



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

3 JUNE 2026

Airport closure during tourist season rings alarm bells in J&K

Srinagar: Airports Authority of India plans to suspend operations at Srinagar airport for 16 days in Oct for runway maintenance and other repairs, raising alarm among tour operators who fear the shutdown would deal a blow to an industry still reeling from last year's Pahalgam attack during peak Durga Puja holiday season when droves of Bengali tourists visit Jammu & Kashmir, **reports Naseer Ganai.**

An AAI official said IAF, which operates the airfield, proposed a phased maintenance schedule between July 1 and Sept 30, when services would be stopped every Monday and Tuesday, culminating in the full closure from Oct 1-16.

The official said an advisory was issued on the directions of civil aviation ministry.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

3 JUNE 2026

Srinagar airport Oct closure raises concerns

Operations at Srinagar airport will be suspended by Airports Authority of India (AAI) on Oct 1-16 for runway maintenance and other repairs. Travel operators and industry stakeholders fear the closure would lead to widespread cancellations and heavy financial losses. **P7**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

3 JUNE 2026

Airport closure during tourist season rings alarm bells in J&K

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RUNWAY REPAIRS

The official said an advisory was issued on the directions of civil aviation ministry.

The Kashmir valley traditionally witnesses a massive influx of tourists from Bengal during Oct, when most schools and colleges are shut during the Durga Puja festivities.

Travel operators and industry stakeholders fear the closure would lead to widespread cancellations and heavy financial losses for an economy still

recuperating from the impact of Pahalgam. Stakeholders expressed concern over the timing and appealed to govt and AAI to revisit the schedule.

Hotelier Asif Burza said while upgradation of the airport was important, the facility should not be fully closed. "Efforts should be made to lessen the inconvenience," Burza, who has properties across tourist destinations in the valley, told *PTI*.

Nasir Shah, chairman of Indian Association of Tour Operators' J&K chapter, said if upgradation of the airport runway was necessary, the runway at Awantipora air base — located about an hour's drive from Srinagar — should be put into service as an alternative.

(With inputs from PTI)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

3 JUNE 2026

Srinagar airport closure in Oct raises concerns

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An AAI official said IAF, which operates the airfield, proposed a phased maintenance schedule between July 1 and Sept 30, when services would be stopped every Monday and Tuesday, culminating in the full closure from

Oct 1-16. The official said an advisory was issued on the directions of civil aviation ministry.

The Kashmir valley traditionally witnesses a massive influx of tourists from West Bengal during Oct.

Travel operators and industry stakeholders fear the closure would lead to widespread cancellations and heavy financial losses for an economy still recuperating from the impact of Pahalgam. Stakeholders expressed concern over the timing and appealed to govt and AAI to revisit the schedule.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

3 JUNE 2026

Srinagar airport's 15-day closure plan in Oct sparks tourism concerns

Srinagar: Airports Authority of India plans to suspend operations at Srinagar airport for 16 days in Oct for runway maintenance and other repairs, raising alarm among tour operators who fear the shutdown would deal a blow to an industry still reeling from last year's Pahalgam attack during peak Durga Puja holiday season in Oct when droves of Bengali tourists visit Jammu & Kashmir.

An AAI official said IAF, which operates the airfield, proposed a phased maintenance schedule between July 1 and Sept 30, when services would be stopped every Monday and Tuesday, culminating in the full closure from Oct 1-16. The official said an advisory was issued on the directions of civil aviation ministry, reports **Naseer Ganai**.

Travel operators and industry stakeholders fear the closure would lead to widespread cancellations and heavy financial losses for an economy still recuperating from the impact of Pahalgam. They expressed concern over the timing and appealed to govt and AAI to revisit the schedule.

Farooq Kuthoo, president of Travel Agents Association of Kashmir, said tourists were wary of the disruption and cancellations were already taking place. "We appeal to govt to seriously review it," he said. His association has termed the move "unfortunate" and "unjustified". The last such maintenance exercise was carried out in 2011.

(With inputs from PTI)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

GQG SELLS 1.8% IN GMR AIRPORTS FOR ₹1,906 CR

New Delhi, June 3: US-based investment firm GQG Partners on Wednesday sold a 1.8 per cent stake in airports operator GMR Airports to Fidelity International for ₹1,906 crore through open market transactions.

Rajiv Jain-backed GQG Partners, through its affiliate GQG Partners Emerging Markets Equity Fund offloaded 19.50 crore shares representing a 1.85 per cent stake in GMR Airports, according to data available on the NSE.

The shares were disposed of at an average price of ₹97.75 apiece, taking the transaction value to ₹1,906.12 crore.

Fidelity International through its affiliate Fidelity Investment Trust Fidelity International Small Cap Fund acquired same number of shares, as per NSE. — PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

चिंता

श्रीनगर एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ानों के संचालन में पाबंदियां लगाने के फैसले से पर्यटन उद्योग में चिंता

जुलाई से सितम्बर तक सप्ताह में दो बार बंद रहेगा रनवे

■ सुरेश एस डुग्गर
जम्मू, 3 जून (देशबन्धु)।
कश्मीर के पर्यटन की वाट
एक बार फिर से लगने जा
रही है क्योंकि श्रीनगर
एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ानों पर
लगने जा रही पाबंदी ऐसे
समय में होगी जब कश्मीर
में टूरिज्म सीजन पीक पर
होता है। ऐसे में कश्मीर की
पर्यटन अर्थव्यवस्था को एक
बार फिर चुनौती का सामना
करना पड़ सकता है।

श्रीनगर एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ानों के
संचालन में प्रस्तावित पाबंदियों और
रनवे रख रखाव कार्यों के कारण पर्यटन
उद्योग में चिंता बढ़ गई है। भारतीय
वायुसेना द्वारा जारी नोटिस टू एयरमैन
के अनुसार जुलाई से सितम्बर 2026
तक हर सप्ताह सोमवार और मंगलवार
को रनवे बंद रहेगा, जबकि 1 से 16
अक्टूबर तक एयरपोर्ट पूरी तरह बंद
रहेगा। कश्मीर के पर्यटन विशेषज्ञों का
कहना है कि यह फैसला ऐसे समय में
लिया गया है जब कश्मीर घाटी गर्मियों
और शरद ऋतु के पर्यटन सीजन में
बड़ी संख्या में पर्यटकों का स्वागत
करती है। श्रीनगर और आसपास के



■ एक से 16 अक्टूबर तक पूरी तरह बंद रहेगा हवाई अड्डा

पर्यटन स्थलों में देशभर से आने वाले
पर्यटक मुख्य रूप से हवाई मार्ग का
उपयोग करते हैं। ऐसे में उड़ानों को
संख्या कम होने या एयरपोर्ट बंद रहने से
पर्यटकों की आवाजाही प्रभावित होने की
आशंका है। पहले से ही पहलगाम

नरसंहार से उबर नहीं पाने वाले कश्मीर
के टूर ऑपरेटर्स के अनुसार, कई पर्यटक
पहले से ही अपनी यात्रा योजनाएं महीनों
पहले तय करते हैं। उड़ानों में कटौती या
रद्दीकरण की स्थिति में होटल बुकिंग,
टैक्सी सेवाएं, हाउसबोट कारोबार और
स्थानीय हस्तशिल्प उद्योग पर सीधा
असर पड़ सकता है। पर्यटन क्षेत्र से जुड़े
लोगों का मानना है कि यात्रा की
अनिश्चितता पर्यटकों को वैकल्पिक
गंतव्यों की ओर आकर्षित कर सकती
है। याद रहे विशेष रूप से अक्टूबर का
महीना कश्मीर पर्यटन के लिए बेहद
महत्वपूर्ण माना जाता है। इसी दौरान दुर्गा
पूजा और अन्य छुट्टियों के कारण बड़ी

संख्या में पर्यटक घाटी का रुख करते हैं।
एयरपोर्ट के 16 दिनों तक बंद रहने से
इस पीक सीजन में पर्यटकों की संख्या
घट सकती है, जिससे पर्यटन उद्योग की
आय पर असर पड़ने की आशंका है।
वैसे एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन का कहना है कि
रनवे का रख रखाव और
आधुनिकीकरण सुरक्षा के लिहाज से
आवश्यक है। अधिकारियों के अनुसार
यह कार्य भविष्य में बेहतर और सुरक्षित
हवाई संचालन सुनिश्चित करेगा।
एयरलाइंस यात्रियों के लिए संशोधित
समय-सारिणी जारी करने की तैयारी
कर रही हैं ताकि असुविधा को कम
किया जा सके। कश्मीर के पर्यटन

कारोबारियों ने प्रशासन से अनुरोध
किया है कि यात्रियों को समय पर
जानकारी उपलब्ध कराई जाए और
वैकल्पिक यात्रा व्यवस्थाओं पर भी
विचार किया जाए।

यदि उचित समन्वय किया जाए तो
पर्यटन क्षेत्र को होने वाले नुकसान को
काफी हद तक कम किया जा सकता
है। अधिकारी कहते हैं कि श्रीनगर
एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ानों की पाबंदी सुरक्षा
और आधारभूत ढांचे के विकास के
लिए जरूरी मानी जा रही है, लेकिन
इसका अल्पकालिक प्रभाव कश्मीर
के पर्यटन उद्योग पर पड़ना लगभग
तय है।

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

यमुना सिटी में भी 10 से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक दौड़ेंगी ई-बसें

यमुना सिटी के तीन प्रमुख रूट तय, छात्रों, कर्मचारियों और यात्रियों को मिलेगी बड़ी राहत

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 3 जून (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के संचालन से पहले यात्रियों और स्थानीय निवासियों को बेहतर सार्वजनिक परिवहन सुविधा देने की दिशा में यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (यीडा) ने महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाया है। एयरपोर्ट तक पहुंच को आसान बनाने के लिए यमुना सिटी में तीन प्रमुख रूटों पर इलेक्ट्रिक बसों के संचालन की तैयारी अंतिम चरण में पहुंच गई है। प्राधिकरण का लक्ष्य 10 जून तक बस सेवा शुरू करना है, ताकि 15 जून से प्रस्तावित उड़ानों के आरंभ होने से पहले यात्रियों को निर्बाध परिवहन सुविधा उपलब्ध कराई जा सके।

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के लिए कुल 110 बसों के संचालन को मंजूरी दी है। इसके तहत नोएडा, ग्रेटर नोएडा और यमुना विकास प्राधिकरण अपने-अपने क्षेत्रों में बस रूट निर्धारित कर रहे हैं। यीडा ने क्षेत्र की आबादी, शैक्षणिक संस्थानों और यात्रियों की जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखते हुए तीन अहम रूटों का चयन किया है।

ये होंगे ई-बसों के प्रमुख रूट

■ पहला रूट परी चौक से सीधे यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे के रास्ते नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट तक जाएगा। यह मार्ग उन यात्रियों के लिए सबसे तेज विकल्प होगा जो कम समय में एयरपोर्ट पहुंचना चाहते हैं।

■ दूसरा रूट परी चौक से 60 मीटर रोड होते हुए

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल यूनिवर्सिटी, गलगोटियास यूनिवर्सिटी और रबूपुरा के रास्ते एयरपोर्ट तक संचालित किया जाएगा। इस रूट से हजारों छात्रों, शिक्षकों और कर्मचारियों को सीधा लाभ मिलेगा।

■ तीसरा रूट एयरपोर्ट से सेक्टर-22डी होते हुए ग्रेटर नोएडा तक निर्धारित किया गया है। यमुना सिटी के तेजी से विकसित हो रहे आवासीय क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले लोगों को इससे बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी मिलेगी।

यीडा के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी आर.के. सिंह ने बताया कि तीनों रूटों का चयन यात्रियों की संख्या और क्षेत्रीय जरूरतों के आधार पर किया गया है। सेक्टर-22डी में बड़ी संख्या में परिवार रह रहे हैं, जबकि 60 मीटर रोड पर स्थित विश्वविद्यालयों में प्रतिदिन सैकड़ों छात्र ग्रेटर नोएडा और दिल्ली से आते-जाते हैं। नई बस सेवा से उनकी यात्रा अधिक सुविधाजनक और किफायती होगी।

हाइड्रोजन बसों से मिलेगी आधुनिक परिवहन की सौगात

क्षेत्र में पहली बार चलेगी पर्यावरण अनुकूल तकनीक : ई-बसों के साथ-साथ नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के लिए पांच अत्याधुनिक हाइड्रोजन बसें भी संचालित की जाएंगी। यह पहली बार होगा जब यमुना सिटी क्षेत्र में हाइड्रोजन ईंधन आधारित सार्वजनिक परिवहन सेवा शुरू होगी। इन बसों का संचालन उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य सड़क परिवहन निगम (रोडवेज) करेगा, जबकि संभावित वित्तीय घाटे को भरपाई यीडा द्वारा की जाएगी।

चालकों और परिचालकों को दिया जा रहा विशेष प्रशिक्षण : हाइड्रोजन बसों के सुरक्षित और प्रभावी संचालन के लिए चालक एवं परिचालकों को विशेष प्रशिक्षण दिया जा रहा है। अधिकारियों के अनुसार, नई तकनीक वाली इन बसों में कई आधुनिक फीचर और नियंत्रण प्रणाली हैं, जिनकी पूरी जानकारी ऑपरेटरों को दी जा रही है। प्रशिक्षण के दौरान बसों के संचालन, सुरक्षा मानकों, नियंत्रण उपकरणों और आपातकालीन प्रक्रियाओं की जानकारी दी जा रही है।

अधिकारियों का कहना है कि एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ानों की शुरुआत से पहले ही हाइड्रोजन बसों को सड़कों पर उतारने की तैयारी पूरी कर ली जाएगी। इससे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट देश के उन चुनिंदा हवाई अड्डों में शामिल होगा, जहां यात्रियों को पर्यावरण-अनुकूल और आधुनिक सार्वजनिक परिवहन सुविधा उपलब्ध होगी।

यात्रियों को मिलेगा बड़ा लाभ

ई-बस और हाइड्रोजन बस सेवाओं के शुरू होने से एयरपोर्ट तक पहुंचना आसान, सस्ता और पर्यावरण के अनुकूल होगा। साथ ही ग्रेटर नोएडा, यमुना सिटी और आसपास के क्षेत्रों के निवासियों, छात्रों तथा कर्मचारियों को भी नियमित सार्वजनिक परिवहन का बेहतर विकल्प मिलेगा। आने वाले समय में यात्रियों की संख्या बढ़ने के साथ इन सेवाओं के विस्तार की भी संभावना जताई जा रही है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

3 JUNE 2026

Twice-weekly Srinagar airport closure jolts tourism industry

YUSUF JAMEEL
SRINAGAR, JUNE 2

The decision to shut down Srinagar International Airport twice a week between July and September has triggered sharp criticism and deep concern among tourism stakeholders in the Kashmir Valley. Many argue that the move will severely affect visitor inflow at a time when the region's tourism sector is still struggling to recover from the impact of last year's terror attack in Pahalgam, which had already dealt a heavy blow to local businesses.

