र राजन दुबई घूमने गए थे, दोनों वहीं फंस गए हैं।

अभिनेत्री ईशा गुप्ता लौटी: जंग के चलते यूएई में फंसी अभिनेत्री ईशा गुप्ता भारत लौट आई हैं। बोलों, वहां बहुत कठिन समय था। सुरक्षित लौट आई हूँ, इसके लिए सभी का शुक्रिया।



अब तक चार विमान आईजीआईएयरपोर्ट पहुंचे

नई दिल्ली, ३१ मार्च। पश्चिम एशिया में हालिया तनाव के बीच अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के दोबारा संचालन से नई दिल्ली हवाईअड्डे पर यात्रियों की आवाजाही बढ़ी है। मंगलवार शाम तक चार अंतरराष्ट्रीय विमान आईजीआईएयरपोर्ट पर पहुंचे, जिनमें कुल 1,184 यात्री सवार थे। एमिरेट्स की उड़ान ईके 512 करीब 335 यात्रियों को लेकर पहुंची। एयर इंडिया की उड़ान एआई-916 में करीब 149 यात्री थे। एतिहाद एयरवेज की उड़ान से लगभग 310 यात्री दिल्ली पहुंचे।

चौथे दिन पांच हवाई अड्डों पर 260 से ज्यादा उड़ानें रद्द

मुंबई। मध्य-पूर्व में संघर्ष के कारण मंगलवार को चौथे दिन दिल्ली, मुंबई, बेंगलूरु, चेन्नई और कोलकाता के हवाई अड्डों पर 260 से अधिक अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं। अधिकारियों ने बताया, दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर 80 उड़ानें रद्द की गईं। मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर 107, बेंगलूरु में 42 उड़ानें रद्द की गईं। चेन्नई हवाई अड्डे पर 30, कोलकाता हवाई अड्डे पर 10 उड़ानें रद्द की गईं। पिछले तीन दिनों में विभिन्न भारतीय एयरलाइन्स ने 1,117 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द की हैं।

अकुल ने मिट्टी को सिर से लगाया

आगरा। दुबई में तीन दिनों से फंसे डिफेंस कॉलोनी निवासी अकुल सिंह मंगलवार तड़के दिल्ली पहुंचे। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर उतरते ही अकुल ने मातृभूमि की मिट्टी को अपने माथे से लगाया। करीब चार घंटे बाद आगरा में डिफेंस कॉलोनी स्थित निवास पर पहुंचे तो पत्नी और बच्चे उनसे लिपट गए। परिजनों की भावनाएं ऐसी थीं मानो वर्षों बाद मुलाकात हुई हो। अकुल ने युद्ध जैसे हालात के बीच सकुशल घर पहुंचने पर भारत सरकार का आभार जताया।

विशेष विमान से लौटीं अभिनेत्री सोनल चौहान

मैनपुरी। दुबई में फंसी अभिनेत्री सोनल चौहान मंगलवार को मुंबई पहुंच गईं हैं। दुबई से कार के रास्ते ओमान के मस्कट पहुंची और वहां से अदानी के विशेष विमान से गुजरात के अहमदाबाद एयरपोर्ट पर उतरीं। इसके बाद वह मुंबई एयरपोर्ट के लिए रवाना हुईं। उनकी सकुशल वापसी पर अमेरिका से उनके माता-पिता और मैनपुरी के कुरावली से उनके भाइयों ने खुशी जताई।



पिता बार-बार बेटी से बात कर जानकारी लेते रहे

नई दिल्ली, वि.सं.। नई दिल्ली के चांदनी चौक क्षेत्र के सासंद प्रवीण खडेलवाल की बेटी सोम्या भी दुबई में फंस गई थी। तीन दिनों बाद सोम्या मंगलवार को लौट आईं। उनके माता-पिता ने दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर उन्हें रिसीव किया। सोम्या व्यापारिक कार्य से दुबई में थीं और युद्ध के कारण वहां फंस गई थीं। उनके वहां फंसने के कारण पूरा परिवार चिंतित था। इन तीन दिनों में पिता बार-बार बेटी से बात करते रहे और सुरक्षा की जानकारी लेते रहे।

मुंबई के छत्रपति शिवाजी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे पर मंगलवार को दुबई से सकुशल वतन लौटने पर अपने बच्चे को चूमती मां। • संवाददाता

रक्षक

पहले भी अभियान चलाकर अपनों को सुरक्षित निकाला

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। खाड़ी युद्ध से लेकर यूक्रेन, सूडान जैसे हालिया संघर्षों तक दुनिया के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में जब-जब युद्ध की आग भड़की, भारत ने अपने नागरिकों को सुरक्षित घर लाने के लिए बड़े पैमाने पर अभियान चलाए। खाड़ी युद्ध के दौरान ऐतिहासिक एयरलिफ्ट से शुरू हुआ यह सिलसिला ऑपरेशन गंगा और ऑपरेशन कावेरी जैसे अभियानों तक जारी रहा।



- 1990 : कुवैत (खाड़ी युद्ध)**
- इराक ने कुवैत पर हमला किया
 - लगभग 1,70,000 से अधिक भारतीय नागरिक को स्वदेश लाया गया
 - यह एक सबसे बड़ी नागरिक एयरलिफ्ट अभियान था

2006 : ऑपरेशन सुकून (इजरायल-लेबनान युद्ध)

- युद्ध के दौरान 1,764 भारतीयों सहित अन्य देशों के नागरिक भी सुरक्षित भारत लौटे।

2011 : लीबिया गृहयुद्ध

- 15,000 से अधिक भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षित वापसी
- वायु और समुद्री मार्ग दोनों से निकाला गया

2021 : ऑपरेशन देवीशक्ति (अफगानिस्तान)

- तालिबान के कब्जे के बाद लगभग 800 भारतीय नागरिक को निकाला गया

2022 : ऑपरेशन गंगा (यूक्रेन युद्ध)

- लगभग 25,000 भारतीय नागरिकों को सुरक्षित स्वदेश लाया गया

2023 : ऑपरेशन कावेरी (सूडान संघर्ष)

- सूडान में युद्ध की स्थिति
- लगभग 3,584 भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षित निकाले गए

2023 : ऑपरेशन अजय (गाजा/इजरायल)

2025 : ऑपरेशन सिंधु (इजरायल/ईरान संघर्ष)

- मध्य पूर्व की तनावपूर्ण स्थितियों के बीच
- 4,415+ भारतीय नागरिकों को स्वदेश लाया गया (ईरान और इजरायल से) ऑपरेशन सिंधु अभियान के तहत

