

AAI to deploy 100 people to guide passengers at airport

This follows complaints over difficulty in finding the cab-boarding point. The guides will be posted outside the T1 and T4 Domestic Terminals, T2 International Terminal, and the car parking facility

PORT CALL

Sunitha Sekar

CHENNAI

Nearly 100 people are to be deployed to guide passengers who arrive at the Chennai airport.

The airport has been facing severe backlash over passengers' struggles to find and access the cab-boarding point, among other places, for months now.

Officials of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) said they had already floated bids to hire the manpower, and that the staff members would join the services within a few weeks.

The staff members, wearing uniforms with badges indicating that they are there to assist the passengers, will be present outside the T1 and T4 Dom-



Much-needed assistance: The staff members will also help senior citizens and persons with disabilities board cabs. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

estic Terminals, the T2 International Terminal, and at the multi-level car parking facility, an official said.

"Be it assisting senior citizens, pregnant women or disabled passengers in boarding the cab outside the terminal or providing directions to other passengers, the staff members will offer any necessary support to ensure that they

can seamlessly exit the airport," he added.

Inadequate signage

Devaraj Damodaram, a resident of Chromepet, recollected the hassle he had faced when he landed at the Chennai airport some months ago. "When I exited the domestic terminal, I felt lost and couldn't find my way out. The signage

was inadequate. Finally, I had to get the help of my co-passenger to leave the airport. While this is a good initiative, the AAI should also focus on strengthening the signage," he said.

On social media platforms like 'X', some passengers have flagged the need for better wayfinding at the airport. Arun Ganesh, a passenger, said: "At Chennai Airport T2 upper level and I'm lost wondering how to get to the Metro station right in front without asking anyone. Neither is there a direct footpath nor a single sign. Seems like there is a connection from the ground floor, but no obvious way to go down either. Took the road, but that's not getting me there. At least I'm getting a good look at how this Metro is connected, but I still don't see how I can make it inside."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

3 SEPTEMBER 2026

100 new airports to be built in India over next 10 years: Aviation Minister Naidu

AHMEDABAD, Sept 2: India will build 100 new airports in the next 10 years under the Centre's regional connectivity scheme UDAN with an outlay of Rs 30,000 crore, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu has said.

He inaugurated India's third 'hub & spoke' operations from Ahmedabad airport on Tuesday.

"While there were 74 airports in 2014, today we can proudly say that India's map features 166 airports. Going from 74 to 166 set a record for the country. Over the last 12 years, we completed work

on a new airport or a new terminal roughly every 40 days," Naidu said at the event.

"This 12-year journey was merely the beginning for the Ministry of Civil Aviation. We have expanded upon the revolutionary changes brought to the air travel sector by the 'UDAN' scheme over the past decade. Looking ahead, we plan to spend approximately Rs 30,000 crore over the next 10 years to build 100 new airports," he said.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March this year approved the

launch and implementation of the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Modified UDAN - for a period of 10 years from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 with a total outlay of Rs 28,840 crore with the budgetary support of the Centre.

Naidu was here on Tuesday to inaugurate India's third 'hub & spoke' operations from Ahmedabad airport, aimed at connecting passengers seamlessly to international destinations. The strategy is meant to transform the country into a global aviation hub by providing seamless international

connectivity to passengers from across the country through Indian hub airports.

The Union minister said civil aviation is the fastest-growing sector in the country, and the public demand is no longer just for a railway station or a train stop but for an airport in their own town.

"And this demand is not limited to major cities - it comes from tier-2 and tier-3 cities, Himalayan regions, remote areas, and islands like Lakshadweep and Andaman. Everywhere, people are asking when an airport will be construct-

ed in their area. This is the voice of modern India. We are listening to it, formulating policies accordingly, and moving forward," he said.

While India is rapidly expanding its airport network, the real challenge lies not in the construction but in how effectively these airports are connected - both domestically and internationally. "When addressing the need for convenience, we recognised the immense potential of the 'hub-and-spoke' model," he stated.

Explaining the model, Naidu said that typically, international flights

operate from major cities. For instance, Delhi offers direct connectivity to 54 destinations. "However, aspirations have grown; people now want international flights to start from existing airports and desire better domestic connectivity from airports that already handle international traffic. By integrating these needs, we initiated the hub-and-spoke model," he said.

The scheme started with Varanasi and Amritsar, and the response from there was very positive, he noted.

Having launched operations at

two locations, Ahmedabad was the ideal choice because the NRI community from the city and Gujarat is spread across the globe, and the ministry was receiving constant requests for connectivity from this region.

"I am confident that the figures we see here will surpass those of any other airport in the country operating on such a large-scale 'hub-and-spoke' model. We are moving forward with a focus on passenger convenience, and you will see the results of this transformation firsthand," Naidu said. - PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

3 SEPTEMBER 2026

AVIATION | BOOST

Revanth pushes Adilabad, Mamunur airports to boost tourism, connectivity

Centre urged to speed up airport development

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 2

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday urged civil aviation minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu to expedite the development of the Adilabad and Mamunur (Warangal) airports in Telangana and sought the Centre's support for strengthening air connectivity and aviation infrastructure in state.