Rauf Tramboo, who heads a prominent high-altitude adventure travel company and serves as the J&K chapter president of the adventure tour operators association of India (ATOAI), voiced strong apprehension. He said that a large number of domestic and international travellers have already booked their trips, and itineraries have been issued accordingly. The sudden

MANY ARGUE that the move will severely affect visitor inflow at a time when the region's tourism sector is still struggling to recover from the impact of last year's terror attack in Pahalgam

announcement, he warned, risks disrupting schedules, forcing cancellations, and reducing tourist footfall during a crucial period. Mr Tramboo stressed that authorities should have communicated the closure plan much earlier to allow the industry to prepare and mitigate losses.

The concerns come amid ongoing runway resurfacing works that have already caused significant disruptions, including delays in flight schedules and complications in handling the baggage of returning Haj pilgrims. Airport officials have now confirmed that passenger flight operations will remain suspended every Monday and Tuesday throughout July, August,

and September due to the extensive repair and resurfacing activities. This revised schedule marks a departure from the earlier plan communicated by the Indian Air Force (IAF), which had proposed weekend closures—Saturdays and Sundays—from August 1 to October 15.

According to the runway impact assessment, the resurfacing project began on April 6, and involves major reconstruction of the runway surface. During the current phase, the declared distance of Runway 31 has been reduced by 1,165 metres, significantly affecting aircraft operations. The updated runway parameters now list a take-Off run available (TORA) and landing distance available (LDA) of 2,218 metres, with TODA at 2,526 metres and ASDA at 2,298 metres. Documents reveal that fixed-wing aircraft operations have been restricted to the 8 am to 5 pm window since April, while resurfacing work continues overnight until 8 am.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

3 JUNE 2026

KIA launches trial service to cut security wait time

BENGALURU, DHNS: Passengers departing from the Kempegowda International Airport's Terminal 1 can now bypass long security queues, with the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) launching a pilot programme for a slot-based fast-track screening service.

Called 'PreSecure', the facility allows travellers to reserve a preferred security screening slot through the BLR Pulse mobile application before arriving at the airport.

Passengers who book a slot are directed to a dedicated security lane, helping reduce waiting times, particularly during peak travel hours. The service is currently being offered free of charge as part of a trial at Terminal 1.

To use the facility, passengers must scan their boarding pass on the BLR Pulse app and select an available screening slot. Reservations can be made up to 75 minutes before departure. The dedicated screening lane is located near check-in counter 86 at Terminal 1.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

GQG offloads 1.8% GMR Airports stake for ₹1,906 cr



US-BASED
INVESTMENT FIRM
GQG Partners on
Wednesday sold a

1.8% stake in airports
operator GMR Airports to
Fidelity International for
₹1,906 crore through open
market transactions. The
shares were disposed of at
an average price of ₹97.75
apiece, taking the
transaction value to
₹1,906.12 crore.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक तीन मार्गों पर ई-बसें चलेंगी

ग्रेटर नोएडा, प्रमुख संवाददाता। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट तक तीन रूट पर इलेक्ट्रिक बसें चलेंगी। यमुना विकास प्राधिकरण (यीडा) ने ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोगों को लाभान्वित करने के लिए रूट का निर्धारण किया है। यह बस सेवा 10 जून तक शुरू होगी।

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से 15 जून से उड़ानें शुरू करने की तैयारी है। इससे पहले यात्रियों के लिए बस सेवा शुरू की जानी है। उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक 110 बसों के संचालन का आदेश दिया है। इसी के तहत तीनों प्राधिकरण अपने स्तर पर रूट

का निर्धारण करने में जुटे हैं। यमुना विकास प्राधिकरण ने क्षेत्र में तीन रूट तय किए हैं। सीईओ आरके सिंह ने बताया कि तीनों रूट पर लोगों की आवाजाही ज्यादा होती है।

यमुना सिटी के सेक्टर-22डी में काफी लोग रहते हैं। लोग पूर्व में बस संचालन की मांग कर चुके हैं। 60 मीटर रोड वाले रूट पर दो विश्वविद्यालय हैं, यहां ग्रेनो और दिल्ली से सैकड़ों छात्र पढ़ने आते हैं। वहीं, परी चौक से वाया नोएडा एयरपोर्ट वाले रूट पर लोगों को कम समय में गंतव्य तक पहुंचने की सहूलियत मिलेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

Man held at IGI airport with ₹3.8-cr gold paste

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Customs officers at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi on Wednesday seized 2,755 grams of gold valued at ₹3.8 crore and arrested an Indian passenger in connection with an alleged gold smuggling attempt.

The passenger, who had arrived from Sharjah by Flight No. IX-136 on June 1, was intercepted at the bus gate upon arrival.

Acting on intelligence input, officials launched a follow-up operation onboard the aircraft to trace and recover the suspected contraband. During a detailed search of the aircraft, officers recovered two black-coloured pouches weighing approxi-

mately 3,550 grams.

The gold in paste form were found concealed in pouches beneath Seat No. 22C, which was located immediately in front of Seat No. 23C occupied by the suspect passenger, officials said.

Authorities said the recovered gold was appraised at a tariff value of ₹3,80,48,523. The gold, concealed in paste form, was seized under Section 110 of the Customs Act, 1962 and the passenger has been arrested under Section 104 of the Customs Act, 1962.

Further probe is underway.

In a similar incident, two Indian passengers were booked at the Indira Gandhi International airport on May 13 for attempting to smuggle 233.5gm and 117gm of gold, respectively, Customs officials said.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

Govt condemns Kuwait airport attack that killed Indian staffer

Rezaul H Laskar

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NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday condemned an Iranian attack on Kuwait international airport that left an Indian national dead and called for an end to the targeting of civilian infrastructure, even as the total number of Indians killed in the region since the start of the West Asia conflict rose to 10.

The death of the Indian was initially confirmed by the Indian embassy in Kuwait City. In a social media post, the mission expressed its "deepest condolences at the tragic demise of an Indian national due to an attack on the airport in Kuwait" and said it is coordinating with Kuwaiti authorities to provide assistance to the bereaved family and those injured in the incident.

A statement from the external affairs ministry condemned the attack on Kuwait International Airport and said several Indians were among the injured.

"Since the onset of the conflict in West Asia, we have strongly urged that civilian population and civilian infrastructure must not be targeted. We again call upon parties to cease such attacks," the statement said.

"We remain in close contact with local authorities for the welfare of Indian nationals," the



Iranian strikes on Kuwait International Airport injured 63 people.

REUTERS

statement said, adding that Indian missions and posts across the region are "on alert and continue to proactively support our community".

People familiar with the matter said the dead Indian was a worker at the airport. Kuwait is home to more than one million Indians, the country's largest expatriate community.

Kuwait's foreign ministry said Iranian attacks on its territory killed one person and damaged vital infrastructure including diplomatic missions, while the health ministry said 63 people were injured. Kuwait's Public Authority for Civil Aviation suspended air traffic and flights, and transferred flights to alternative airports after the attacks.

The Gulf Cooperation Council, Lebanon and Jordan also condemned Iran's attacks on civilian facilities in Bahrain and Kuwait. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said the attacks were carried out in retaliation for an airstrike on its facilities on Qeshm Island.

In May, an Indian sailor was killed and several more were injured when their dhow caught fire near the Strait of Hormuz. The incident occurred against the backdrop of continuing tensions between Iran and the US in the vital waterway.

Eight other Indian nationals were killed in the West Asia conflict, while dozens more have been injured across the region. In March, an Indian national was killed and another was injured by debris from the interception of a missile in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi.

An Indian national died in an Iranian attack on a power and water desalination plant in Kuwait in March. Another Indian national was killed in missile and drone attacks on Riyadh the same month.

Two more Indians died in an attack on an industrial area in Oman on March 13, and three seafarers died in attacks on merchant vessels in the early days of the conflict. One Indian citizen has also been reported missing.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

3 JUNE 2026

Farmers who gave land for airport project in a dilemma

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Many residents and farmers who have given their farmland for the Parandur airport project are worried about their future as they do not know whether or not the project will take off.

Planned to be built at an estimated cost of ₹27,400 crore in four phases on an area of 2,172.72 hectares, the airport was announced in 2022. Demonstrations erupted soon after. The approval for the project finally came in April 2025. So far, nearly 1,700 acres of land has been acquired at various villages.

Those who have sold their land say they would rather move to Karai village instead of Siruvallur. They also want more compensation.

Farmers who gave land for airport face uncertainty

Many who parted with their land for Parandur airport are a worried lot, as they wonder whether the project would take off. They also demand assured jobs and more financial compensation

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A few months ago, Murugan, a farmer and resident of Nagapattu, had to give his agricultural land for the Parandur airport project. “I was absolutely against it. But I had to give my farmland since it was for the development of the State, and it would create lakhs of jobs. I received the compensation. But now, I’m shocked that there is nothing happening. We are staring at uncertainty, wondering why we gave the land,” he says.

Many residents and farmers who gave their farmland are worried about their future, as they do not know whether the project would take off.

Planned to be built at an estimated cost of ₹27,400 crore in four phases on an area of 2,172.72 hectares, the airport was announced in 2022. Demonstrations erupted soon after. Simultaneously, the government pursued the approval. In April 2025, the approval finally came. Land acquisition began, and continued till the State went into election mode. So far, nearly



In limbo: So far, nearly 1,700 acres of land has been acquired in various villages for the project. FILE PHOTO

1,700 acres has been acquired in various villages.

“Obviously, none of us wanted to move out of our home town. But it has come to a point where we would be in peace if a decision is taken soon. If they want to build an airport, let them do it soon and relocate us. But instead of Siruvallur, which has been identified for us, we want to go to Karai as it is more convenient. We also want more compensation,” Mr. Murugan adds.

Shanmugham, another resident of Nagapattu, highlights some of the problems that have emerged from this uncertainty. “If there is a sewage leak or an issue with the lighting in the village, it doesn’t get re-

solved. The authorities say we are anyway being shifted,” he adds.

Sivaprakasam, of Nelvoy village, who gave five acres for the project, says he and his neighbours want to move to Karai. “Since we have to shift anyway, we might as well go to Karai since we will have better transport, and it will be easier to get jobs. But we need monthly assistance,” he adds.

Sangeetha, another resident, says her family wanted to build a house, but they cannot get building permission owing to the uncertainty.

Some residents who parted with their land say they don’t have a problem with the project as it pro-

mises employment. But they want assured jobs for their children. Nagappan of Gunagampakkam says, “The government claims lakhs of jobs will be created by the airport. We need jobs for the youth, and I want the government to provide one to each affected family.”

Mr. Murugan says he strongly opposes any other alternative to the airport, such as SIPCOT. “I offered to give my land for the airport project only because everyone said the State would develop significantly, and lakhs of jobs would be created in Chennai. You cannot take my land, promising that you will use it for the airport, and then repurpose it for other projects,” he adds.

G. Archana of Nagapattu says she used to work at a small firm near the Bengaluru airport. “If there was something like that in this village, I would have worked and supported my family. There is nothing here. If the airport comes up, at least my children, who are studying now, will get good jobs, and the entire area will be developed. But all of us want better compensation,” she adds.

Kuwait shuts main airport after Iranian drone strike

ASSOCIATED PRESS

■ Dubai

Kuwait briefly shut its main airport on Wednesday after Iranian drones heavily damaged a terminal building, killed one person and wounded dozens — the latest in back-and-forth attacks by Tehran and Washington that have tested a fragile ceasefire.

Semiofficial Iranian news agencies have said Tehran had stopped communicating with mediators about extending the ceasefire in the war with the US and Israel.

A regional official said Iran wanted a separate ceasefire in Lebanon enforced before returning to talks. US President Donald Trump asserted that negotiations continued. The talks have dragged on for weeks, and exchanges of strikes in the Gulf region and Israel's broadening war with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon are further strains.

Iran maintains its hold on the Strait of Hormuz — a crucial waterway for the world's oil and natural gas and related products like fertilizer — and the US continues its blockade of Iranian ports. Global fuel prices remain high, and the effects of the conflict are felt well



beyond the region.

Iran's Fars and Tasnim news agencies, both believed to be close to the Guard, on Tuesday reported that Iran's negotiators have stopped communicating with ceasefire mediators as tensions flare in Israel's separate but related fight against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

A regional official involved in the mediation, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the talks, told The Associated Press that Iran had not communicated on Tuesday after saying a ceasefire needed to be enforced in Lebanon for negotiations to continue.

Trump called reports of a cessation in talks "false and erroneous."

"The conversations between us have been going on continuously, including four days ago, three days ago, two days ago, one day ago and today," Trump said in a social media post Tuesday.

Israeli forces have moved deeper into Lebanon than at any time in over a quarter-century, while Hezbollah has launched rocket and drone attacks. The declared ceasefire in Lebanon is officially in place and no side has formally withdrawn or declared it over even as attacks continue.

Lebanon has emerged as a sticking point in Trump's efforts to sign a ceasefire deal with Iran. Tehran insists that any larger potential truce must quell the

fighting in Lebanon. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wants to keep the issues separate and is under domestic pressure to strike Hezbollah as he prepares for elections this fall.

The fighting has exposed a rift between close allies Israel and the US, with the US pushing for restraint.

In a podcast interview released Wednesday, Trump confirmed a report that he had called Netanyahu "crazy" Monday in a phone call peppered with an expletive.

Trump told The New York Post's "Pod Force One" that he was "a little bit perturbed" that Israel's fight with Hezbollah was holding back talks with Iran.



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

3 JUNE 2026

हवाई अड्डे पर करोड़ों का गांजा पकड़ा गया

स्वतंत्र भारत ब्यूरो लखनऊ। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय चौधरी चरण सिंह हवाई अड्डे पर शाम करीब 5 बजे मस्कट से लखनऊ आए हवाई यात्री के बैग से करीब 13 किलो अवैध गांजा चॉकलेट के पैकेट में छिपाकर लेकर आया था। लगेज चेकिंग के दौरान कस्टम की टीम ने उसे गिरफ्तार कर विधिक कार्रवाई करते हुए जांच पड़ताल कर रही है।

कस्टम अधिकारियों के अनुसार, 1 जून को मस्कट से लखनऊ आने वाली उड़ान संख्या डब्ल्यूआई-265

के एक चेक-इन बैगेज की एक्स-रे जांच के दौरान संदिग्ध सामग्री का पता चला। इसके बाद अधिकारियों ने संबंधित यात्री की पहचान की, उसे ट्रैक किया और रोककर उसके सामान की तलाशी के दौरान बैग में रखे पांच चॉकलेट पैकेटों के भीतर छिपाकर रखे गए कुल 10 पॉलिथीन पैकेट बरामद हुए। इन पैकेटों में हरे रंग का पदार्थ था, जिसके गांजा या हाइड्रोपोनिक मारिजुआना होने का संदेह है।

बरामद पदार्थ का कुल वजन लगभग

13 किलोग्राम है, जिसकी अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में अनुमानित कीमत करीब 13 करोड़ रुपये आंकी गई है। प्राथमिक जांच के आधार पर, संदिग्ध पदार्थ को एनडीपीएस अधिनियम, 1985 की धारा 43(ए) के तहत जब्त कर लिया गया। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि यात्री ने अधिनियम की धारा 8 का उल्लंघन करते हुए दंडनीय अपराध किया है। उसे न्यायालय में पेश कर न्यायिक हिरासत में भेज दिया गया। मामले की विस्तृत जांच जारी है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

3 JUNE 2026

Srinagar airport closure

■ **SRINAGAR:** The Srinagar International Airport will suspend all flight operations from October 1 to 15 for runway maintenance and repairs, officials said on Tuesday. Ahead of the shutdown, the airport will remain closed two days a week from July. Tourism stakeholders fear the timing will hurt business as it coincides with the Durga Puja holidays, when several tourists from Bengal visit Kashmir. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

Cabinet approves ₹10,000-cr ATF price stabilisation fund

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

Cabinet on Wednesday approved one-time budgetary support not exceeding ₹10,000 crore for oil marketing companies (OMCs) to provide aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price stabilisation support to scheduled Indian airlines for domestic and international operations.