घरों में रहने की सलाह

नई दिल्ली। भारत में मंगलवार को ईरान में अपने नागरिकों को अत्यधिक सावधानी बरतने और घर में ही रहने की सलाह दी है। इजरायल के ताजा सैन्य हमलों के मद्देनजर ईरान में स्थिति बिगड़ गई है। ऐसा माना जा रहा है कि ईरान में छत्रों समेत करीब 9,000 भारतीय फंसे हुए हैं।

भा.कृ.अनु.प.-भारतीय कृषि लाइब्रेरी एवेन्यू, पूसा, विज्ञापन नोटिस

संस्थान के अंतर्गत चल रही परियोजना सीनियर रिसर्च फेलो की पोजिशन को भ के माध्यम से दिनांक 18.03.2026 को द्वारा आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि दि- अनुबंधित आधार पर होगी और संबंधित

Special flights from Gulf land in Capital, fliers recount ordeal

Gargi Shukla and Jasjeev Gandhiok

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: For Madhuri Dwiwedi, who managed to escape conflict-hit Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on flight through Oman's capital Muscat to reach Delhi, the past 72 hours have been so chaotic that she forgot to inform her daughters' teachers that they would not be able to attend online classes on Tuesday.

"On Sunday, I received a message from my daughters' school that classes would be online on March 2 and 3, and would continue unless tensions in the Gulf improved. We reached Muscat yesterday, so my daughters attended their classes. As we were uncertain about our travel plans to India and only secured tickets this morning, I completely forgot to inform their teachers," said Dwiwedi, who returned to India along with her husband and two daughters, both below the age of three. The family has been settled in Dubai for the past six years.

While Dwiwedi travelled through Muscat, others secured special flights from Dubai to India. The third special flight carrying around 150 Indians from Dubai landed at Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport at around 12.50pm on Tuesday.

The special flights came even as operations at Delhi air-



Relief, joy as stranded Indians from Gulf land at the Delhi airport. Operations at IGIA were hit for the fourth day amid flight curbs due to the West Asia crisis. SANCHIT KHANNA/HT

port remained impacted for the fourth consecutive day due to airspace restrictions amid the escalating conflict in West Asia.

As of Tuesday, four special flights — one on Monday evening and three on Tuesday — had reached Delhi, carrying over 1,100 Indians from Dubai.

Though limited flights have resumed from airports in the West Asia, at least 80 flights to and from Delhi were cancelled on Tuesday. Additionally, over 200 flights, including domestic services, were delayed.

"Of the 80 cancelled flights, 36 were departures and 44 arrivals. The situation has started improving as two flights from Dubai landed on

Tuesday," an airport official said.

According to FlightRadar24, a flight-tracking website, more than 200 flights were delayed until Tuesday evening, with an average delay of 15 minutes.

At least 87 flights were cancelled on Monday and 104 on Sunday.

Delhi airport wrote on X: "Given the changing geopolitical situation in [West Asia], some westbound international flights may be subject to delays or operational adjustments."

It asked passengers to check the latest updates with their respective airlines before travelling to the airport and, if necessary, consider alternate routes or connections sug-

gested by the airline.

Airport officials said additional help desks were set up in the international security holding area and departure forecourt, and quick reaction teams were deployed across check-in, boarding, arrival, transfer, and ticketing areas.

"Advisories are being issued on social media platforms in real time. Airport staff are also distributing water bottles, tea, and refreshments via mobile food kiosks," the official quoted above said, adding that hot meals and hygiene kits are also being provided.

"Further, additional recliners and medical teams have been made available. Over 3,000 bags belonging to pas-

sengers whose flights were cancelled have been returned so far," the official added.

For four-year-old Shamik Vahishta and his parents Arvind (35) and Deepa (34), the end of their week-long vacation to Dubai was nothing short of dramatic, said Arvind.

"We were supposed to return on February 28, but our flight was cancelled at the last minute. At first, we planned to wait at the airport for the next available flight, but after receiving alerts and announcements to stay indoors, we decided it was safer to move to a hotel," said Noida-based Arvind.

"We're truly grateful to Air India. It felt like a covert evacuation. Around 10pm on Monday, we received a call and message about a morning flight, though they said it was still a 50-50 chance. We told them we were ready to take the risk," he added.

Repeated announcements and non-stop sirens were unsettling, said 34-year-old Hardik Doshi, describing the scene at Abu Dhabi airport early Tuesday.

"I went on a company-sponsored leisure trip last Wednesday and was scheduled to return on March 1. Around 400 employees from different departments were on the trip. After the cancellations, we were all split up. No one knows how many have returned or are still stuck at a hotel in Dubai," said Mumbai-based Doshi.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

{ EVACUATION EFFORTS }

India to operate 58 flights to Middle East

Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Indian government announced Tuesday that airlines will operate 58 flights to the Middle East on March 4 and are deploying additional capacity to evacuate tens of thousands of passengers stranded by widespread regional conflict.

"Special arrangements are being made to facilitate the movement of stranded passengers, with airlines deploying additional capacity where required and coordinating closely with foreign aviation authorities and Indian missions abroad to ensure safe and orderly passenger movement," the civil aviation ministry stated.

The government's intervention comes as the scope of the war expands during its fourth day, triggering massive global and domestic aviation disruptions. More than 12,300 flights have been cancelled worldwide since Iran's first retaliatory strike, paralysing major transit hubs such as Dubai and Doha, according to aviation tracker Flightradar24.

In India, the escalating crisis

Relief for stranded fliers

33 relief and repatriation flights operated on March 3 - 24 by Indian carriers and 9 by foreign airlines.

These included flights by Air India, IndiGo, Air India Express, SpiceJet, Akasa Air, Emirates and Etihad. Flights connected India with the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

53 Flights from India to Europe, UK, North America.

These included flights by Air India, which operated its scheduled flights to Europe and North America via alternative routing through Oman, southern Saudi Arabia and Egypt. US-bound flights made technical stops at Rome. Other carriers include British Airways, Lufthansa, Turkish.

58 flights scheduled for Wednesday.

involving the United States, Israel and Iran has resulted in 1,221 cancellations by Indian carriers and 388 by foreign carriers to date. The civil aviation ministry figures, tracking disruptions since February 28, show Indian carriers cancelled 104 international flights on Tuesday alone. Over the past three days, 1,117 international flights were grounded. Globally, the cancellations continue to reverberate as out-of-position aircraft and crew members force carriers to run special evacuation flights.

Domestically, Indian carriers

operated 24 flights on Tuesday. The scheduled 58 flights for March 4 include 30 by IndiGo and 23 by Air India and Air India Express. Additionally, Emirates and Etihad operated nine flights from the Gulf region in the preceding 24 hours.