The move by the government comes after observing that international ATF prices have skyrocketed in May, resulting in financial pressure on air-

lines due to the volatility from the West Asia crisis.

Under this, interest-free advances of up to ₹10,000 cr will be extended to OMCs, enabling them to supply ATF to scheduled Indian airlines at a stabilised price for domestic and international operations.

"Under the scheme, the OMCs will be compensated whenever international import parity prices exceed the benchmark set," the government said in a statement.

ATF prices have surged to about ₹142 per litre in

May from ₹60.5 per litre in March, increasing financial pressure on airlines as fuel accounts for 40-60 per cent of operating costs.

Announcing the decision, the information minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the fund would help stabilise ATF prices prevent disruption of operations.]

Airlines would get a stable ATF price as long as turmoil persists and once the crisis is over, the participating airlines would have to reimburse the amount.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

3 JUNE 2026

Maharashtra govt acquires Air India building

MUMBAI, June 2: The Maharashtra government on Tuesday formally acquired the Air India building near the state secretariat 'Mantralaya' in south Mumbai, an official release said.

The transfer of agreements between Air India Assets Holding Company and the State PWD was completed in the presence of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at Mantralaya following a State Cabinet meeting.

Details regarding the financial terms were not disclosed in the official release.

Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar, Tourism Minister Shambhuraj Desai, Public Works Minister Shivendrasinhraje Bhosale, Chief Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Chief Secretary (PWD) Milind Mhaskar, Mumbai City Collector Anchal Goyal and officials of Air India attended the event. – PTI

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

Cabinet approves ₹10,000 cr ATF Price Stabilisation Fund

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

In a relief to the airline sector which is grappling with elevated fuel costs as the West Asia crisis drags on, the Centre on Wednesday approved a one-time budgetary support of up to ₹10,000 crore to establish a Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) for aviation turbine fuel (ATF).

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the creation of the fund for State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) in the form of interest-free advance to stabilise the ATF price for scheduled carriers operating both domestic and international services.

HOW IT WILL WORK

Under the approved mechanism, OMCs will be compensated whenever the prevailing import-parity ATF price exceeds a benchmark price determined under the scheme. The arrangement is intended to provide predictability in fuel costs and to ensure that the airlines are not exposed to sudden spikes in global fuel prices.

Participating airlines will enter into agreements with OMCs, under which ATF procurement will be routed exclusively through the



PRICE SPIRAL. The fund, in the form of an interest-free advance to oil marketing companies, will help them stabilise ATF prices to ensure airlines' operations are not disrupted SHUTTERSTOCK

State-owned fuel retailers for up to three years, subject to annual review.

RECOVERY MECHANISM

The Cabinet approved a recovery and true-up mechanism under which the benefit extended to the OMCs will be recovered and returned to the Consolidated Fund of India when international ATF prices moderate.

According to an official communique, the arrangement will be operational until the entire support amount is recovered and settled.

A monitoring committee, comprising representatives from the Ministries of Civil Aviation, and Petroleum and Natural Gas, as also the Department of Expenditure will oversee the implementation, claim verification, reconciliation and settlement.

All claims and recoveries under the scheme will be subject to audit, the communique said. The arrangement

may be extended beyond the initial period if the corpus remains unsettled, it said.

The approval comes at a time when airlines continue to face mounting fuel-related cost pressures. International ATF prices have risen nearly 2.5 times from ₹60.50 per litre in March 2026 to ₹142 per litre in May with the escalation of the West Asia crisis. ATF accounts for nearly 40 per cent of airlines' operating costs and can rise to as much as 60 per cent during periods of extreme fuel volatility.

As of now, domestic ATF prices have remained subject to government intervention. However, airlines continue to procure fuel for international operations at import-parity prices, exposing them to elevated costs.

The existing ATF price cap mechanism for domestic operations is a temporary arrangement and has resulted in losses for OMCs.

एटीएफ के लिए 10,000 करोड़ रुपये का कोष

दीपक पटेल
नई दिल्ली, 3 जून

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने पश्चिम एशिया में चल रहे संघर्ष के बीच विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की बढ़ती लागत से भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों को निपटने में मदद करने के लिए 10,000 करोड़ रुपये के मूल्य स्थिरीकरण कोष के प्रस्ताव को आज मंजूरी दे दी।

यह सहायता पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के माध्यम से तेल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों को ब्याज-मुक्त कर्ज के रूप में प्रदान की जाएगी। तेल मार्केटिंग कंपनियां इस राशि का उपयोग घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें संचालित करने वाली भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों के लिए एटीएफ की कीमतों को स्थिर रखने में करेंगी।

सरकार के बयान के अनुसार यह तंत्र ईंधन की कीमतों में अप्रत्याशित

अस्थिरता के दौरान विमानन कंपनियों को एटीएफ मूल्य निर्धारण में 'ज्यादा स्थिरता और पूर्वानुमान' प्रदान करने के लिए है।

योजना के तहत जब भी अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में एटीएफ की कीमतें निर्धारित बेंचमार्क से अधिक होंगी तो तेल कंपनियों को मुआवजा दिया जाएगा। सरकार ने कहा कि यह कोष तेल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों को बढ़े हुए ईंधन मूल्य से हुए नुकसान की भरपाई करेगा, साथ ही विमानन कंपनियों को निश्चित मूल्य व्यवस्था के तहत संचालन की अनुमति देगा।

सरकार के अनुसार यह तंत्र ईंधन लागत का अनुमान लगाने और विमानन कंपनियों के लिए अचानक ईंधन मूल्य वृद्धि के जोखिम को कम करेगा।

यह योजना घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय दोनों परिचालनों के लिए सभी इच्छुक अनुसूचित भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों के लिए उपलब्ध होगी। इसमें शामिल होने वाली विमानन कंपनियों को तेल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों के साथ समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करना होगा और 3 साल तक या जब तक सहायता राशि पूरी तरह से वसूल नहीं हो जाती तब तक, उक्त कंपनी से एटीएफ खरीदना होगा। इसकी वार्षिक समीक्षा की जाएगी। यदि उस अवधि के भीतर रकम पूरी तरह इस्तेमाल नहीं हो पाती है तो सरकार इस व्यवस्था को आगे बढ़ा सकती है।

इस व्यवस्था में वसूली तंत्र भी शामिल है। जब अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में एटीएफ की कीमतें कम होंगी तो इस योजना के तहत दी गई अतिरिक्त रकम तेल कंपनियों से वापस ली जाएगी और भारत के संचित निधि में जमा कर दी जाएगी। यह प्रक्रिया तब तक जारी रहेगी, जब तक कि पूरी सहायता राशि वापस न मिल जाए और उसका हिसाब-किताब पूरा न हो जाए।

इसके कार्यान्वयन की देखरेख एक निगरानी समिति द्वारा की जाएगी, जिसमें नागर विमानन मंत्रालय, पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय तथा व्यय विभाग के प्रतिनिधि शामिल होंगे। सभी दावे और वसूली की ऑडिट की जाएगी। यह फैसला दुनिया भर में विमान ईंधन की कीमतों में भारी बढ़ोतरी के चलते लिया गया है। सरकार के मुताबिक मार्च 2026 में अंतरराष्ट्रीय एटीएफ की कीमतें 60.50 रुपये प्रति लीटर थीं, जो मई 2026 तक बढ़कर 142 रुपये प्रति लीटर हो गईं यानी दो महीनों में ही कीमतों में लगभग ढाई गुना की बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

विमानन कंपनियों के कुल परिचालन लागत का करीब 40 फीसदी खर्च एटीएफ पर होता है और अत्यधिक उतार-चढ़ाव वाले समय में यह बढ़कर 60 फीसदी तक भी पहुंच सकता है, जिससे विमान कंपनियों की वित्तीय स्थिति पर काफी दबाव पड़ता है।

सरकार ने भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों के लिए पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र के बंद होने का भी जिक्र किया, जिसके कारण यूरोप, उत्तरी अमेरिका और पश्चिम एशिया के लिए उड़ान मार्ग लंबे हो गए हैं। इससे ईंधन की खपत और परिचालन लागत बढ़ गई है।



कैबिनेट की मंजूरी

■ केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने विमान कंपनियों को एटीएफ की कीमतों में उतार-चढ़ाव से बचाने के लिए इस कोष को दी मंजूरी

■ पश्चिम एशिया में चल रहे संघर्ष के बीच एटीएफ की कीमतों में अचानक आने वाले उतार-चढ़ाव से निपटने और यात्रियों के लिए किराये में बढ़ोतरी को सीमित करेगा

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

Govt unveils ₹10K cr fund to shield airlines from fuel price spike

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 3 June

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a one-time price stabilisation fund of ₹10,000 crore to help Indian airlines manage soaring aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices amid the ongoing West Asia conflict.

The support will be provided to oil-marketing companies (OMCs) in the form of interest-free advances through the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The OMCs, in turn, will use the fund to provide ATF price stabilisation support to Indian carriers operating domestic and international flights.

According to a government statement, the mechanism is intended to provide airlines with "enhanced stability and predictability in ATF pricing" during a period of exceptional fuel-price volatility.

OMCs will be compensated whenever international ATF prices exceed a benchmark determined under the scheme. The government said the corpus would offset losses incurred by OMCs from elevated fuel prices while allowing air-

Soaring rates



*For scheduled domestic airlines

lines to operate under a fixed-price arrangement.

The support will remain in force for 36 months, with provision for annual review, or until the advance amount is fully recovered, whichever is earlier. The government may extend the arrangement if the corpus has not been fully settled within that period.

According to the government, the mechanism would provide "greater predictability

in fuel costs" and reduce airlines' exposure to sudden fuel-price spikes.

The scheme will be available to scheduled Indian carriers for both domestic and international operations. Participating airlines will sign agreements with OMCs and procure ATF exclusively from them for up to three years, subject to an annual review or until the support amount is fully recovered. Turn to Page 7

■ Cabinet okays ₹9,500 cr scheme for cleaner mobility in Delhi-NCR P4

■ Centre approves highway projects worth ₹24,200 cr P4

much as 60 per cent during periods of extreme volatility, putting significant pressure on the aviation business.

The government also cited the closure of Pakistani airspace for Indian carriers, which has led to longer flight paths to Europe, North America and Central Asia, increasing fuel consumption and operating costs. It said the resulting pressure has contributed to higher long-haul fares, weaker international demand and reductions in services on some overseas routes.

While domestic ATF prices have been capped, international operations continue to purchase the fuel at import parity prices. The government said prolonged capping of ATF prices is not sustainable for OMCs, which are also bearing losses amid elevated global fuel prices.

According to the government, the measure will help "protect and sustain domestic and international air connectivity" while reducing the pass-through of fuel-cost shocks to passengers.

The government said it would also support air links to remote, regional, Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

IndiGo, India's largest airline by passengers carried, last Friday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹2,536.9 crore in the fourth quarter of 2025-

26 (Q4FY26), hurt by sharp foreign exchange losses, elevated ATF prices, and flight cancellations due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

An IndiGo spokesperson said, "This timely intervention is a welcome relief that reflects the government's understanding of the critical role aviation plays in connecting people and enabling economic growth, while also fostering an environment that empowers airlines to serve passengers better and contribute towards India's journey as a global aviation hub."

Sahil Mahajan, partner, aviation, airports and hospitality, at PwC India, said, "The Cabinet's move is a timely intervention for an industry where fuel accounts for nearly half of operating costs. By cushioning airlines from extreme volatility, it protects margins and enables more predictable pricing for consumers. It also gives the sector critical breathing room to rebuild resilience amid ongoing geopolitical uncertainty."

"That said, this is not a permanent fix—but at times like this, a well-timed intervention is exactly what the industry needs to stay on course. Structural reforms in fuel taxation and pricing will remain essential for long-term sustainability," he added.

Govt's ₹10K cr fund to shield airlines from fuel price spike

The arrangement also includes a recovery mechanism. When international ATF prices moderate, the difference will be recovered from OMCs and returned to the Consolidated Fund of India. The process will continue until the entire support amount is recovered and settled.

Implementation will be overseen by a monitoring committee comprising representatives of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas,

and the Department of Expenditure. All claims and recoveries will be subject to audits.

The decision comes against the backdrop of a spike in global aviation fuel prices. According to the government, international ATF prices rose from ₹60.50 per litre in March 2026 to ₹142 per litre in May 2026, nearly 2.5 times higher in the space of just two months.

ATF accounts for around 40 per cent of operating costs for airlines and can rise to as



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

3 JUNE 2026

IndiGo halts flights to Manchester from Aug. 31

IndiGo announced discontinuing its flights to Manchester from August 31 due to escalating operational costs and airspace restrictions. The airline would also be returning one Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft taken on lease to Norse Atlantic Airways. Currently, the carrier operates flights to Manchester (UK) from Delhi and Mumbai. The services to Manchester were started in July last year.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

3 JUNE 2026

British Airways adds second daily Bengaluru-London flight till October 24

BENGALURU, DHNS: British Airways on Monday introduced a second daily flight between Bengaluru and London for the summer season, citing growing passenger demand on the route.

The additional service, which landed at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) at 9.15 am, will operate until October 24, doubling the airline's frequency on the route from seven to 14 flights

a week. The flights will be operated using Boeing 787 aircraft.

The airline said the temporary schedule enhancement will add more than 39,000 seats between Bengaluru and London during the period. The move comes amid increased summer travel demand and adjustments across its network in response to the evolving situation in the Middle East.

"Today's additional service to Bengaluru reflects the strong demand we are seeing on the route and underlines our continued commitment to the Indian market," said Neil Chernoff, Chief Planning and Strategy Officer, British Airways.

Searches for travel between India and the UK on its website have risen by over 21% this month, the airline said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

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एअर इंडिया की फ्लाइट में आर्मरेस्ट टूटा था, यात्री ने पूछा, कहां है क्वालिटी कंट्रोल

जासं, नई दिल्ली : एअर इंडिया की अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों, विशेषकर लंबी दूरी के रूटों पर यात्रियों को मिलने वाली सुविधाओं और केबिन की खराब स्थिति को लेकर एक बार फिर सवाल खड़े हो गए हैं। ताज मामल सैन प्रॉसिस्को से नई दिल्ली आ रही उड़ान संख्या एआई-174 का है, जहां 22 घंटे से अधिक के इस लंबे सफर में एक यात्री को केबिन में परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। उनके सीट का आर्मरेस्ट टूटा हुआ था, जिसके कारण उन्हें यात्रा में कष्ट उठाना पड़ा।

शंकर नामक इस यात्री ने एक्स पर अपनी व्यथा बयां करते हुए एक तस्वीर साझा करते हुए पोस्ट किया कि यह एक बेहद लंबा रूट है, इसके बावजूद केबिन की स्थिति दयनीय है। उन्होंने सीट के अहम हिस्से आर्मरेस्ट के उपरी हिस्से को एक्स पोस्ट में दिखाया है जो सीट से बिल्कुल अलग हो चुका है। उन्होंने इसे विमानन कंपनी की गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण की विफलता कारण देते हुए तत्काल जांच की मांग की है। यात्री ने पोस्ट में नागरिक



यात्री द्वारा एक्स पर साझा की गई तस्वीर • सौ. इंटरनेट जीडिया

टर्म्स मंत्रालय, डीजीसीए और एअर इंडिया के प्रबंधन को टैग किया है। उधर, एअर इंडिया ने इसका उत्तर देते हुए आंतरिक समीक्षा का आश्वासन देते हुए यात्री को हुए इस तरह के अनुभव के प्रति सहानुभूति व्यक्त की। एयरलाइंस ने कहा कि हम तत्काल इसकी समीक्षा करेंगे।

आखिर क्यों आ रही हैं ऐसी समस्याएं : एअर इंडिया की तरफ से सेवाओं में सुधार के तमाम दावों के

बावजूद अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में लगातार आ रही इस तरह की दिक्कतों के पीछे एअर इंडिया के बड़े में शामिल वे वाइड-बॉडी (बड़े आकार का) विमान हैं जो अब काफी पुराने हो चुके हैं। लंबे समय तक रखरखाव के अभाव के कारण इन विमानों की सीटें, एंटरटेनमेंट स्क्रीन और चार्जिंग पोर्ट अक्सर खराब मिलते हैं। एअर इंडिया ने विमानों के केबिन के रेट्रोफिटिंग के लिए काम तो शुरू किया है लेकिन वैश्विक स्तर पर विमानों के पुर्जों और नई सीटों की आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में देरी के कारण पुराने विमानों को अपग्रेड करने में अधिक समय लग रहा है। विशेषज्ञों का यह भी कहना है कि भारत से अमेरिका और यूरोप के रूट बेहद व्यस्त हैं। विमानों के लगातार उड़ान भरने के कारण ग्राउंड स्टाफ को केबिन की गहन सफाई या छोटी-मोटी मरम्मत के लिए पर्याप्त समय नहीं मिल पाता, जिससे अगली उड़ान के यात्रियों को परेशानी उठानी पड़ती है। एअर इंडिया से इस मामले में उनका पक्ष मांगा गया, लेकिन उनका पक्ष नहीं मिला।

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

एविएशन सेक्टर को 10 हजार करोड़ की राहत मंत्रिमंडल ने दी एयरलाइनों को राहत, कीमतों में आएगी स्थिरता

जगरण ख्यूर, नई दिल्ली : प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने एयरलाइंस को बड़ी राहत प्रदान करते हुए, तेल विपणन कंपनियों (ओएमसी) को 10,000 करोड़ रुपये तक की ब्याज-मुक्त एकमुश्त बजटीय सहायता मंजूर की है। इस निर्णय से घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में स्थिरता आएगी, जिसका लाभ आम जनता को भी मिलेगा। इस फैसले के अनुसार, एटीएफ की कीमतों में उछाल रोकने के लिए मूल्य स्थिरीकरण फंड बनाया जाएगा और इससे ओएमसी को वित्तीय मदद दी जाएगी। एटीएफ की कीमतें स्थिर रहने से एयरलाइंस का परिचालन



एटीएफ कीमतें बढ़ने से रोकने में आएगी स्थिरता, आम आदमी को मिलेगा लाभ, हवाई किराये में बढ़ोतरी नहीं डोलने पड़ेगी

खर्च अनुमानित रहेगा और हवाई किराये में अचानक वृद्धि नहीं होगी।

इस फैसले के पीछे असली वजह पश्चिम एशिया में चल रहा संकट है, जिसके चलते वैश्विक एटीएफ कीमतों में भारी उछाल आया है। मार्च 2026 में एटीएफ की कीमत 60.50 रुपये प्रति लीटर थी, जो मई

2026 में बढ़कर 142 रुपये प्रति लीटर हो गई। एटीएफ एयरलाइंस की परिचालन लागत का 60 प्रतिशत तक हिस्सा होता है। इसके अलावा, पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र के बंद होने से यूरोप-उत्तर अमेरिका की उड़ानें लंबी हो गईं, जिससे भारत की एविएशन कंपनियों की लागत भी बढ़ गई है। इसके चलते कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें कम या निलंबित कर दी गईं। लंबी दूरी के किराये बढ़ने से भारत में एविएशन की मांग घटी है। 10,000 करोड़ का फंड एटीएफ की अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमत बेंचमार्क से अधिक होने पर होने वाले नुकसान की भरपाई करेगा। कीमतें स्थिर रहने पर अतिरिक्त राशि ओएमसी से वसूल कर सरकार को लौटाई जाएगी।

एविएशन सेक्टर को 10,000 करोड़ की राहत

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल की एयरलाइनों को बड़ी राहत, फैसले से एटीएफ की कीमतों में स्थिरता आएगी

आम आदमी को मिलेगा लाभ,
हवाई किराये में अचानक
बढ़ोतरी नहीं झेलनी पड़ेगी

जागरण न्यूज़, नई दिल्ली

प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने एयरलाइंस को बड़ी राहत प्रदान करते हुए तेल विपणन कंपनियों (ओएमसी) को 10,000 करोड़ रुपये तक की ब्याज-मुक्त एकमुश्त बजटीय सहायता मंजूर की है। इस निर्णय से घरेलू व अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में स्थिरता आएगी, जिसका लाभ आम जनता को भी मिलेगा। इस फैसले के अनुसार, एटीएफ की कीमतों में उछाल रोकने को मूल्य स्थिरकरण फंड बनाया जाएगा और इससे ओएमसी को वित्तीय मदद दी जाएगी। एटीएफ की कीमतें स्थिर रहने से एयरलाइंस का परिचालन खर्च अनुमानित रहेगा और इससे हवाई किराये में अचानक वृद्धि नहीं होगी।

इस फैसले के पीछे असली वजह पश्चिम एशिया में चल रहा संकट है, जिसके चलते वैश्विक एटीएफ कीमतों में भारी उछाल आया है। मार्च 2026 में एटीएफ की कीमत 60.50 रुपये प्रति लीटर थी, जो मई 2026 में बढ़कर 142



प्रतीकचित्र

रुपये प्रति लीटर हो गई, यानी लगभग द्वाई गुना वृद्धि। एटीएफ एयरलाइंस को परिचालन लागत का 60 प्रतिशत तक हिस्सा होता है। इसके अलावा, पाकिस्तान हवाई क्षेत्र के बंद होने से यूरोप-उत्तर अमेरिका की उड़ानें लंबी हो गई, जिससे भारत की एविएशन कंपनियों की लागत भी बढ़ गई है। इसके चलते कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें कम या निलंबित कर दी गईं। लंबी दूरी के किराये बढ़ने से भारत में एविएशन की मांग घटी है। एविएशन सेक्टर का पूरा इकोसिस्टम जैसे एयरलाइंस, हवाई अड्डे, एमआरओ और लाजिस्टिक्स बुरी तरह से प्रभावित हो रहे हैं। 10,000 करोड़ रुपये का फंड एटीएफ की अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमत बेंचमार्क से अधिक होने पर होने वाले नुकसान को भरपाई करेगा। कीमतें स्थिर रहने पर अतिरिक्त राशि ओएमसी

से वसूल कर सरकार को लौटाई जाएगी। सभी भारतीय एयरलाइंस घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए इस योजना का लाभ उठा सकेंगी। योजना की एक शर्त यह है कि एयरलाइंस को अधिकतम तीन वर्ष तक केवल ओएमसी से ही एटीएफ खरीदना होगा। यह योजना 36 महीने के लिए लागू रहेगी, जिसमें वार्षिक समीक्षा का प्रावधान है। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय, पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय और वय्य विभाग के प्रतिनिधियों वाली एक निगरानी समिति क्रियान्वयन, दावों के सत्यापन, मिलान और निपटान की देखरेख करेगी। सभी दावों और वसूलियों की ऑडिटिंग की जाएगी। सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया है कि एटीएफ की कीमतों को स्थिर रखना एक अस्थायी उपाय है और ओएमसी के लिए दीर्घकालिक रूप से टिकाऊ नहीं है।

मात्र में 4,415 करोड़ की हाईवे परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी

नई दिल्ली, ब्रेट : पीएम नरेन्द्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में बुधवार को हुई मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक में मध्य प्रदेश में 4,415.60 करोड़ रुपये की लागत वाली दो सड़क परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी प्रदान की गई। इनके तहत नेशनल हाईवे-347बी के हिवरखेड़ी-रोशनी-आशापुर-रूढ़ी खंड को चौड़ा कर टू-लेन में बदला जाएगा। इसे हाईवे के देशगांव-जुलबानिया खंड को मौजूदा टू-लेन से फोन-लेन में परिवर्तित किया जाएगा। इन परियोजनाओं की कुल लंबाई 108.64 किलोमीटर है और इन्हें 'हाइब्रिड एन्यूटी माडल' के तहत विकसित किया जाएगा। एक आधिकारिक बयान में कहा गया कि इस अपग्रेडेशन से बैतूल, खंडवा, खरगोन और बड़वानी जिलों में सड़क की समस्या दूर होगी। परियोजना के तहत खरगोन जिले में 16.20 किलोमीटर लंबा नया बाईपास भी विकसित किया जाएगा। इन परियोजनाओं से वाहनों की औसत गति बढ़ेगी, यात्रा समय कम होगा तथा सड़क सुरक्षा, ईंधन दक्षता और वाहन परिचालन लागत में सुधार होगा। इससे क्षेत्रीय संपर्क और सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास को भी बढ़ावा मिलेगा। इसके अलावा केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने तेलंगाना में

► परियोजना से यात्रा में कम समय लगेगा, ईंधन भी बचेगा

► सामाजिक और आर्थिक विकास को भी बढ़ावा मिलेगा

190.76 किलोमीटर लंबाई वाली ठे प्रमुख राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परियोजनाओं को भी स्वीकृति प्रदान की।

बिहार में खगड़िया-पूर्णिया फोर-लेन परियोजना को हरी झंडी : कैबिनेट ने बिहार में खगड़िया-पूर्णिया खंड (एनएच-31 और एनएच-231) को फोर-लेन हाईवे में अपग्रेड करने की स्वीकृति दी है। यह परियोजना बीओटी (टोल) माडल पर आधारित होगी और इस पर 3,936.05 करोड़ रुपये की लागत आएगी। इस अपग्रेडेशन से खगड़िया, भागलपुर, कटिहार और पूर्णिया जिलों को विशेष लाभ पहुंचेगा। परियोजना के तहत पूर्णिया शहर के लिए 6.729 किलोमीटर लंबा नया बाईपास भी विकसित किया जाएगा। इससे औसत यात्रा गति बढ़ेगी, यात्रा समय घटकर लगभग दो घंटे रह जाएगा और सड़क सुरक्षा, ईंधन दक्षता तथा वाहन परिचालन लागत में सुधार होगा। यह परियोजना बिहार के प्रमुख आर्थिक, सामाजिक एवं लाजिस्टिक केंद्रों के साथ निर्बाध संपर्क प्रदान करेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

3 JUNE 2026

अहमदाबाद में मौसम खराब, जयपुर में तीन घंटे फ्लाइट में बैठे रहे यात्री

नवज्योति, जयपुर। जयपुर से अहमदाबाद जाने वाली इंडिगो की एक उड़ान में सोमवार को यात्रियों को करीब तीन घंटे इंतजार करना पड़ा। अहमदाबाद में खराब मौसम के कारण फ्लाइट निर्धारित समय पर उड़ान नहीं भर सकी। इस दौरान यात्रियों को विमान के अंदर ही बैठकर रखा गया। जानकारी के अनुसार फ्लाइट का निर्धारित प्रस्थान समय शाम 6 बजे था। सभी यात्रियों की बोर्डिंग पूरी होने के बाद विमान उड़ान भरने की तैयारी में था, लेकिन अहमदाबाद एयरपोर्ट पर प्रतिकूल मौसम और संचालन संबंधी बाधाओं के चलते एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोलर्स नहीं मिल सकी।

इसके कारण विमान को रनवे पर जाने की अनुमति नहीं दी गई और यात्रियों को विमान के भीतर इंतजार करना पड़ा। करीब तीन घंटे तक स्थिति स्पष्ट नहीं होने पर एयरलाइन ने यात्रियों को विमान से उतार दिया। यात्रियों को एयरपोर्ट के अराइवल क्षेत्र में भेजा गया। अहमदाबाद एयरपोर्ट से मौसम में सुधार और उड़ान संचालन की अनुमति मिली। इसके बाद यात्रियों को देवारा बोर्डिंग प्रक्रिया से गुजरना पड़ा और पुनः विमान में बैठाया गया। यह फ्लाइट लगभग चार घंटे की देरी से रात 10.10 बजे जयपुर से अहमदाबाद के लिए रवाना हो सकी।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

Summer Travel Plans Take No Break

Domestic demand remains strong despite rising fuel costs and airfares, fewer flights

Anumeha Chaturvedi

New Delhi: Indians are not abandoning their summer holidays despite soaring airfares, rising fuel costs and airlines

cutting domestic and international flights, although many are altering itineraries and budgets, industry executives said.

Travel and hospitality

firms, however, said demand for overseas holidays such as European summer breaks has softened amid soaring fares.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also made a call to avoid non-essential overseas travel. The picture is encouraging on the domestic front, they said.

"Travellers are driving down to nearby destinations, a pattern we are seeing consistently across all major cities," MakeMyTrip CEO Rajesh Magow said. "Group travel is up, whether families or friends travelling together, and that is reflected in a clear uptick in intercity cab and bus bookings on our platform."

He said the demand picked up almost immediately as schools closed for summer vacations, which is consistent with the seasonal pattern.

Short-haul Destinations Find Favour ►► 12

VACATION MODE ON

Drive to destinations gaining traction
Uptick in intercity cab, bus bookings

Overall occupancy levels up at some hotel chains

Strong demand for ultra premium hill properties

OVERSEAS TRIPS

130% growth in travel to Vietnam

Sri Lanka sees 68%, S'pore 32% and Thailand 22%, says ixigo

International enquiries 10-15% higher for some cos



Short-haul Destinations Find Favour

►► From Page 1

Social media posts attest to the trend, with travellers referring to traffic jams stretching for hours around destinations such as Dehradun and Sikkim. Airfares have risen by as much as 30-40% year-on-year this summer due to elevated aviation turbine fuel costs amid the West Asia war. Many international routes are impacted by airspace closures and longer flight paths as well.

As a result, most international travellers are opting for 'value-driven' short-haul destinations, said Alope Bajpai, group CEO of ixigo.