Notwithstanding the planned operations, Air India stated on the social media platform X: "In view of the continuing situation in the Middle East, Air India has extended the suspension of most flights to and from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Qatar until 23:59 hrs IST on 4 March

2026."

The ministry noted that Indian carriers have undertaken calibrated schedule adjustments, progressively resuming long-haul operations through alternative routings to avoid restricted airspace. The government is continuously monitoring airfares to prevent undue price surges. "All airlines have been advised to maintain transparent communication with passengers and ensure adherence to regulatory requirements concerning refunds, rescheduling and passenger assistance," the ministry stated. Indicating a slight improvement in the region, the UAE economy ministry said the country is establishing safe air corridors allowing up to 48 flights an hour.

More than 80 additional flights are scheduled, providing a capacity exceeding 27,000 passengers, the ministry stated.

There are close to 9 million Indians in the Gulf countries, and another 10,000 in Iran apart from hundreds, and potentially thousands, of Indian citizens caught at West Asia airports that function as crucial stopovers for longhaul flights.



An Indian, who was stranded in West Asia due to the ongoing U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict, being welcomed by family members upon his arrival in Mumbai on Tuesday. PTI

Special flights bring 164 from Maharashtra to Mumbai from UAE

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

As many as 164 residents of Maharashtra, who were stranded in the United Arab Emirates due to the ongoing conflict between the United States, Israel and Iran, returned to Mumbai on Tuesday evening. The airspace in West Asia has been restricted since the conflict escalated on February 28.

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said that the Maharashtra government has arranged two aircraft to bring back the people of the State stranded in Dubai. "All efforts were made [by the government] to bring back the citizens

of the State stranded in Dubai," he stated in a release.

Two flights took off from Fujairah International Airport at 3.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m., carrying 164 passengers, including 84 Pune-based students from Indira School of Business Studies, who were on an educational tour to Dubai.

Both Star Air flights arrived in Mumbai between 5.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Besides the 84 passengers from Pune, others are from Thane, Murbad, and Ahilyanagar. Shiv Sena MLAs Murji Patel, Dilip Lande, and Mangesh Kulkarni have received the passengers at Mumbai airport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

After partial reopening of UAE airspace, over a dozen flights land in Kerala

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The partial reopening of the UAE Flight Information Region, the designated airspace managed by the UAE General Civil Aviation Authority, along with the operational Omani airspace and the Jeddah Flight Information Region, which covers the western airspace of Saudi Arabia, has provided respite to stranded passengers in West Asia, with airlines operating special services with military approval.

Kerala received over a dozen flights from different locations

in West Asia, mainly carrying stranded passengers. SpiceJet also announced special flights to key cities in India from Fujairah, including to Kochi on Tuesday.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior Air India source confirmed that the airline has received permission to operate special flights on a case-by-case basis with military approval.

The airline operated the first Indian carrier flight from Dubai to New Delhi amid the ongoing crisis, bringing back 149 stranded passengers. It has also received approval to operate flights from Sharjah and Abu Dhabi. These are not scheduled

commercial services, but special flights.

Air India Express has announced that it resumed full-fledged flight operations to and from Muscat on Tuesday. An Air Arabia flight from Thiruvananthapuram to Abu Dhabi also departed at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Emirates flight returns

Meanwhile, an Emirates flight from Bengaluru to Dubai, which departed at 4.30 a.m. on Tuesday returned due to airspace restrictions. Flights to and from Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia remain suspended for most parts of the day.

Airlines are operating over 12 special flights to several cities in Saudi Arabia, UAE

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI

Indian airlines, including IndiGo, Air India, Air India Express and SpiceJet, are operating over 12 special flights to various cities in Saudi Arabia and the UAE to bring back passengers stranded due to the escalating conflict in West Asia.

The airlines will operate special flights on Wednesday also.

Providing relief for hundreds of passengers, whose travel plans have been disrupted by the crisis, Air India Express resumed its services to Muscat (Oman) on Tuesday, and IndiGo will restart services to Muscat, and Jeddah and Medina in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

Air India is operating two special relief flights to Jeddah and Dubai with wide-body planes on Tuesday, and another such flight to Dubai from Mumbai on March 4.

On Tuesday, Air India Express operated three special flights – Dubai-Ban-



Safe return: An Air India flight carrying several Indians from Dubai landed in New Delhi on Tuesday. X/@AIRINDIA_NEWS

galore, Abu Dhabi-Delhi and Sharjah-Mumbai – apart from the regular services to Muscat.

“Air India Express will continue to operate its scheduled flights to and from Muscat on March 4. Alongside regular services to/from Delhi, Kochi, Kozhikode, Mangaluru, Mumbai, and Tiruchirappalli, we will also be operating additional flights to Delhi, Kochi, and Mumbai,” the airline said in a statement.

IndiGo said it was operating four repatriation flights to Jeddah, and another flight is expected to be operated to Muscat.

Meanwhile, more than 250 flights were cancelled at the Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Chennai airports on Tuesday, officials said. Indian airlines have cancelled 1,117 international flights in the past three days.

Air India operated a flight from Dubai to Delhi carrying 149 passengers on Tuesday.

As many as 143 cockpit and cabin crew members of Air India and Air India Express who were stranded in Dubai returned to the national capital in another Air India flight AI918D on Tuesday.



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MINT

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

Oil shock, airspace closure test IndiGo's hard-won recovery

Ashish Agrawal
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Shares of InterGlobe Aviation Ltd (IndiGo) fell the most among Nifty50 constituents on Monday, sliding over 6% amid a broader sell-off triggered by tensions in West Asia. Beyond the spike in crude oil prices, airport closures across the region, leading to widespread flight cancellations, are set to weigh on the airline's profitability.

The markets were closed on Tuesday for a public holiday. Brent, which hovered around \$60 a barrel in early January, climbed to \$72 by 25

February on expectations of military action against Iran. Since the conflict began, it has surged to over \$80. The risk could intensify if shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a conduit for roughly 20% of global oil flows, faces extended disruption.

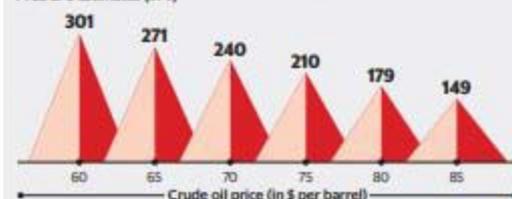
According to JM Financial Institutional Securities, IndiGo's earnings would contract about 13% for every \$5-a-barrel increase in Brent prices, assuming a stable rupee.

Pressure is already building. Domestic oil marketing companies raised aviation turbine fuel prices by 6% month-on-month in March, a move

Inverse relationship

IndiGo's profits are expected to drop if crude oil prices spike.

Impact of crude oil price change on IndiGo's earnings
FY28 EPS estimates (in ₹)



FY28 estimates at ₹90 per dollar; EPS is earnings per share
Source: Company, JM Financial

mint

SATISH KUMAR/MINT

that will affect fourth-quarter (Q4FY26) earnings. Currency volatility compounds the risk. IndiGo had indicated that

every one-rupee depreciation against the dollar increases costs by about ₹900 crore due to forex exposure.

The airline is grappling with significant disruption from airport closures in West Asia, with international routes accounting for nearly 30% of its total capacity. IndiGo reportedly cancelled about 200 international flights on 2 March, close to 10% of its daily operations.

The setback comes just as the airline was regaining its footing after severe disruption in December, when a pilot shortage led to widespread cancellations and delays. IndiGo recovered lost market share, gaining 400 basis points month-on-month to 63.6% in January, in line with

November levels, according to data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

The stock is down about 23% from end-November levels and trades at 22.5 times estimated FY27 earnings, based on Bloomberg data.

"A swift de-escalation would likely see operations and bookings normalize quickly, but a prolonged disruption risks capacity rationalization, margin compression, and estimate downgrades," said a JM Financial report. The duration of airspace curbs and the trajectory of crude are likely to determine the stock's direction.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

Airline fined ₹1 cr for cancellations

Court rejects Akasa Air contention over advance payment, travel firm wins damages suit

UDAYAN KISHORE @ New Delhi

A Delhi court has directed Akasa Air to pay ₹1.08 crore to a city-based travel agency for cancelling 640 seats booked for travel between Delhi and Goa during the peak Christmas and New Year season of 2023-24. The court held that loss of expected profits was recoverable where the performance of a contract was "wrongfully prevented".

The court ordered SNV Aviation Pvt Ltd, which operates as Akasa Air, to pay the amount to ABS Tour & Travels. The agency contended that once Passenger Name Records (PNRs) were generated, a binding contract had come into existence. It argued that the abrupt cancellation deprived it of the opportunity to sell tickets during the festive season, when airfares typically surge.

The lawsuit was filed after the cancellation of eight group PNRs comprising 640 seats booked in April 2023 for travel between December 23, 2023 and January 13, 2024. The bookings covered flights from Delhi to Goa and return during the high-demand Christmas and New Year period.

According to the travel agency, it had paid 25 per cent of the total booking amount—



₹4,82,280—through the airline's agent portal, following which the PNRs were generated. However, on May 29, 2023, the airline cancelled all eight PNRs. The advance amount was subsequently refunded in August 2023.

The agency argued that once the PNRs were issued upon receipt of the advance payment, a binding contract had been formed. "The abrupt cancellation, months before the balance payment was due, deprived it (agency) of the opportunity to sell the tickets during the festive season when fares typically surge," the suit stated.

It further submitted that, based on fare data for the relevant period, ticket prices had risen to approximately ₹17,000 per seat. This, it claimed, resulted in a total loss of profit amounting to ₹1.08 crore.

In its order, the court observed that the PNRs were gen-

erated after receipt of the 25 per cent advance and that no notice demanding any shortfall in payment was issued before the cancellation. "In the absence of proof of a binding contractual stipulation permitting such cancellation, the airline's action amounted to breach of contract," the judge held.

The airline defended its decision, contending that for group bookings exceeding 70 passengers, a 50 per cent advance payment was required at the time of booking, whereas the plaintiff had paid only 25 per cent. It also argued that the claim for damages was speculative, as no tickets had actually been sold, and pointed out that the advance amount had already been refunded.

However, the court rejected the airline's defence, noting that no document was produced to establish that a 50 per cent advance condition was applicable at the time of booking. At the same time, the court declined the agency's claim for interest at 18 per cent per annum, observing that there was no contractual stipulation supporting such a rate and that the claim related to unliquidated damages. It also rejected the claim for damages on account of mental agony and harassment.

Travel portal, airline pulled up over refund

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A Delhi consumer commission has directed Malaysia Airlines to refund ₹65,802 to a city resident after his relatives' international tickets were cancelled during the Covid-19 pandemic. The South Delhi District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission also imposed costs on MakeMyTrip for deficient service and false assurances.

The panel said both entities made the complainant "shuttle between the two" for his rightful refund despite repeated requests. In its February 2 order, the commission directed the airlines to refund the money to the resident, Karan Pradeep, and directed Malaysia Airlines to refund ₹65,802 with interest at 6 per cent per annum from March 13, 2020.

MakeMyTrip was ordered to pay ₹25,000 for deficient service, and both parties were directed to jointly pay ₹30,000 towards compensation for mental agony, harassment and litigation costs.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

'Very scary watching missiles flying overhead'

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

MUCH to the relief of the huge Indian diaspora in West Asia, Indian carriers transporting passengers from Dubai, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi and Muscat reached Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) on Tuesday after a three-day gap in operations.

Additionally, another flight with 143 cockpit crew of Air India and Air India Express, who were stuck in different cities in the Gulf, also reached Delhi.

While Indian airlines have cancelled 1,221 overseas flights over the last three days and foreign carriers have cancelled 388 flights due to the raging crisis,



Passengers from Dubai, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi and Muscat reach Delhi | EXPRESS

the first flight by an Indian operator to reach India from West Asia was AI 916D from Dubai. Without any intimation regarding its arrival, the flight carrying 149 passengers reached Ter-

minal 3 at 10.58 am.

A source said, "We mobilised all our resources promptly and utilised the opportunity to fly back stranded passengers from the Dubai International Airport at the earliest when we heard one flight could be sent." It comprised only Air India passengers who had booked tickets but could not travel earlier due to the raging crisis.

Passenger Mohamad Adil said, "There are no issues in Muscat as such. The atmosphere in Oman is totally peaceful." A passenger from Abu Dhabi said it was "a very scary experience watching missiles constantly being intercepted in the city. Another passenger sec-

onded it stating that though the situation was quite frightening, they felt safe.

Passengers from Dubai told news agencies that they were relieved to return to India, particularly in light of the soaring living costs in Dubai after the crisis erupted. A passenger said, "The situation is quite normal; there's not much tension, but due to flight cancellations and other things, people are facing financial impacts. Staying there is very expensive. Air India guided us completely. The government there is providing as much help as it can."

Delhi airport had 80 international cancellations, of which 36 were departures.