Vietnam has emerged as the fastest-growing destination with a 130% growth over last year, followed by Sri Lanka (68%), Singapore (32%) and Thailand (22%), replacing earlier favourites such as Indonesia and Japan, he said.

While domestic travel demand remains "strong," higher airfares are encouraging some to consider trains and buses instead, Bajpai said. Many travellers who were planning international vacations are now opting for domestic getaways, he added.

For the May-June travel period, bus bookings to hill stations and cooler destinations on ixigo have grown by 38% year-on-year, with destinations such as Coorg, Kodaikanal, Nainital, Shimla, Ooty and Munnar witnessing significant traction.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

BID TO SHIELD AIRLINES FROM MOUNTING COST PRESSURES AMID WEST ASIA CRISIS

Cabinet OKs ₹10k cr Fund to Cap Jet Fuel Prices

GROWTH MEASURES PSU refiners to be compensated for sale of jet fuel below mkt price; ₹24,249 cr highway projects also cleared

Our Bureau

New Delhi: State-run oil companies will cap aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices as part of a ₹10,000 crore support scheme approved by the government Wednesday, aimed at insulating domestic airlines from sharply higher global crude prices due to the West Asia crisis.

The ATF price stabilisation programme, cleared by the union cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi, will reimburse these refiners for losses incurred from selling jet fuel below market rates. This will be done by giving interest-free advances to cover the refiners' under-recoveries or the gap between market price of jet fuel and reduced rate they will charge airlines.

People aware of the development said jet fuel price for airlines has been fixed at ₹115 per litre for both

Key Takeaways

₹39,290-crore package approved for aviation and road infrastructure

Delhi-NCR vehicle replacement scheme approved to phase out older commercial vehicles



domestic and international flights. While the current prices, at ₹105 and ₹110 per litre for domestic and international flights from Delhi, airlines will benefit if international crude price shoots up further.

For instance, the price of Brent crude, the global benchmark for oil, rose more than 1% to about \$97 a barrel, easing from its earlier high for the day after fighting flared up in

Middle East. "The fund will help stabilise ATF prices for scheduled Indian carriers and will prevent disruption of airline operations. It will also shield air passengers from fare spikes driven by the global price surge," Union information minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The government will compensate OMCs whenever international import parity prices exceed this bench-

mark, and the support will be recovered once global fuel prices moderate, with proceeds to be returned to the Consolidated Fund of India. The mechanism will operate for 36 months with a provision for annual review or until the advance amount is fully recovered or settled, whichever is earlier. Vaishnaw said the scheme would help airlines keep ticket prices affordable while shielding state-owned oil companies from losses. Fuel is the largest expenditure for Indian carriers, accounting for nearly 40% of their operating cost.

This is the latest in a slew of measures taken by the government to shield airlines since the start of Iran war on February 28. It includes rebates on aircraft landing and parking charges, regulating increases in jet fuel prices, and tax reductions on fuel for flights operating from Delhi and Mumbai, the country's two biggest airports.

OTHER DECISIONS

The union cabinet approved four National Highway projects entailing a total expenditure of ₹24,249 crore to improve connectivity, ease congestion, and support economic activity across key transport corridors. This includes a coastal highway project in Odisha at an estimated cost of ₹8,300 crore, two NH projects in Madhya Pradesh, and two highway widening projects in Telangana and Bihar. The government also cleared a vehicle replacement scheme for the Delhi-NCR region to curb air pollution and accelerate the shift towards cleaner mobility.

The scheme will incentivise owners of trucks and buses complying with Bharat Stage-IV or older emission norms to replace them with BS-VI or stricter emission-compliant vehicles, including electric vehicles (EVs).

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

Centre okays aviation relief with ₹10,000-cr ATF fund

SAURAV ANAND
& NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, June 3

THE UNION CABINET on Wednesday approved a ₹10,000-crore aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price stabilisation fund, expanding the Centre's support package for the aviation sector. The move comes as airlines and state-run fuel retailers grapple with the fallout of the West Asia conflict and a sharp rise in jet fuel prices.

The latest intervention comes weeks after the government announced ₹5,000 crore of credit support for airlines under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0. Together, the two measures seek to address liq-



»INSIDE«
CABINET NOD TO REPLACE OLD TRUCKS IN DELHI P3

uidity pressures on carriers as well as mounting fuel under-recoveries faced by oil marketing companies (OMC).

The one-time budgetary support will be provided as an interest-free advance to OMCs to enable them to supply ATF to scheduled Indian airlines at a pre-determined benchmark price.

Continued on Page 10

Centre okays aviation relief with ₹10,000-cr ATF fund

ANNOUNCING THE DECISION, the government said the measure is aimed at shielding airlines from extreme fuel price volatility, ensuring continuity of air services and preserving connectivity to regional and smaller cities.

The intervention follows an unprecedented surge in aviation fuel prices. International ATF prices have risen from ₹60.50 per litre in March 2026 to ₹142 per litre in May 2026, significantly increasing operating costs for airlines. The impact has been compounded by the closure of Pakistan's airspace, forcing Indian carriers to take

longer routes to Europe, North America and Central Asia.

"ATF accounts for nearly 40% of airline operating costs and during periods of extreme fuel volatility can constitute up to 60% of total operating expenditure," the Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

Under the approved framework, the ₹10,000-crore corpus will compensate OMCs whenever prevailing import parity prices exceed the benchmark price fixed under the stabilisation mechanism. The support will be available to all willing scheduled Indian airlines through a tripartite arrange-



ment involving the ministry of civil aviation, the ministry of petroleum and natural gas and participating fuel retailers.

The scheme also provides relief to OMCs, which have been absorbing losses on aviation fuel sales as domestic prices

remained below international parity levels.

"OMCs are estimated to be losing around ₹30 per litre on aviation fuel sales. At current consumption levels, this translates into an under-recovery of nearly ₹93 crore per day,"

Prashant Vasisht, senior vice-president and co-group head, corporate ratings, Ica said.

According to the government, the arrangement will remain operational for 36 months, subject to annual review or until the entire support amount is recovered. A clawback mechanism has also been built into the scheme, under which gains arising from any moderation in international fuel prices will be recovered from OMCs and returned to the Consolidated Fund of India.

The government said the measure is expected to moderate fare volatility, support

domestic and international air connectivity and sustain employment across airlines, airports, maintenance and repair organisations, tourism, hospitality and logistics sectors.

Shares of InterGlobe Aviation (IndiGo) surged 2.15% to hit an intraday high of ₹4,562.70 on the BSE. Following the announcement of the fund, the stock rebounded 3.92% from its intraday low of ₹4,390.75. However, it pared some gains and ended the day at ₹4,512.80, up 1.04%. Meanwhile, SpiceJet shares also jumped 1.89% to close at ₹12.42.

DOMESTIC CARRIERS' INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC FALLS 39% IN APRIL ON WAR DISRUPTIONS

Airlines lose 1.2 mn international flyers

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, June 3

INDIAN CARRIERS LOST nearly 1.2 million international passengers in April as the West Asia conflict disrupted key overseas routes, driving one of the steepest declines in outbound traffic in recent years and weighing on overall airline volumes.

According to the latest aviation sector report by Equirus, international passenger traffic carried by Indian airlines fell 39% year-on-year to 1.8 million in April from 3 million in the same month last year. Total passenger traffic, including domestic and international operations, declined 10% to 15.7 million passengers from 17.4 million a year ago.

The slowdown was largely confined to overseas operations. Domestic passenger traffic fell a relatively modest 3% year-on-year to 13.9 million passengers in April from 14.4 million a year earlier, highlighting the disproportionate impact of the conflict on international routes.

Airlines faced operational disruptions across several overseas sectors during the month as the conflict in West Asia affected flight paths and network planning. Carriers were forced to reroute some international services, increasing flying times and operating

SECTOR TURBULENCE

Impact of West Asia war on aviation sector

International passengers (mn)



Flight departures ('000)



RPK (bn)



ASK (bn)



Passenger load factor (%)



costs on affected sectors, while capacity adjustments also weighed on traffic growth.

The disruption was reflected in flight operations. International departures by Indian airlines fell 37% year-on-year to 11,700 in April from 18,400 in the corresponding month last year. Domestic departures, however, remained broadly stable, slipping 1% to 97,600 from 98,700.

Passenger demand and capacity both weakened during the month. Revenue passenger kilometres (RPK), a measure of passenger traffic, declined 33% year-on-year to 7.2 billion, while available seat kilometres (ASK), a measure of airline capacity, fell 28% to 9.5 billion. With demand falling

faster than capacity, seat occupancy levels also came under pressure. International passenger load factor (PLF) declined to 75.5% in April from 81.7% a year earlier. On a sequential basis, PLF fell from 82.9% in March.

"The data indicates that the adverse impact of the West Asia conflict continued through April, affecting both traffic volumes and network efficiency," Equirus said.

The weakness was visible globally as well. According to the latest data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), global passenger demand, measured in RPKs, declined 3.4% year-on-year in April, while capacity was down 2.9%. International demand

fell 5.3% during the month. Excluding the West Asia region, however, international demand grew 1.9%, underscoring the impact of the ongoing conflict on aviation activity.

Amid the disruption, IndiGo strengthened its position in international markets. The airline's share of international passengers rose to 47.5% in April from 44.1% a year ago and 43.9% in March. Air India Group's share declined to 46.6% from 50.8% a year earlier and 51.3% in the previous month. Load factors weakened across major carriers. IndiGo reported an international PLF of 77.2%, down from 82.9% a year ago, while Air India Group's PLF fell to 74.4% from 81.4%.

Kuwait airspace closure hits AI Express flights

AN AIR INDIA Express aircraft bound for Kuwait returned to Kozhikode on Wednesday morning after the Gulf nation's airspace was closed following an attack at the airport, while another flight from Kochi to Bahrain was cancelled, sources said. Sources said the airline is likely to suspend its services to Kuwait till June 6.

The Kuwait-bound flight IX393 was operated with a Boeing 737 aircraft, which was diverted to Kozhikode after being airborne for over two hours, as per information available on flight tracking website Flightradar24.com. The airline said passengers have been provided the option of complimentary rescheduling or a full refund on cancellation.

"We regret the inconvenience due to circumstances beyond our control," it said.

Meanwhile, another flight from Kochi to Bahrain, scheduled to depart at 11.45 am on Wednesday, was cancelled following the closure of Kuwait's airspace, a Kochi airport official said. A total of 119 passengers who had already checked in were offloaded and sent back after the Flight IX439 was called off, he said. —PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

HARI BHUMI

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

हवाई यातायात न हो 'हवा हवाई'...मोदी सरकार ने की चिंता ताकि किराया न बढ़े

हरिभूमि ब्यूरो ॥ नई दिल्ली

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल और आर्थिक मामलों की मंत्रिमंडलीय समिति ने बुधवार को नागरिक उड्डयन, पर्यावरण संरक्षण और बुनियादी ढांचा विकास से जुड़े कई महत्वपूर्ण निर्णयों को मंजूरी दी। इनमें एयरलाइंस को विमान ईंधन की कीमतों में स्थिरता प्रदान करने के लिए 10,000 करोड़ रुपये का विशेष कोष, दिल्ली-एनसीआर में पुराने ट्रकों और बसों को बदलने की योजना तथा ओडिशा और बिहार में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी शामिल है। रेलमंत्री, केंद्रीय सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक के बाद इन निर्णयों की जानकारी दी।

एयरलाइंस को राहत: ताकि आम आदमी की मुसीबत न बढ़े

मंत्रिमंडल ने भारतीय एयरलाइंस की घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान सेवाओं को समर्थन देने के लिए ऑयल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों को एकमुश्त 10,000 करोड़ रुपये की बजटीय सहायता देने का फैसला किया है। सरकार का कहना है कि

पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संकट के कारण विमान ईंधन की अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमतों में असाधारण वृद्धि हुई है। मार्च में एटीएफ की कीमत लगभग 60.5 रुपये प्रति लीटर थी, जो मई में बढ़कर 142 रुपये प्रति लीटर तक पहुंच गई, यानी करीब द्वाइ गुना वृद्धि। सरकार द्वारा स्थापित किया जाने वाला यह कोष एक सेल्फ-सस्टेनिंग रिवाइलिंग फंड के रूप में कार्य करेगा, जिससे अनुसूचित भारतीय एयरलाइंस को स्थिर दरों पर एटीएफ उपलब्ध कराया जा सकेगा। यह व्यवस्था अगले 36 महीनों तक लागू रहेगी।

सरकार का दावा है कि इस कदम से देश के विमानन क्षेत्र से प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से जुड़े लगभग 77 लाख रोजगारों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित होगी। वरना किराया बढ़ने के साथ बड़े पैमाने पर छंटनी की तलवार लटक रही थी। योजना के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन के लिए एक उच्चस्तरीय निगरानी समिति गठित की जाएगी, जिसमें नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय, पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय तथा वन्य विभाग के प्रतिनिधि शामिल होंगे। समिति दावों के सत्यापन, भुगतान, समायोजन और लेखा-जोखा की निगरानी करेगी।

प्रधानमंत्री की अध्यक्षता में कैबिनेट की बैठक में स्वीकृति मिली दिल्ली-एनसीआर में प्रदूषण पर नियंत्रण के लिए पुराने ट्रकों और बसों को बदलने की योजना



उनकी जगह बीएस-6 मानक या इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों को बढ़ावा देना है।

किन वाहनों को मिलेगा लाभ

योजना के तहत दिल्ली, हरियाणा, राजस्थान और उत्तर प्रदेश के एनसीआर क्षेत्रों में पंजीकृत ऐसे ट्रक और बस मालिकों को प्रोत्साहन राशि दी जाएगी, जिनके वाहन बीएस-4 या उससे पुराने उत्सर्जन मानकों वाले हैं। सरकार का अनुमान है कि इस योजना के तहत लगभग 2 लाख पुराने ट्रकों को बदला जाएगा। करीब 16 हजार पुरानी बसों को आधुनिक और स्वच्छ वाहनों से प्रतिस्थापित किया जाएगा। अश्विनी वैष्णव ने इसे प्रदूषण नियंत्रण और स्वच्छ परिवहन को बढ़ावा देने की दिशा में एक श्रेष्ठिहासिक दो वर्षीय योजना बतया। विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि यह योजना दिल्ली-एनसीआर में वायु गुणवत्ता सुधारने के साथ-साथ इलेक्ट्रिक मोबिलिटी को भी नई गति दे सकती है।

आर्थिक मामलों की मंत्रिमंडलीय समिति ने ओडिशा में रामेश्वर से पारादीप तक नए तटीय राजमार्ग के निर्माण को मंजूरी दी है। परियोजना की कुल लंबाई: 163 किलोमीटर से अधिक है जबकि अनुमानित लागत: 8,300 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक मानी जा रही है। परियोजना से खुर्दा, पुरी, केंद्रापाड़ा, जगतसिंहपुर कनेक्ट हो सकेंगे। सरकार के अनुसार यह राजमार्ग ओडिशा के तटीय क्षेत्रों में संपर्क व्यवस्था को मजबूत करेगा तथा पर्यटन, मत्स्य उद्योग, बंदरगाह गतिविधियों और क्षेत्रीय आर्थिक विकास को गति देगा। रामेश्वर और पारादीप के बीच यात्रा समय में लगभग द्वाइ घंटे की कमी आने का अनुमान है।