Dubai very expensive

"We had gone to Dubai as tourists. Our return was scheduled for February 28, and that's when all this happened, and our flight got cancelled," a passenger told this newspaper. He said living expenses in Dubai suddenly became very expensive.

राहत की सांस अबु धाबी-बेंगलुरु फ्लाइट से भी लौटे भारतीय छात्र तेहरान से बाहर

दुबई से 149 नागरिकों को लेकर आई पहली उड़ान

पंजाब केसरी/नई दिल्ली

दुबई में फंसे भारतीयों को लेकर एयर इंडिया का विमान मंगलवार को नई दिल्ली पहुंचा। फ्लाइट एआई916डी आज सुबह करीब 11 बजे दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर लैंड हुई। एयरक्राफ्ट वीटी-ईडीसी में कुल 149 यात्री सवार थे। अमेरिका और इजरायल द्वारा ईरान पर हमले और ईरान की जवाबी कार्रवाई से मिडिल ईस्ट में माहौल काफी तनावपूर्ण है। इस माहौल के बीच एयर इंडिया की यह पहली उड़ान थी, जिससे यात्रियों को भारत लाया गया। इस बीच इंडिगो की 4 और उड़ानें भारतीयों को वापस लाने के लिए

भारतीयों
की वापसी के लिए
इंडिगो की उड़ानें
एवशन में



जेद्दा पहुंच गई। ज्यादातर छात्र तेहरान छोड़कर सुरक्षित पहुंच चुके हैं। इससे पहले सुबह एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के 143 कॉकपिट और केबिन क्रू सदस्यों को सुरक्षित दिल्ली लाया गया। यह लोग दुबई में फंसे हुए

थे। दुबई से लौटे यात्रियों ने भारत लौटने पर राहत की सांस ली है। साथ ही उन्होंने सरकार और एयरलाइंस का शुक्रिया भी अदा किया है। अबू धाबी-बेंगलुरु फ्लाइट से लौटे यात्रियों ने अपने अनुभव साझा करते हुए बताया कि

दिल्ली से 80 उड़ानें रद्द

पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते संघर्ष के बीच परिचालन संबंधी व्यवधानों के कारण मंगलवार सुबह दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर कुल 80 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं। एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि इनमें 36 प्रस्थान उड़ानें और 44 आगमन उड़ानें शामिल हैं। एमिरेट्स समेत कुछ एयरलाइन ने पश्चिम एशिया के लिए आंशिक रूप से सेवाएं फिर शुरू कर दी हैं।

संघर्ष के दौरान स्थिति भयावह थी। एयर इंडिया ने अपने बयान में कहा कि मौजूदा हालात में उनकी टीम लगातार काम कर रही है। इस दौरान बेहतर समन्वय के साथ चीजों को बेहतर बनाने पर ध्यान दिया जा रहा है।

Air India brings back 149 passengers from Dubai, IndiGo starts repatriation flights amid West Asia crisis



Indian expatriates returning from Abu Dhabi arrive at IGI Airport in the capital on late Monday night. (SNS)

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 3 March

Air India on Tuesday said it operated a special flight from Dubai to New Delhi, bringing back 149 passengers and eight crew members amid the ongoing situation in West Asia.

In a post on social media platform X, the airline said flight AI916D was the first flight by an Indian carrier to arrive in the national capital on Tuesday under the current circumstances.

The airline described the arrival as a "heartwarming moment" as stranded passengers and crew returned home safely.

Air India thanked the Government of India, the

DGCA, and local authorities in Dubai for their cooperation in facilitating the flight. The airline said it is closely monitoring the evolving situation and will continue to extend all possible support to its passengers. Meanwhile, IndiGo announced the commencement of repatriation flights and a gradual resumption of scheduled operations.

In a press statement issued on Tuesday, IndiGo said it has begun repatriation efforts in coordination with Indian authorities and respective governments in West Asia and Persian Gulf region. Four repatriation flights are currently en route to Jeddah, and one flight is expected to operate to and from Muscat later in the day.



Limited flights offer glimmer of relief

SANJAY MANDAL AND SAMARPITA BANERJEE

Calcutta: Emirates, Ethhad Airways and flydubai announced on Monday that they would resume a limited number of flights from their West Asia hubs of Dubai and Abu Dhabi to repatriate stranded travellers.

Two Ethhad flights from Abu Dhabi landed in Delhi and Mumbai on Monday night. The Abu Dhabi-Delhi flight took off at 3.55pm IST, carrying 310 passengers, and landed in the national capital at 8.30pm.

A PTI video showed relieved arriving passengers thanking the authorities for bringing them back safely. Their relatives were seen welcoming them, exchanging emotional hugs.

One passenger told PTI: "We could see missiles being intercepted constantly. There was not a very visible impact in Abu Dhabi." Another said she, too, saw missiles. "The government there was cooper-

ative," she added.

Other airlines are also resuming limited services. Air India has resumed all flights to Europe, the UK, the US and Canada through alternative routes from Monday, although West Asia operations are yet to restart. Air India Express will resume flights from Muscat, Oman, from Tuesday. Reports indicated that IndiGo would start limited operations from Jeddah.

Air travel was disrupted after Israeli and US attacks on Iran and Tehran's response, forcing the closure of airspace across parts of West Asia since Saturday. Airports in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha and Sharjah were shut down as a result.

Passenger safety

Stranded passengers in the region are reportedly being transported from hotels to airports in "closed buses" as a security precaution. Tens of thousands of travellers worldwide, particularly in West Asia, remain stranded.

In Delhi, the Union govern-



Stranded Indian passengers arrive at the Delhi airport from Abu Dhabi on Monday night. (PTI picture)

■ **Flames in the sky: City trader stuck in Dubai, Page 9**

ment said: "Special arrangements are being made to facilitate the movement of stranded passengers. Airlines are deploying additional capacity where required and coordinating... with foreign aviation authorities and Indian missions abroad to ensure safe and orderly passenger movement."

Airfares have surged on almost every route because of the crisis.

Emirates announced that

it would operate a limited number of flights beginning Monday evening (March 2). Customers with prior bookings are being accommodated first, it said. The airline urged passengers not to go to the airport unless notified, stating: "All other flights remain suspended until further notice."

The airline advised travellers to continuously check their flight status, review updates on emirates.com, and

monitor emails for changes or cancellations.

Earlier in the day, Emirates and Ethhad had said operations would be closed because UAE airspace was off limits until 2pm on Tuesday local time (3.30pm IST).

Air India Express will resume operations to and from Muscat starting Tuesday (March 3), with scheduled services to Delhi, Kochi, Kozhikode, Mangaluru, Mumbai and Tiruchirappalli. "The first flight from Muscat will operate to Tiruchirappalli, departing at 10.25 hours local time," the airline stated.

Air India officials said they were operating all flights from India to Europe, the UK, the US and Canada via alternative routes. Reuters reported that IndiGo has planned 10 special flights from Jeddah to India on Tuesday.

Civil aviation ministry sources said Emirates informed the directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA) about the limited resumption of flights to India. "The initial

plan is to operate some flights to Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru," a source said.

Calcutta status

Calcutta airport authorities have not yet received information on flights to the city. Sources said Emirates alone has nearly 2,500 passengers stranded in Calcutta and Dubai due to cancellations since Saturday.

The DGCA met with West Asian airline representatives in Calcutta to assess cancelled flights and stranded passengers.

Between Monday and Tuesday morning, all flights between Calcutta and West Asia were cancelled. Electronic display boards at both arrival and departure levels showed "cancelled" for Ethhad services. The 8pm flight from Abu Dhabi and the 8.55pm flight to Abu Dhabi were cancelled.

Plight of stranded

Sanjib Mondal, 29, a resident of Murshidabad and a pastry

chef in Riyadh for the past three years, was scheduled to travel to Riyadh via Abu Dhabi on Monday. He learned about the cancellation only after reaching the airport. "I had a connecting flight from Abu Dhabi to Riyadh on Tuesday morning, but both flights were cancelled as the airspace is closed," he said.

Mondal, who returned home on a month-long vacation, said his re-entry visa expires on March 8. "If my visa expires, it will be difficult for me to return. I spent ₹1,200 to reach the airport. Amidst the war situation, my parents, who are in their 60s, are worried for me," he said.

Mohammad Imran, 36, from Bihar, was waiting near Gate 5B to travel to Abu Dhabi to celebrate Eid with friends. "When I checked the last update on my phone, it showed cancelled, but my travel agent asked me to visit the airport for confirmation. The display board confirmed it," he said.

Additional reporting by **Amiya Kumar Kushwaha**

Limited flights resume, risks remain

OUR BUREAU

Calcutta/New Delhi: Limited flight operations between India and some cities of West Asia resumed on Tuesday but thousands remain stranded as the airspace disruptions continued, as the US and Israel's conflict with Iran entered the fourth day.

Evacuation flights operated between cities of India and parts of West Asia like Dubai and Oman, but some of the flights from India had to return midway because of security threats in the air, said sources.

According to sources, at least three Dubai-bound Emirates flights from Delhi, Chennai and Bengaluru returned after take-off due to airspace restrictions.

One flight from Mumbai was, however, able to land in Dubai.

At Calcutta airport, all flights to West Asia destina-

tions like Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha continued to remain suspended on Tuesday. The airport officials said there was no information on whether any evacuation flight from West Asia would be operating to the city. Hundreds of Calcuttians are stuck in West Asian cities at the moment.

Amidst the chaos and cancellations, Indian carriers initiated relief measures. IndiGo has scheduled 10 special flights from Jeddah to India.

"In light of the evolving situation in the Middle East and Persian Gulf, IndiGo has begun its repatriation efforts aligned with the relevant authorities in India and the respective governments. Four such flights are now enroute to Jeddah, and one is expected to be operated to/from Muscat, later in the day," said an IndiGo spokesperson.

From Wednesday, more scheduled flights and seat ca-



The Calcutta airport on Tuesday. Special flights to the city have not started yet. Picture by Bishwarup Dutta

capacity are expected to be offered.

The IndiGo spokesperson said operations are expected

to resume to Muscat, Jeddah, Madinah in West Asia and Athens in Europe, depending on safety clearances.

"Furthermore, for March 4, repatriation flights to stations in the UAE (United Arab Emirates) are being worked upon. However, it will depend on the local situation and the necessary approvals," said the IndiGo spokesperson.

Akasa Air said it operated select services to and from Jeddah on Tuesday and plans to do so on Wednesday as well, following a comprehensive safety review. It will operate services on the Mumbai-Jeddah-Mumbai sector.

SpiceJet will also operate special flights to facilitate the return of Indian nationals stranded in the UAE.

SpiceJet chairman and managing director Ajay Singh said: "In such difficult times, our foremost priority is to help Indian citizens who wish to return home. We are grateful to the concerned authorities whose coordination has made these special flights possible."

AMIYA KUMAR KUSHWAHA

New Delhi: Many passengers who were stranded in several countries of the war-ravaged West Asia returned to India on Tuesday after a few national and international carriers carried out some special flights to bring them back.

Passengers arriving in Delhi recounted moments of intense fear and trauma, describing how the sounds of attacks left them shaken.

Air India brought back stranded passengers from Dubai on a flight landing at the Delhi airport on Tuesday morning, ferrying a total of 149 passengers.

This was the first flight operated by an Indian carrier for the homecoming of passengers amid the ongoing situation in West Asia.

Earlier in the morning, 143 cockpit and cabin crew members of Air India and Air India Express who were stranded in Dubai safely arrived back in Delhi on another flight.

Oman Air, Saudia and

Safe return for stranded Indian passengers

Emirates also operated flights to the national capital, carrying many stranded passengers.

Oman Air's Muscat-Delhi flight landed in Delhi at 1:30pm, Saudia's Riyadh-Delhi flight landed around 5pm, while Emirates' Dubai-Delhi flight landed at 2:40am.

Many passengers expressed sighs of relief after returning to the country while sharing a terrifying ordeal of uncertainty after being stuck in the Gulf countries.

"I saw missiles being intercepted in the sky. I heard loud explosions and saw smoke. It was frightening," Piyush, who was stuck in Dubai, told reporters. He returned to Delhi on Tuesday afternoon.

Piyush was going to London for his honeymoon. He and his wife were taking separate flights, and his wife could not leave the country because the war had already broken out. He had got stuck in Dubai because of a three-hour layover. The situation turned tense when he landed there.

Piyush, who had tied the knot on February 14, was welcomed by his mother and wife at the Delhi airport after returning from Muscat via an Oman Airways flight.

After being stuck in Dubai, Piyush decided not to wait and chose an alternative route. He travelled by road from Dubai to the Hatta border, crossed into Oman, and from there managed to secure a flight back to India.

Other passengers said the journey was tough, although the situation in the Gulf countries was normal.