बिहार को बड़ी सौगात: खगड़िया-पूर्णिया राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग होगा फोर लेन

मोदी सरकार ने बिहार में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-31 और राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-231 के खगड़िया-पूर्णिया खंड को चार लेन में विकसित करने की परियोजना को भी मंजूरी दी है। परियोजना की लागत 3,936 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक है मगर इससे खगड़िया से पूर्णिया आवागमन आसान होगा पूर्वोत्तर बिहार में बेहतर संपर्क सुविधा मयस्सर हो सकेगी। अश्विनी वैष्णव का कहना है कि यह परियोजना राज्य के महत्वपूर्ण आर्थिक, सामाजिक और लॉजिस्टिक केंद्रों को जोड़ने में अहम भूमिका निभाएगी। इस सड़क के विकसित होने से माल परिवहन तेज होगा, औद्योगिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा मिलेगा तथा सीमांचल और कोसी क्षेत्र के लाखों लोगों को बेहतर यातायात सुविधाएं मिलेंगी।

विमान ईंधन की कीमतें थामे रखने के लिए 10 हजार करोड़ रुपये दिए

कैबिनेट फैसले

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। पश्चिम एशिया संकट के बीच हवाई किराए में बढ़ोतरी नहीं होगी। बुधवार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र की अध्यक्षता में हुई कैबिनेट बैठक में भारतीय अनुसूचित एयरलाइंस को विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की बढ़ती कीमतों से राहत देने के लिए 10 हजार करोड़ रुपये तक विशेष मूल्य स्थिरीकरण कोष को मंजूरी दी।

केंद्रीय मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने बताया कि तय शर्तों के हिसाब से कोष के जरिए तेल विपणन कंपनियों को वित्तीय सहायता व्याज-मुक्त अग्रिम के रूप में दी जाएगी, जिसमें एयरलाइंस को ईंधन की कीमतों में अचानक होने वाली तेज बढ़ोतरी से बचाया जा सके।

यह राशि तब उपयोग होगी जब अंतरराष्ट्रीय एटीएफ कीमतें तय मानक मूल्य से अधिक होंगी। अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमतों में कमी आने पर कंपनियों से राशि वापस लेकर भारत की संचित निधि में जमा कराई जाएगी। इसका लाभ भारत की निर्धारित घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को मिलेगा। तेल



केंद्रीय मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने बुधवार को कैबिनेट फैसलों की जानकारी दी।

रामेश्वर से पारादीप तक बनेगा नया तटीय राजमार्ग

खगड़िया-पूर्णिया चार लेन हाईवे प्रोजेक्ट मंजूर

नई दिल्ली, वि.सं.। केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने देश के बुनियादी ढांचे को मजबूत करने की दिशा में एक और कदम आगे बढ़ते हुए बिहार में खगड़िया-पूर्णिया खंड को चार-लेन राजमार्ग में उन्नत करने के प्रस्ताव को बुधवार को मंजूरी दे दी। राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-31 (एनएच-31) और राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-231 (एनएच-231) के अंतर्गत आने वाले इस खंड को बिल्ड-ऑपरेट-ट्रांसफर यानी बीओटी (टोल) मॉडल पर विकसित किया जाएगा। इस परियोजना की कुल अनुमानित लागत 3,936.05 करोड़ रुपये है। इसके साथ ही ओडिशा, मध्य प्रदेश व तेलंगाना राज्यों के हाईवे प्रोजेक्ट्स को स्वीकृति दी गई है। रेल, सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने बुधवार को प्रधानमंत्री की अध्यक्षता में मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक के बाद ये जानकारी दी। उन्होंने कहा कि इस राजमार्ग के फोरलेन में तब्दील होने से बिहार के खगड़िया, भागलपुर, कटिहार और पूर्णिया जिलों को सीधा फायदा होगा।

केंद्रीय कैबिनेट ने ओडिशा में रामेश्वर से पारादीप तक नए तटीय राजमार्ग के निर्माण को बुधवार को मंजूरी दे दी। इसकी कुल परियोजना लागत 8,300.79 करोड़ रुपये है। रामेश्वर से पारादीप तक यह नया तटीय राजमार्ग हाइब्रिड एन्यूटी मॉडल पर दो पैकेज में बनाया जाएगा, जिसकी कुल लंबाई 160.18 किलोमीटर होगी। यह परियोजना ओडिशा के खुर्दा, पुरी, कंदमाल और जगतसिंहपुर जिलों से होकर जाएगी।

कंपनियों द्वारा एयरलाइंस को निश्चित एटीएफ मूल्य पर ईंधन उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा, जिससे लागत का अनुमान लगाना आसान होगा। अधिकतम तीन वर्ष तक केवल सरकारी तेल कंपनियों से ही एटीएफ खरीदना होगा।

कीमतों भारी बढ़ोतरी: वैष्णव ने कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया संकट के

चलते कच्चे तेल कीमतें बढ़ी हैं, जिससे एटीएफ की कीमतों में भी उछाल आया है। मार्च में एटीएफ की कीमत 60.50 रुपये प्रति लीटर थी, जो मई में बढ़कर 142 रुपये प्रति लीटर तक पहुंच गई है।

रोजगार सुरक्षित रखने में मदद: केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि एटीएफ की कीमतों में उछाल से करीब 77 लाख

नौकरियों पर असर पड़ने की आशंका थी लेकिन अब उन पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ेगा। इससे विमानन संचालन से एयरलाइंस, हवाई अड्डों, ग्राउंड हैंडलिंग एजेंसियों, विमान मरम्मत, ट्रेवल एजेंसियों, होटल उद्योग और लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्र में रोजगार सुरक्षित रखने में मदद मिलेगी।

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

3 JUNE 2026

State govt buys iconic Air India building for ₹1,601 crore, aims to cut annual expenditure

Surendra P Gangan

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MUMBAI: Nearly two years after the centre gave the green light, the Maharashtra government officially signed a ₹1,601 crore deal to acquire the iconic Air India building. The agreement was signed on Tuesday between the Mumbai Collectorate and Air India Assets Holding Limited (AIAHL) in the presence of chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, at Mantralaya.

The main objective of the acquisition was to consolidate various state government offices, which are currently operating from rented premises across Mumbai, into the 23-storeyed building. It will help the government reduce its annual expenditure of around ₹200 crore on rented office spaces.

Multiple state departments currently function out of rented premises in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, such as rural development, public health and medical education. Others such as the transport commissionerate, Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal, fisheries commissionerate and advisory bodies, operate from similarly rented premises.

Nariman Point landmark

Air India Building: Located in Nariman Point, it stands on a **7,512.60 square meter land parcel.**

August 20, 1963

The land was leased to Air India by the Mumbai district collector under a 99-year agreement. The lease initially carried a nominal rent of ₹1 for the first year, later revised to ₹1.79 lakh payable annually. An appropriation deposit of ₹30,000 was also required for the duration of the lease.

1970 The building was constructed, comprising two basements, a ground floor and 22 upper floors, making it one of Mumbai's most recognisable commercial landmarks. The structure has a built-up area of nearly 5 lakh square feet and a carpet area of over 3.88 lakh square feet. 152 vehicles can be parked here.

March 12, 1993 It was one of the sites targeted during the Bombay serial blasts. A powerful car bomb exploded in the building's basement garage, killing 20 people.



Art collection: The building once housed a significant collection of art acquired during J R D Tata's tenure. Following Air India's restructuring, most of the artworks were stored on the building's first floor. Last year, the government transferred the collection to the National Gallery of Modern Art.

REFURBISHMENT OF THE AIR INDIA BUILDING IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN SIX MONTHS

cated here."

After shifting its headquarters to New Delhi in 2013, Air India decided to sell the building as part of its asset monetisation programme. The property was not included in Air India's privatisation and transfer to the Tata Group. Before the airline's sale, the building and several other assets and subsidiaries were transferred to AIAHL, a special-purpose vehicle of the Union government.

In 2019, three entities—the Maharashtra government, the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and the Life Insurance Corporation of India—expressed interest in acquiring the property, submitting bids of ₹1,375 crore, ₹1,200 crore and ₹1,400 crore, respectively. After the Eknath Shinde-led government assumed office in 2022, it revised the bid to ₹1,601 crore against Air India's reserve price of ₹2,000 crore.

The Maharashtra cabinet had approved the proposal to purchase the Air India building after a meeting on November 8, 2023. Subsequently, the state government waived unearned income dues and penalties amounting to ₹298 crore payable by Air India, facilitating the transfer process.

Administrative approval for

the ₹1,601-crore expenditure was granted on June 27, 2024; and the state government transferred the payment to AIAHL on May 31, 2026.

Before proceeding with the purchase, the government commissioned a structural audit of the building through Mumbai-based engineering institution VJTI. The audit reportedly con-

cluded that the structure would remain functional after the recommended repairs were made.

Milind Mhaikar, additional chief secretary, public works department (PWD) said, "The iconic Air India building's refurbishment will be undertaken immediately and completed in six months so that our offices located elsewhere can be relo-

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

Cabinet clears ₹10k-cr fund to offset jet fuel price swings

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Union cabinet has approved a ₹10,000 crore fund to shield airlines from volatility in the price of jet fuel even as it offsets losses that fuel sellers incur.

The one-time budgetary support of ₹10,000 crore will allow Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to provide Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) at stable prices to Indian airlines for both domestic and international operations.

"The budgetary support will be in the form of interest-free advances to OMCs through the demands for grants of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG). The support will be provided to OMCs to facilitate stable ATF pricing for airlines during the ongoing period of exceptional fuel price volatility arising from the West Asia crisis," the government said.

An IndiGo spokesperson said, "We are grateful to the Government of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the concerned authorities for announcing Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price stabilisation support to Scheduled Indian Airlines."

"This timely intervention is a welcome relief that reflects the government's understanding of the critical role aviation plays in connecting people and enabling

economic growth, while also fostering an environment that empowers airlines to serve passengers better and contribute towards India's journey as a global aviation hub," the spokesperson said.

Welcoming the decision and thanking the government, an Air India spokesperson said, "This progressive measure provides a much-needed support to the Indian aviation ecosystem and reinforces the Government's commitment to strengthening connectivity for the people of India, while enabling airlines to serve passengers more effectively."

The announcement comes at a time when the aviation sector has been impacted by unprecedented volatility in global ATF prices following the West Asia crisis. International ATF prices have surged nearly 2.5 times from Rs.60.50/litre in March to Rs.142/litre in May. ATF accounts for nearly 40% of an airline's operating cost.

While ATF price has been capped for domestic operations, Indian carriers continue to purchase ATF for international operations at Import Parity Prices (IPP), which depend on the price of crude oil.

The government said that the corpus will compensate OMCs for losses arising from elevated international ATF prices whenever the prevailing IPP exceeds the bench-



The support will allow OMCs to provide Aviation Turbine Fuel at stable prices.

mark price determined under the approved mechanism.

The government also said that when international ATF prices moderate, the differential will be recovered from OMCs and returned to the Consolidated Fund of India and that the arrangement will continue until the entire support amount is fully recovered and settled.

"The mechanism provides greater predictability in fuel costs by adopting a fixed-price arrangement for domestic and international operations, thereby reducing airline's exposure to sudden fuel price spikes," a statement from the government read.

It said that the arrangement will be implemented through an MoU between participating airlines and OMCs, with the civil aviation ministry and MoPNG as signatories.

"Under this one-time arrangement, participating airlines will procure ATF only from OMCs for up to three years, subject to annual review or until the advance amount is fully recovered, whichever is earlier," the government added.

Kapil Kaul, CEO and Director of CAPA India said, "Airlines will have a stable ATF pricing providing them with cost certainty to a significant extent especially during uncertain energy pricing situation due to a continuing Middle East war."

Sahil Mahajan, Partner, Aviation Airports and Hospitality, PwC India, said, "The Cabinet's move to stabilise ATF prices is a timely intervention for an industry where fuel accounts for nearly half of operating costs. By cushioning airlines from extreme volatility, it protects margins and enables more predictable pricing for consumers. It also gives the sector critical breathing room to rebuild resilience amid ongoing geopolitical uncertainty."

A monitoring committee comprising representatives of the civil aviation ministry and MoPNG, and Department of Expenditure will oversee implementation, claim verification, reconciliation and settlement. All claims and recoveries shall be subject to audit, the government said.

"ATF price stabilisation support

will be in force for a period of thirty-six months with provision for annual review or until the advance amount is fully recovered/settled, whichever is earlier. The proposal may be extended beyond thirty-six months with the approval of the Competent Authority in case the corpus is not fully tried up within this period," the government said.

The government said that the proposed mechanism will provide enhanced stability and predictability in ATF pricing for Indian airlines, enabling better operational and financial planning. It also said that the mechanism will also shield OMCs from losses arising from volatile and elevated ATF prices during the ongoing West Asia crisis.

"The measure will help protect and sustain domestic and international air connectivity, ensuring continuity of air services. It will reduce the pass-through of fuel price shocks to passengers, thereby helping to moderate fare volatility. The arrangement will support continued air connectivity to remote, regional, Tier-II and Tier-III cities, promoting balanced regional development and inclusive growth," the government said.

"The measure will have positive spill-over effects on tourism, hospitality, trade, exports, regional development and investment," it added.

TO SHIELD AIRLINES, OMCs FROM GLOBAL FUEL PRICE SURGE

Centre clears Rs 10,000 cr to keep ATF prices stable

Price stabilisation fund mechanism will provide more predictability in fuel costs

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, June 3

THE CENTRE on Wednesday approved a one-time budgetary support of Rs 10,000 crore to public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) to provide stable fuel pricing for scheduled Indian airlines as it sought to cushion the blow from soaring jet fuel prices in the international market.

The government expects this arrangement, which will be in place for three years, to ease the pain for the OMCs as well as Indian airlines in the prevailing environment of extreme fuel price volatility. It also expects the move to rein in runaway airfares due to fuel price pressure.

According to the government, this price stabilisation fund mechanism will provide greater predictability in fuel costs by adopting a fixed-price arrangement, thereby reducing the airlines' exposure to sudden fuel price spikes.

The facility will only be available to Indian airlines, and not to foreign carriers.

It will be implemented through an agreement between the airlines and the OMCs, under which the carriers will have to procure aviation turbine fuel (ATF) exclusively from the OMCs for up to three years, "subject to annual review or until the advance amount is fully recovered, whichever is earlier". Jet fuel prices have gone up significantly in the international market due to the West Asia war and the consequent closure of the Strait of



The price strain forced Air India to substantially curtail its international flight operations. REUTERS

Hormuz. The OMCs have been selling ATF at a loss for domestic flights, which is adversely impacting their financial health.

They are also bearing losses on other fuels like petrol, diesel, and cooking gas sold to households. On the other hand, Indian airlines have also been struggling, particularly in international flight operations, as they are required to pay the full market-linked price for overseas operations.

The strain forced Air India to substantially curtail its international flight operations for the June-August period. The airline has also reduced domestic flights due to the impact of high international fuel prices on its overall operations.

Indian airlines had made repeated pleas to the government to stabilize jet fuel prices, while also seeking parity between fuel prices for domestic and international flights.