One passenger complained of facing financial issues due to continuous flight cancellations, and staying there was very expensive.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

4 MARCH 2026

NTPC dividend

■ **NEW DELHI:** State-owned electricity generator NTPC on Friday said it has paid the power ministry ₹2,666.58 crore in the second interim dividend for FY26. A ceremonial cheque was handed over to power minister Manohar Lal by company officials on February 27. The power ministry has also decided to set up a search-cum-selection committee to look for the head of NTPC. **PTI**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

3 MARCH 2026

23 Gulf-bound flights cancelled at SVPI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Flight disruptions to Gulf destinations intensified on Monday, with 23 arrivals and departures cancelled at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) Airport, affecting both outbound and inbound passengers. Airport officials said the cancellations were linked to airspace restrictions and operational uncertainties in parts of West Asia. On average, nearly 40 flights operate weekly between Ahmedabad and Gulf countries, including Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Jeddah and Doha, making the region one of the busiest international corridors from the city.

With services temporarily hit, several passengers either deferred travel or explored alternate routes. Airport authorities set up help desks at Terminals 1 and 2 to assist passengers with rebooking, refunds and advisory updates. Airlines also set up their own



On average, nearly 40 flights operate between A'bad and Gulf countries every week

help desks. Officials said airlines are coordinating with travellers directly through SMS and email alerts.

Travel operators in the city reported a visible slowdown in fresh bookings. "Many customers are putting their plans on hold, and some are cancelling travel to Dubai and other Gulf destinations for now," said Ankit Bajaj, a city-based travel company owner. "There is uncertainty around return schedules, so families and leisure travellers especially are choosing to wait."

EK569 DEPARTS AT 4.30AM BUT TURNS BACK DUE TO AIRSPACE CLOSURE | PASSENGERS START COMING HOME IN BATCHES

Emirates flight returns after taking off; 42 services cancelled at KIA

Nithya.Mandyam
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Flights at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) continued to reel under severe disruption Tuesday as the ongoing airspace restrictions led to dozens of cancellations, forced an international flight to turn back mid-air, and left thousands of passengers grappling with uncertainty across key Gulf routes.

IRAN CRISIS

As of Tuesday afternoon, 42 flights (21 arrivals and 21 departures) were cancelled because of restricted airspace affecting key routes to West Asia. The worst-hit sectors included Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, and Doha, disrupting connectivity between Bengaluru and Gulf hubs that account for a significant share of labour and transit traffic.

In the wee hours of Tuesday, Emirates flight EK569 on the Bengaluru-Dubai route was forced to return shortly after departure due to airspace closure. The flight took off at 4.30am before returning to Bengaluru as a precaution. The unscheduled return caused congestion at the international terminal, with anxious passengers awaiting updates. After a delay of 16 hours, the flight ultimately took off again at 8.30pm.

Flyers return, kin relieved

Even as outbound operations remained uncertain, inbound flights brought relief



The first Abu Dhabi-Bengaluru flight after airspace disruptions landed at KIA Monday night, bringing home a number of stranded Indians

1K PASSENGERS RETURN TO SAFETY

► Despite outbound uncertainty, 1,053 inbound flyers landed in Bengaluru from Gulf hubs, including 490 from Dubai and 213 from Abu Dhabi

► As they returned to safety, flyers described sleepless nights, repeated cancellations and emotional landings

► Meanwhile, flight operations at KIA continued to be disrupted, with 21 arrivals and 21 departures scrapped, severely affecting key Gulf routes

to waiting families. Starting Monday night, 1,053 passengers arrived from Gulf destinations.

An Abu Dhabi flight brought in 213 passengers, followed



RELIEVED JD(S) MLC NARRATES ORDEAL

JD(S) legislator Bhoje Gowda, who returned from Dubai Tuesday morning after being stranded for three days, said he was relieved on returning to Bengaluru. Narrating the ordeal he went through, he said: "While I was having breakfast at my friend's place, I heard bomb explosions three times. The blasts created fear among the people, and there was a sense that war could break out anytime. At markets, people were buying groceries in large quantities, anticipating that the tension would continue for some time. Many were stocking up supplies for 15 to 20 days. I did not expect that we would return so soon. By God's grace, we are back," he said.

transiting through Dubai from the war-hit region.

'Second life for me'

"I did not sleep properly for three days," said Raghavend-

ra M from Shivamogga, who works at a construction firm. "When we heard about airspace issues and cancellations, we were worried whether we would reach home. Landing in Bengaluru feels like a second life for me," he said.

Sabab Praveen Gowda from Bengaluru said, "My parents kept calling every hour. There was tension because flights were getting cancelled. When the aircraft touched down, everyone clapped. We are just grateful to be back safe."

Helpful airport staff

A group of tech professionals returning from a business trip described similar uncertainty. "There were constant announcements about airspace restrictions. We were not sure if our connection would operate. The airport staff here handled things well and guided us quickly," said Sandeep Rao, a professional.

Airport officials said special assistance was provided to elderly passengers, families with children, and those needing medical support. Sources indicated that coordination between airlines, ground handlers, and air traffic control authorities was ongoing to stabilise operations. Given that hubs such as Dubai and Abu Dhabi serve as major transit points for onward global travel, the ripple effect of the airspace restrictions was felt not only among Gulf-bound passengers but also among those connecting to Europe, North America, and Africa.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

4 MARCH 2026

IndiGo announces flights between Chennai and Réunion Island

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: IndiGo has announced thrice weekly, direct flights between Chennai and Réunion Island, a French overseas territory in the Indian Ocean, from April 29, 2026.

The airline will operate its Airbus A320 aircraft on the route.

With this, Réunion Island becomes IndiGo's 46th international destination and its 13th from Chennai – a key gateway in South India.

Customers can plan and book their travel through IndiGo's official website www.goIndiGo.in, mobile app, or authorised travel



partners. Located between Madagascar and Mauritius, Réunion Island is renowned for its dramatic vol-

FROM APRIL 29

canic landscapes, UNESCO World Heritage-listed natural sites such as the Piton de la Fournaise, and a vibrant, multi-cultural society shaped by African, Europe-

an, Indian, and Asian influences.

Home to a significant Indian diaspora, the island is gaining popularity among Indian outbound travellers, including luxury vacationers, honeymooners, adventure seekers, nature lovers, and bespoke MICE groups, all drawn by its distinctive blend of nature, culture, and immersive experiences.

Vinay Malhotra, Head of Global Sales, IndiGo, said, "Known for its diverse landscapes, pristine coastlines, and rich multicultural heritage, Réunion Island offers travellers a distinctive and immersive experience."

Scheduled, charter flights to be used for repatriation

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New Delhi: India is working to repatriate thousands of travellers stranded in West Asian countries such as the UAE and Qatar since Feb 28, using a mix of charters and scheduled flights from nearby open airspace points like Saudi Arabia and Muscat.

With scheduled flights cancelled at places like UAE, airports there — including Dubai's two hubs — are giving charter slots. DGCA Tuesday asked Indian carriers and non-scheduled operators to seek as many as possible. Indian carriers plan 58 flights on March 4, including 30 by IndiGo and 23 by Air India group.

"Airlines and non-scheduled operators have been warned not to hike fares. If stranded passengers holding tickets travel on the same airline, no fare difference should be charged," officials said after a meeting called by DGCA chief Faiz Ahmed Kidwai.

The meeting followed a detailed review by the PMO on the West Asia crisis, covering evacuation of Indians and the impact on fuel supply and shipping. Aviation secretary Samir Sinha and senior officials from home, external affairs, defence, petroleum and shipping ministries attended.

In coordination with the MEA, Sinha and Kidwai have drawn up a repatriation plan that hinges on the evolving situation. Airlines will give morning and evening updates on charter slots secured from UAE, apart from scheduled flights to Saudi and Muscat.

Tuesday evening saw some prominent Indian business leaders fly in one of the first private jet movements allowed to India from Dubai World Central (Dubai's secondary airport) to Delhi. Being an Indian-registered Bombardier Global 6000, the aircraft had to take the longer route home, by-passing the Pakistan airspace.

Air India has begun deploying widebody aircraft, including Boeing 777s and B787s, from Delhi and Mumbai to Jeddah and Dubai, expected to operate at full capacity on return sectors. IndiGo operated flights to Jeddah and Muscat and is working on services to UAE stations. AI Express, SpiceJet and Akasa also operated flights to the region.

The primary strategy is recovery of crew and aircraft in West Asia, after which evacuation and passenger recovery flights through Jeddah, Muscat and other airports will scale up, officials added.



EVAC DRIVE: AI brought back 143 cockpit and cabin crew members of its and Air India Express flights who had been stranded in Dubai



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

4 MARCH 2026

Airfares to West Asia, Europe soar amid conflict

Thiruvananthapuram: Airfares to West Asia and Europe have shot up because only a limited number of flights are operating due to the ongoing Iran versus US-Israel war. People who had booked trips for summer holidays have begun to enquire whether it is safe to travel to the regions in March, April and May.

As several flights are cancelled in Dubai, one of the biggest transit hubs, the return airfare to Europe and the US is more than Rs 2 lakh via Doha and other transit airports from Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi. The airfare to London is Rs 1.8 lakh to Rs 3 lakh for travel in the coming days. Similarly, flights to New York are priced Rs 1.7 lakh to Rs 4 lakh through multiple transit airports.

One-way fare to Muscat, a relatively safe destination, is currently at Rs 60,000 from Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi.

An airline official said those stranded in the state and those who had to travel because of emergency have started to book. Leisure travel bookings, including group tours to West Asia, Israel, Europe and US, are being rescheduled, he added. People travelling due to emergencies and to return to work are preferring to travel via Southeast Asia and Hong Kong.

Sejoe Jose of Indian Association of Tour Operators said, "There are only limited flights to UK and US. This has pushed up the fare. Many have switched to flights that go via Singapore or Hong Kong."

Travel and tour operators are also not able to plan or manage refunds and additional charges because foreign airlines are ready to offer refunds only until March 5.

Though there are no cancellations for tours booked for West Asia for April and May, there were enquiries about whether it is safe to travel, especially after the US president's statement that the conflict may last for four weeks.

A large number of people fly via Dubai in March-May. On Wednesday, 14 arrivals and 13 departures are cancelled at Thiruvananthapuram airport. ns



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THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

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24 flights back home, 58 more to land today

SHEKHAR SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 3

Limited flight operations between India and parts of West Asia resumed on Tuesday, even as multiple flights were forced to return mid-air, widespread cancellations continued and thousands of passengers remained stranded, with airlines operating restricted services due to the ongoing airspace closures triggered by the Iran-US conflict.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation is continuously monitoring the evolving airspace situation and its impact on international flight operations. So far, 1,221 flights by Indian carriers and 388 flights by foreign carriers have been cancelled due to the ongoing situation.

A total of 24 flights were operated by Indian carriers on Tuesday. In addition, Emirates and Etihad operated nine flights from the Gulf in the past 24 hours.

Indian carriers are planning 58 flights on March 4, including 30 by IndiGo and 23 by Air India and Air India Express.

Indian carriers have initiated a phased evacuation of passengers. Air India operat-

80 FLIGHTS CANCELLED

As many as 80 international flights were cancelled at the Delhi airport on Tuesday due to operational disruptions for airlines. An official said 36 departures and 44 arrivals were cancelled at the airport. Over the past three days, Indian airlines have cancelled 1,221 overseas flights due to the crisis.

ed a flight, AI916D, bringing back 149 stranded passengers from Dubai to Delhi at 10:58 am IST, the first Indian-operated repatriation flight since the crisis escalated. Another flight, AI918D, returned with 143 cockpit and cabin crew members who had been stranded in Dubai.

The airlines indicated that the services would resume gradually based on real-time security assessments. "Air India is deploying its wide-body aircraft with higher capacity on its services to Jeddah and Dubai to facilitate the return of passengers impacted by the ongoing situation in West Asia. All flights are expected to operate at full capacity on their return sectors on March 4,

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24 flights back home...

arriving at Mumbai and Delhi, respectively," said a spokesperson for the airline.

IndiGo said it had launched repatriation operations with four return flights to Jeddah and planned to resume services to Muscat, Athens, Madinah and other destinations in phases. The airline said 13 return flights, covering 26 sectors, were expected to be restored, subject to approvals and airspace conditions. Additional repatriation services to UAE destinations were also being planned from March 4.

Air India Express resumed operations to Muscat from Tuesday, but services to Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE remain suspended until further notice. "Air India Express will continue to operate its scheduled flights to

and from Muscat on March 4. Alongside regular services to/from Delhi, Kochi, Kozhikode, Mangaluru, Mumbai and Tiruchirappalli, we will also be operating additional flights to Delhi, Kochi and Mumbai," it said.

Mumbai emerged as a key arrival hub for evacuation operations. According to officials, several repatriation flights landed throughout the day. These included Emirates flight EK8506 from Dubai which arrived at 1:55 pm, Star Air services S58503 and S58302 from Fujairah, which arrived at 7:30 pm and 9 pm, respectively, and IndiGo flights 6E8595 and 6E8636 from Jeddah, which reached around 11:30 pm and 11:55 pm, respectively. Air India Express flight IX1115 from Fujairah arrived around 10:55 pm.