Usually, ATF accounts for about 40% of Indian airlines' operational costs. The price surge had led to a further increase to 55-60%, according to an Indian airline association.

The hike in jet fuel prices resulted in most major airlines increasing fuel surcharges, particularly for international flights, even as they claimed that the surcharges would set off only a part of the cost escalation.

The government said that the West Asia crisis pushed up international jet fuel prices to Rs 142 per litre in May from Rs 60.50 per litre in March, an increase of 135%.

"The budgetary support shall be in the form of interest-free advances to OMCs through the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The support shall be provided to OMCs to facilitate stable ATF pricing for airlines during the ongoing period of exceptional fuel price volatility arising from the West Asia crisis," the government said in a release.

"The corpus shall compensate OMCs for losses arising from elevated international ATF prices whenever the prevailing Import Parity Price exceeds the benchmark price determined under the approved mechanism...When international ATF

• FUND MECHANICS

THE CORPUS shall compensate OMCs for losses arising from elevated international ATF prices whenever the prevailing Import Parity Price exceeds the benchmark price determined under the approved mechanism

WHEN INTERNATIONAL ATF prices moderate, the differential amount will be recovered from OMCs and returned to the Consolidated Fund of India, said the Centre

THE FACILITY will only be available to Indian airlines, and not to foreign carriers. The OMCs have been selling ATF at a loss for domestic flights, which is adversely impacting their financial health

prices moderate, the differential amount shall be recovered from OMCs and returned to the Consolidated Fund of India. The arrangement shall continue until the entire support amount is fully recovered and settled," it added. The implementation will be overseen by a monitoring committee of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), and the Department of Expenditure.

This committee will also oversee claim verification, reconciliation, and settlement, and all claims and recoveries shall be subject to audit.

On Monday, in their monthly revision of ATF prices, the OMCs kept the price unchanged for scheduled domestic flights for the second month in a row. Additionally, relief also came for Indian carriers in the form of a 27% cut in jet fuel price for international flights. With this cut, the price of jet fuel for international flights came down to levels similar for domestic flights.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक में विमान ईंधन की कीमत स्थिर रखने के लिए लिया गया फैसला दस हजार करोड़ रुपए के कोष को मिली मंजूरी

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 3 जून।

विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमत में लगातार हो रही बढ़ोतरी से निपटने के लिए केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने एक बड़ा कदम उठाते हुए एटीएफ की कीमतों को स्थिर रखने के लिए 10,000 करोड़ रुपए के विशेष कोष को मंजूरी दे दी है। इससे भारतीय एअरलाइंस के नुकसान की भरपाई के साथ साथ यात्रियों को किराए में संभावित बढ़ोतरी से बचाए रखने में मदद मिलेगी।

इसके साथ ही प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की अध्यक्षता में हुई बैठक में कई अहम फैसले लिए गए। इनमें दिल्ली-एनसीआर क्षेत्र में वायु प्रदूषण कम करने और स्वच्छ परिवहन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक अहम योजना को मंजूरी दी है। इस योजना के तहत क्षेत्र में संचालित पुराने ट्रकों और बसों को बीएस-6 उत्सर्जन मानकों के अनुरूप या इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों से बदली जाएंगी। पिछले तीन महीने से पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संघर्ष के कारण वैश्विक स्तर पर कच्चे तेल और विमान ईंधन की कीमतें लगातार बढ़ोतरी का असर एअरलाइंस कंपनियों की लागत और हवाई किराए पर पड़ रहा है। मौजूदा हालात से निपटने के लिए केंद्र सरकार ने एटीएफ की कीमत स्थिर रखने के लिए कैबिनेट ने 10,000 करोड़ रुपए के विशेष कोष को मंजूरी दी है।

केंद्रीय मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने बताया कि इस कदम का उद्देश्य एअरलाइंस पर ईंधन खर्च के मद में बढ़ते बोझ को कम करने सहित किराए में संभावित बढ़ोतरी से यात्रियों को राहत प्रदान करना है। इस योजना के तहत सरकारी पेट्रोलियम विपणन कंपनियों (ओएमसी) को 10,000 करोड़ रुपए तक का ब्याज-मुक्त कर्ज दिया जाएगा। इससे वे घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए अनुसूचित भारतीय एअरलाइंस को स्थिर कीमत पर एटीएफ की आपूर्ति कर सकेंगी।

इस सहायता की घोषणा ऐसे वक्त की गई है जब अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमत मई में बढ़कर करीब 142 रुपए प्रति



अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमत मई में बढ़कर करीब 142 रुपए प्रति लीटर हो गई जो मार्च में यह 60.50 रुपए प्रति लीटर थी। इससे विमानन और पेट्रोलियम विपणन कंपनियों पर वित्तीय दबाव बढ़ गया है।

मध्य प्रदेश में 4,415.60 करोड़ की राजमार्ग परियोजना मंजूर

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने मध्य प्रदेश में 4,415.60 करोड़ रुपए की लागत वाली दो सड़क परियोजनाओं को बुधवार को मंजूरी दे दी। इन परियोजनाओं के तहत राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-347बी के हिवरखेड़ी-रोशनी-आशापुर-रूढ़ी खंड को चौड़ा और उन्नत कर दो-लेन राजमार्ग में बदला जाएगा। इसके अलावा, देशगांव-जुलवानिया खंड को मौजूदा दो-लेन से चार-लेन सड़क में परिवर्तित किया जाएगा। परियोजनाओं की कुल लंबाई 108.64 किलोमीटर है।

खगड़िया-पूर्णिया चार लेन परियोजना को हरी झंडी

मंत्रिमंडल ने बिहार में खगड़िया-पूर्णिया खंड (एनएच-31 और एनएच-231) को चार-लेन राजमार्ग में उन्नत करने को बुधवार को मंजूरी दे दी। यह परियोजना बीओटी माडल पर 3,936.05 करोड़ की लागत से विकसित की जाएगी।

तेलंगाना में 7,597 करोड़ रुपए की राजमार्ग परियोजनाओं को स्वीकृति

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने तेलंगाना में 190.76 किलोमीटर लंबाई वाली दो प्रमुख राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परियोजनाओं को बुधवार को मंजूरी दे दी। इनकी कुल लागत 7,597.16 करोड़ रुपए है। वहीं दूसरी ओर ओड़ीशा में रामेश्वर से पारादीप तक नए तटीय राजमार्ग के निर्माण को बुधवार को मंजूरी दे दी। इसकी कुल परियोजना लागत 8,300.79 करोड़ रुपए है।

लीटर हो गई जो मार्च में यह 60.50 रुपए प्रति लीटर थी। इससे विमानन और पेट्रोलियम विपणन कंपनियों पर वित्तीय दबाव बढ़ गया है। इस योजना के तहत सरकारी पेट्रोलियम विपणन कंपनियों (ओएमसी) को 10,000 करोड़ रुपए

तक का ब्याज-मुक्त कर्ज दिया जाएगा। इससे वे घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए अनुसूचित भारतीय एअरलाइंस को स्थिर कीमत पर एटीएफ की आपूर्ति कर सकेंगी। इस सहायता की घोषणा ऐसे वक्त की गई है जब अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में

विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमत मई में बढ़कर करीब 142 रुपए प्रति लीटर हो गई जो मार्च में यह 60.50 रुपए प्रति लीटर थी। इससे विमानन और पेट्रोलियम विपणन कंपनियों पर वित्तीय दबाव बढ़ गया है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

Cabinet okays ₹20,000 cr to ease jet fuel price, clean up air in NCR

Subhash Narayan &
Ritupa Baruah

NEW DELHI

To insulate the economy from the ripple effects of the West Asia conflict, the Union cabinet on Wednesday approved two major interventions worth nearly ₹20,000 crore—a ₹10,000-crore fuel price stabilization fund (PSF) for the aviation sector, and a ₹9,585-crore clean transport scheme for Delhi-NCR.

Mint had reported earlier this year that the government is planning a PSF for petroleum products.

The PSF for aviation will offer interest-free advances to oil marketing companies (OMCs), which will help them offer aviation turbine fuel (ATF) at steady prices to Indian airlines, reducing the impact of soaring global jet fuel costs, which is their most significant expense head.



Aviation PSF will give interest-free advances to OMCs. MINT

Separately, the clean mobility scheme will encourage the replacement of older commercial vehicles with cleaner BS-VI and electric alternatives, helping tackle pollution in the national capital region while lowering fuel consumption and oil imports.

At a media briefing on Wednesday, India's information and broadcasting, IT and railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that due to the West Asia crisis, international

ATF prices have sharply risen from ₹60.5 a litre in March to ₹142 a litre in May, and the PSF would aim to manage this volatility. The West Asia war broke on 28 February.

Vaishnaw said the scheme would reduce the pass-through of fuel price shocks to passengers by moderating fare volatility, while also shielding OMCs from losses arising from costly ATF prices.

Under the scheme, OMCs will be compensated for their losses when global ATF prices exceed the approved benchmark rate at which they can supply airlines. Vaishnaw said the government has capped ATF prices at ₹75.6 a litre for domestic operations.

Once international prices moderate, the compensation will be recovered from the OMCs and returned to the Consolidated Fund of India. The arrangement will continue until the full amount is

FROM PAGE 1

recovered, the government said in a statement.

Funded through the Economic Stabilisation Fund, which was launched in March with an initial corpus of ₹57,381 crore, the PSF scheme will be open to all willing Indian scheduled carriers for domestic and international operations.

The arrangement will be implemented through an agreement between participating Indian airlines and OMCs, with the ministries of aviation and petroleum as signatories.

Under this one-time arrangement, participating airlines will buy ATF from OMCs for a 36-month period, subject to annual review and ending once the support amount is fully recovered or settled, whichever is earlier.

The scheme can be



International ATF prices have sharply risen from ₹60.5 a litre in March to ₹142 a litre in May.

extended if the corpus remains unutilized, the government statement said.

In an exchange filing on Wednesday, IndiGo, India's largest airline, welcomed the PSF move. "This timely intervention is a welcome relief that reflects the government's understanding of the critical

role aviation plays in connecting people and enabling economic growth, while also fostering an environment that empowers airlines to serve passengers better and contribute towards India's journey as a global aviation hub," the statement said.

To be sure, a special ₹5,000

crore carve-out was also done for the sector under the new Emergency Credit Line Guarantee scheme (ECLGS) 5.0 scheme in March 2026.

While ATF price has been capped for domestic operations, Indian carriers continue to purchase ATF for international operations at import parity prices, exposing them to elevated fuel costs. The PSF aims to curb this volatility.

Meanwhile, Vaishnaw said that the clean transport scheme for

Delhi-NCR is expected to significantly reduce vehicular emissions and contribute to improved air quality by accelerating the transition to cleaner transport technologies.

The scheme aims to incentivize owners of older trucks and buses to replace them with

BS-VI or stricter emission-compliant vehicles, or EVs.

According to Vaishnaw, the scheme will benefit approximately 207,000 vehicle owners—including 191,000 trucks and 16,329 buses—in NCR (comprising Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh).

In an exchange filing on Wednesday, IndiGo, India's largest airline, welcomed the PSF move

According to a government statement, the ₹9,585-crore scheme would include ₹5,041 crore from the central government and an estimated ₹1,601 crore cumulative

tax concessions from the participating states. In addition, participating automobile companies will offer 8% discounts on ex-showroom prices of new vehicles.

Under the scheme, the Centre will provide 5% interest subvention on loans for five years,

monthly fuel vouchers worth up to ₹4,800 depending on vehicle category, and lump-sum benefits for EV purchases or certificate of deposit trading.

"The approval of this scheme is a positive step towards accelerating fleet modernisation and cleaner mobility in the Delhi-NCR region," Girish Wagh, managing director and chief executive at Tata Motors, said.

"We look forward to studying the finer details of the notification to further align our efforts towards building a more sustainable and modern commercial vehicle ecosystem," Wagh added.

In other decisions, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs cleared highway projects with an investment of over ₹24,000 crore.

Dipali Banka and Ayan Kartik contributed to this story. For an extended version of this story, go to livemint.com

TURN TO PAGE 6



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

Cabinet approves Rs 10K cr jet fuel 'stabilisation' fund

NARESH BISWANI

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a one-time budgetary support of up to Rs 10,000 crore to help stabilise Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices for Scheduled Indian Airlines amid unprecedented volatility in global fuel markets triggered by the ongoing West Asia crisis.

Beginning with a government directive, funds flow to Oil Marketing Companies via the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in the form of zero-interest advances. Stability in domestic and global flight operations remains the central focus, as price swings in aviation turbine fuel are absorbed by this mechanism.

Under the approved mechanism, OMCs will be compensated whenever international ATF prices exceed a benchmark level. Once prices moderate, the differential amount will be recovered from OMCs and returned to the Consolidated Fund of India through a structured recovery and true-up process.

Every qualified Indian airline may join the program, operating at home or abroad. For a period reaching thirty-six months, those involved obtain aviation turbine fuel solely through Oil Marketing Companies. A set rate applies

throughout, shielding against abrupt increases in fuel costs. This structure remains active only if suppliers commit without exception. Duration limits stand firm regardless of market shifts. Stability forms the core focus during implementation.

A committee tasked with oversight will include members from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, along with officials from the Department of Expenditure. Oversight duties cover claim verification, implementation tracking, audit processes, followed by reconciliation work. Each phase unfolds under structured review, ensuring alignment across agencies involved. Procedures remain consistent, guided by assigned responsibilities within the group. A shift in policy aims to strengthen airline finances by reducing swings in ticket prices. Stability in fares may help preserve jobs tied to aviation networks. Connectivity to smaller urban centres should remain intact under the plan. For a period of three years, the assistance arrangement stays active, continuing unless ended earlier through yearly assessments or once full repayment occurs. It persists until either the complete sum has been reclaimed or reassessment determines continuation unnecessary.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

Scandinavian Airlines debut flight denied entry

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

AFTER a gap of 17 years, the Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) has restored its flight operations to India by flying from Copenhagen to Mumbai. However, the crew were forced to return midair after flying for four hours, as they were alerted that the aviation regulator in India had not given its nod for the operations.

Flight no SK969, an Airbus A330 aircraft, was flying over Azerbaijan when the Air Traffic Control unit at Copenhagen asked the cockpit crew to make an air turn back. Multiple aviation professionals confirmed the incident to this reporter.

Ironically, a team in Mumbai airport had been making preparations for the landing of the maiden flight, with the water cannon salute too being kept on standby to greet it when it touched the Chhatrapati Maharaj Shivaji International Airport.

It was after some time that they were alerted that the flight would not be landing! The plane flew back for four hours and landed safely in Copenhagen.



Flying over Azerbaijan when asked to turn back

Flight no SK969, an Airbus A330 aircraft, was flying over Azerbaijan when the Air Traffic Control unit at Copenhagen asked the cockpit crew to make an air turn back. Multiple aviation professionals confirmed the incident to this reporter. Ironically, a team in Mumbai airport had been making preparations for the landing of the maiden flight.

The aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, needs to give its written consent for any flight operation to take place. However, the consent has not yet been given, said aviation sources. Despite multiple calls and messages, the DGCA did not respond. The aviation ministry too did not

give its version.

In a statement, the airline said the flight returned to Copenhagen "after the final approval expected from authorities was not issued as anticipated."

"SAS completed all necessary operational and regulatory preparations for the launch

following several months of planning and co-ordination. Based on ongoing discussions with the relevant authorities, SAS had every expectation that the remaining formal approval would be finalised while the flight was en route. As the approval was not finalised as anticipated, the flight could not continue as planned," the airline said in a statement.

"Our immediate focus is on supporting affected passengers and securing the remaining approval is obtained in order to commence service as soon as possible. We remain ready to commence operations and expect the service to begin within the next couple of days once the formal approval has been issued," the airline added.

The Copenhagen-Mumbai service marks SAS's return to India after 17 years and is an important addition to our network, strengthening connectivity between Scandinavia and one of the world's fastest-growing markets. "We look forward to welcoming customers onboard very soon and continuing this route as planned," it added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

₹10k cr ATF price stabilisation fund approved

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

AMID soaring aviation fuel prices triggered by the West Asia conflict, the government on Wednesday approved a one-time budgetary support of up to ₹10,000 crore for oil marketing companies (OMCs) to help stabilise aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices for domestic airlines.

In simple terms, the government will provide financial support to OMCs so that they can hold ATF prices and prevent increases beyond a level during the ongoing crisis, protecting airlines from the impact of high aviation fuel costs. Currently, jet fuel, which constitutes nearly 40% of the total operating costs of airlines, has become significantly more expensive since the conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States began in West Asia.



The three-month-long conflict has significantly disrupted shipping via the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway that handles 20% of global oil and gas supplies. Supply disruptions and higher freight costs have pushed up global crude prices, leading to increases in petrol, diesel, LPG and ATF prices in India.

While OMCs have passed on a substantial portion of the increase in ATF prices, airlines—especially those operating in-

ternational routes—have been bearing the full impact of elevated market-linked fuel costs. As a result, several airlines have curtailed international operations and reduced domestic flights due to the impact of high fuel prices on their overall operations. Industry players have repeatedly urged the government to intervene and stabilise jet fuel prices to prevent further financial stress on the aviation sector.

QUICK RELIEF

- 1 Financial support to OMCs to hold ATF prices and prevent further increases
- 2 The govt will provide an interest-free advance of up to ₹10,000 cr to OMCs

Under the approved mechanism, the government will provide an interest-free advance of up to ₹10,000 crore to OMCs. The corpus will compensate fuel retailers whenever the prevailing Import Parity Price (IPP) of ATF exceeds a benchmark price determined under the scheme.

However, when international ATF prices soften, the differential amount will be recovered from OMCs and returned to the Consolidated Fund of India.

Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

महंगे विमान ईंधन से राहत का इंतज़ाम, 10,000 करोड़ रुपये की योजना मंजूर कैबिनेट का फैसला, एयरलाइंस को मदद, यात्रियों को राहत

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने बुधवार को देश की एयरलाइंस के लिए 10000 करोड़ रुपये के फ्यूल प्राइस स्टेबिलाइजेशन प्रोग्राम को मंजूरी दी। इसका मकसद पश्चिम एशिया संकट के बीच विमान ईंधन के अंतरराष्ट्रीय दाम बढ़ने के बावजूद कम कीमत पर ईंधन मुहैया करा रही सरकारी ऑयल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों को वित्तीय मदद देना है। तेल कंपनियां ATF के दाम ज्यादा बढ़ाने पर मजबूर नहीं होंगी, तो एयरलाइंस पर भी ज्यादा वित्तीय बोझ नहीं आएगा।

सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने फैसले की जानकारी देते हुए कहा कि मार्च में अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में एक्विेशन टर्बाइन फ्यूल का भाव 60 रुपये प्रति लीटर के करीब था, जो मई में 142 रुपये/लीटर हो गया। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार ने डोमेस्टिक एयरलाइंस के लिए ATF का भाव 75.6 रुपये प्रति



AI Image

- पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संकट के कारण अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में ईंधन महंगा हो गया है
- सरकार के इस कदम से एयरलाइंस का खर्च कम होगा और हवाई किराये में उतार-चढ़ाव कम होगा

लीटर तक रखा है। इससे एयरलाइंस को राहत मिलेगी, लेकिन तेल कंपनियों पर वित्तीय बोझ बढ़ रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि स्टेबिलाइजेशन फंड के जरिए इसकी काफी भरपाई हो जाएगी। इस स्कीम से एयरलाइंस को कामकाजी लागत के मोर्चे पर राहत मिलेगी, साथ ही यात्रियों के लिए किराये में उतार-चढ़ाव घटेगा।

सरकारी कंपनियों से ATF लेना होगा

सरकारी तेल कंपनियों को 10000 करोड़ रुपये तक का इंटररेस्ट फ्री एडवांस दिया जाएगा, जिससे वे देश की एयरलाइंस को घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए एक तय भाव पर ATF बेच पाएंगी। यह व्यवस्था अधिकतम 3 वर्षों के लिए की गई है। इसकी वार्षिक समीक्षा होगी। इस स्कीम में शामिल होने वाली एयरलाइंस को केवल सरकारी तेल कंपनियों से ATF लेना होगा। जब भी विदेश से आयात का भाव सरकार की ओर से तय कीमत के स्तर से ज्यादा होगा, तब तेल कंपनियों को इसकी भरपाई की जाएगी। वैश्विक दाम नरम होंगे, तब इन कंपनियों को दिया गया सपोर्ट रिकवर किया जाएगा और सरकार के कोष में भेज दिया जाएगा।

Cabinet approves ₹10,000 cr to curb ATF cost

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Providing a big succour to the embattled commercial airlines due to the ongoing West Asia conflict, the Union cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹10,000 crore aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price stabilisation programme. It will cushion airlines from soaring fuel costs triggered by the war, a move aimed at protecting air connectivity and limiting fare volatility.

The major decision comes amid recent developments due to the conflict that have pushed up international ATF prices and increased pressure on airlines.

The scheme will provide interest-free advances of up to ₹10,000 crore to state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs), enabling them to supply ATF to scheduled Indian airlines at a stabilised price for domestic and international operations, accord-



ing to a Government statement.

The support mechanism comes as international ATF prices have surged to about ₹142 per litre in May from ₹60.50 per litre in March, increasing financial pressure on airlines at a time when fuel accounts for nearly 40 per cent of operating costs and, in some cases, as much as 60 per cent during periods of extreme volatility.

Under the arrangement,

OMCs will be compensated whenever international import parity prices exceed a benchmark level set under the approved mechanism. Any support extended to OMCs will be recovered once global fuel prices moderate, with proceeds returned to the Consolidated Fund of India through a defined true-up process.

Announcing the decision, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

said the budgetary support will help airlines in the back-drop of a rise in ATF prices due to the conflict and closure of airspace by Pakistan for Indian carriers.

The prices of aviation turbine fuel, which accounts for around 40 per cent of an airline's operational costs, have surged in recent weeks in the wake of the West Asia crisis, which started in late February.

Vaishnaw said the fund would help stabilise ATF prices for scheduled Indian carriers and prevent disruption of airline operations.

With the fund, airlines would get a stable ATF price as long as the turmoil is there, and once the crisis is over, then the participating airlines would have to reimburse the amount, he said.

According to the minister, the fund would shield air passengers from fare spikes, driven by the global oil price surge, and also protect 77 lakh jobs dependent on the

aviation ecosystem. The budgetary support will be in the form of interest-free advances to OMCs through the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, an official release said.

The support will be provided to OMCs to facilitate stable ATF pricing for airlines during the ongoing period of exceptional fuel price volatility arising from the West Asia crisis.

The corpus will compensate OMCs for losses arising from elevated international ATF prices whenever the prevailing Import Parity Price exceeds the benchmark price, determined under the approved mechanism.

"When international ATF prices moderate, the differential amount shall be recovered from OMCs and returned to the Consolidated Fund of India. The arrangement shall continue until the entire support amount is fully recovered and settled,"

it added. ATF price stabilisation support will be in force for a period of 36 months with provision for annual review or until the advance amount is fully recovered/settled, whichever is earlier.

Vaishnaw further said the fund would help safeguard public investment in airport infrastructure by keeping airline operations viable and maintaining air connectivity to Europe, North America and Central Asia amid the Pakistan airspace closure.

Indian airlines are now taking longer routes for international flights, which also means increased fuel burn due to the Pakistan airspace closure that has been in place since early last year.

While ATF price has been capped for domestic operations, Indian carriers continue to purchase the fuel for international operations at Import Parity Prices (IPP), exposing them to elevated fuel costs.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

कुवैत जा रहा एअर इंडिया विमान कोझिकोड लौटा

कोझिकोड/कोच्चि, (पंजाब केसरी) : कुवैत के हवाई अड्डे पर हुए हमले के बाद, खाड़ी देश के हवाई क्षेत्र को बंद किए जाने के कारण एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का एक विमान बुधवार सुबह कोझिकोड लौट आया, जबकि कोच्चि से बहरीन जाने वाली एक अन्य उड़ान रद्द कर दी गई। सूत्रों ने यह जानकारी दी। सूत्रों के अनुसार, एयरलाइन छह जून तक कुवैत के लिए अपनी सेवाएं निलंबित कर सकती है। एयरलाइन ने एक बयान में कहा कि कुवैत

के हवाई क्षेत्र को बंद करने के परिणामस्वरूप, तीन जून को कुवैत जाने वाली हमारी उड़ान कोझिकोड लौट आई। उड़ानों को टूट करने वाली वेबसाइट 'फ्लाइट रडार24' पर उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार, उड़ान आईएक्स393 का परिचालन बोइंग 737 विमान द्वारा किया जा रहा था, जिसे दो घंटे से अधिक समय तक आसमान में रहने के बाद कोझिकोड की ओर ले जाया गया। एयरलाइन ने कहा कि यात्रियों को निःशुल्क यात्रा कार्यक्रम में

बदलाव या यात्रा रद्द करने पर पूरा किराया लौटाने का विकल्प दिया गया है। एयरलाइन ने बताया कि हमारे नियंत्रण से परे परिस्थितियों के कारण हुई असुविधा के लिए हमें खेद है। यात्रियों की संख्या के बारे में जानकारी नहीं मिल सकी। इस बीच, कोच्चि हवाई अड्डे के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि कुवैत के हवाई क्षेत्र के बंद होने के कारण बुधवार पूर्वाह्न 11:45 बजे कोच्चि से बहरीन जाने वाली एक अन्य उड़ान रद्द कर दी गई।

Maharashtra takes over Air India landmark

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government on Tuesday formally acquired the iconic Air India building, a landmark feature of the south Mumbai skyline known for its prime sea-facing location, for ₹1,601 crore.

The transfer of agreements between Air India Assets Holding Company and the state Public Works Department was completed at the Cabinet Hall in 'Mantralaya', the state secretariat, in the presence of chief minister Devendra Fadnis, following a cabinet meeting.

The 23-storey sea-facing commercial tower at Nariman Point in south Mumbai was built in 1974 on state government-owned reclaimed land. Over the years, it has remained one of the city's most recognisable landmarks and once drew crowds eager to experience its elevators.

Following the privatisation of Air India and its acquisition by the Tata group, its non-core



Air India building — a 23-storey sea-facing commercial tower at Nariman Point, Mumbai

assets, including the building, were transferred to Air India Assets Holding Limited (AIAHL).

The Maharashtra government, facing a shortage of office space near Mantralaya, had been in discussions for the acquisition since at least 2021.

In November 2023, the state cabinet approved the purchase for ₹1,601 crore and waived ₹298 crore in unrealised income and interest dues owed by AIAHL. The Centre granted final approval in March 2024. PTI

IndiGo to stop flights to Manchester

New Delhi: IndiGo on Tuesday announced discontinuing its flights to Manchester from August 31, less than a year after launching the services, amid escalating operational costs and airspace constraints.

IndiGo would also be returning one Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft leased from Norse Atlantic Airways following the decision to stop Manchester flights.

Currently, three weekly and four weekly services are operated to Manchester (UK) from Delhi and Mumbai, respectively. The flights started in July 2025. Once these flights are discontinued from August 31, there will be no direct air connectivity between Indian cities and Manchester.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

No clearance, 1st SAS flight after 17 yrs returns mid-way

Manju.V@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: After a gap of 17 years, Scandinavian carrier SAS recommenced flights to India with an early morning landing planned in Mumbai Wednesday, but the inaugural flight had to turn back mid-way over regulatory issues. On Tuesday, flight SK969 departed Copenhagen for Mumbai around 8.30pm, about four hours behind schedule, according to Flightradar24, a flight-tracking site. About four hours into the flight, the A330 aircraft was in Azerbaijan skies when it turned back to Copenhagen.

"The Copenhagen-Mumbai flight returned to Copenhagen after the final approval expected from the authorities was not issued as anticipated," said the airline in a statement. "SAS completed all necessary operational and regulatory preparations for the launch following several months of planning and coor-

dination. Based on ongoing discussions with the relevant authorities, SAS had every expectation that the remaining formal approval would be finalised while the flight was en route. As the approval was not finalised as anticipated, the flight could not continue as planned," it added.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation did not respond to a query sent by **TOI**.

"Our immediate focus is on supporting affected passengers and securing the remaining approval is obtained to commence service as soon as possible," the airline said, adding that they're ready to begin operations and expect the service to begin within the next couple of days once the formal nod is issued. "The service marks SAS' return to India after 17 years and is a key addition to our network, strengthening connectivity between Scandinavia and one of the world's fastest-growing markets," it added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

4 JUNE 2026

Cabinet clears ₹10K-cr package to shield airlines from fuel price surge

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 10,000 crore fuel price stabilisation scheme for airlines, extending financial support to state-owned oil marketing companies to moderate aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices and cushion carriers from cost pressures arising from the ongoing West Asia crisis.

A one-time, interest-free advance of up to Rs 10,000 crore will be provided to oil marketing companies (OMCs), enabling them to supply jet fuel to scheduled Indian air-

NOD TO 4 NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved four major national highway projects worth ₹24,200 crore, aimed at reducing travel time and boosting economic activity across Odisha, Telangana, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh
- Among the key approvals is the new coastal highway from Rameshwar to Paradeep in Odisha at a cost of ₹8,300.79 crore

lines at a fixed price for both domestic and international operations. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the government has capped the ATF price for domestic airlines at Rs 75.6 per litre, significantly below the current market price.

While the cap is expected to provide immediate relief to air-

lines, it could increase financial pressure on refiners and fuel retailers, which will be compensated through the stabilisation fund. The support mechanism comes as international jet fuel prices have surged amid geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

Vaishnaw said international ATF prices have risen nearly 2.5 times, from Rs 60.5 per litre

in March to about Rs 142 per litre in May. Fuel accounts for roughly 40 per cent of airline operating costs and can rise to as much as 60 per cent during periods of extreme price volatility, making it one of the industry's largest cost components.

Under the approved framework, OMCs will be compensated whenever international import parity prices exceed a benchmark level determined by the government. Once global fuel prices moderate, the support provided to OMCs will be recovered and returned to the Consolidated Fund of India through a defined true-up mechanism.