The Chief Minister also sought the Centre's cooperation in promoting heli-tourism in Telangana through helicopter services, stating that the initiative would provide a further boost to the state's tourism sector and improve connectivity to tourist destinations. Civil Aviation officials informed Revanth Reddy that a report on the proposed landing of seaplanes in Hussainsagar

would be submitted to the Telangana government within two weeks. The proposal is aimed at exploring new modes of connectivity and adding another attraction to Hyderabad's tourism infrastructure.

He made these requests during a meeting with Ram Mohan Naidu at the Union civil aviation ministry's office in Delhi. The Chief Minister informed Union minister that Telangana

government had completed and handed over the required land acquisition for the development of Mamunur airport.

Ram Mohan Naidu informed Chief Minister that tenders for Mamunur airport works would be invited within two weeks and finalised by December, with foundation stone for the project scheduled to be laid in the same month. On Adilabad airport, Revanth

Reddy sought establishment of both cargo and passenger terminals, besides Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facilities, to make airport a comprehensive aviation hub. He also requested the Union minister to convene a joint meeting of the defence and civil aviation ministries to finalise the runway-related issues at Adilabad airport and facilitate commencement of the works at the earliest.

Revanth Reddy stressed importance of developing aviation infrastructure in different parts of state to support tourism, trade, industry and regional connectivity. The proposed facilities at Adilabad, Mamunur are expected to strengthen air connectivity. MPs Suresh Shetkar and M. Anil Kumar Yadav, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, CMO secretary Manicka Raj and others attended.

Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

3 SEPTEMBER 2026

Akasa gets two Boeing 737 Max aircraft at Navi Mumbai airport within 48 hrs

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

Akasa Air took delivery of two brand-new Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft at the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) within a 48-hour window. This marked the carrier's 43rd aircraft delivery and third at Mumbai Metropolitan Region's second aviation hub.

The airline inducted its 43rd aircraft, registered as VT-YBT, on Wednesday morning at 4.21am. This arrival followed closely on the heels of its sister aircraft, VT-YBS, which touched down at NMIA on Tuesday morning at 4.33am. The induction of VT-YBT marks Akasa Air's twelfth aircraft delivery in 2026.

VT-YBR completed an extensive three-leg ferry flight from Boeing's Boeing Field facility in Seattle, USA, crossing three continents and



multiple time zones. The aircraft flew from Seattle to Reykjavik in Iceland on August 28, then to Egypt's Cairo on August 31 and finally landed at NMIA on Wednesday morning.

The feat started on August 20 when Akasa Air's 41st aircraft – a Boeing 737 MAX 8 registered as VT-YBR – became the first-ever commercial aircraft delivered directly from the factory to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region's second airport.

Akasa Air is said to be leveraging NMIA's newly commissioned infrastructure to absorb its rapid fleet expansion. The airport, which inaugurated international passenger services on July 15 and dedicated freighter operations on August 16, had previously hosted domestic and international proving flights. However, Akasa Air's direct factory acceptances mark the first time a commercial airline has used NMIA as a primary induction base.

Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

3 SEPTEMBER 2026

Ahmedabad airport third in India to get hub-and-spoke international flight services

FPJ News Service

AHMEDABAD

International travel from Gujarat is set for a major makeover with Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport becoming the third airport in India, after Amritsar and Varanasi, to launch international services under the Hub-and-Spoke model.

The initiative, launched by the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, is expected to save passengers time and reduce the hassle of repeated customs, immigration and baggage procedures while connecting Ahmedabad travellers to around 15 international destinations through Delhi.

Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu said the initiative was aligned with the Prime Minister's vision of making India a global aviation hub.

"Passengers will be able to complete baggage checks and immigration procedures at Ahmedabad itself. They will not have to repeat these processes



while changing flights at Delhi," Naidu said, describing the model as a major step towards smoother international travel.

Under the Hub-and-Spoke system, passengers from smaller cities are brought to a central airport or 'hub', from where they connect to international flights. Customs and immigration formalities, along with baggage handling, are completed at the originating airport, allowing passengers to avoid repeating these procedures at the connecting hub.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said the facility

would directly benefit the state's large NRI community and international travellers.

"The launch of Hub-and-Spoke services from Ahmedabad will provide international travellers from Gujarat with direct 'Ease of Travel' benefits," Patel said.

He highlighted Gujarat's expanding aviation infrastructure, including aircraft leasing and financing activities at GIFT City and the upcoming greenfield airport at Dholera. Gujarat currently has 19 operational airports, including three international airports, officials said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

Navi Mumbai Int'l Airport hits 3 million passenger mark

MUMBAI: Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), promoted by Adani Group and CIDCO, on Thursday said it has handled 3 million passengers since starting commercial operations last December, establishing the greenfield facility as one of India's most promising new aviation gateways.

The milestone was achieved due to NMIA's strong operational performance & commitment to passenger service standards, the airport operator said. NMIA started domestic commercial operations on December 25, 2025, while the commercial international passenger services commenced on July 15 this year.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026



Navi Mumbai Airport hits 3 mn passenger mark

NEW DELHI: Navi Mumbai International Airport, promoted by Adani Group and CIDCO, on Thursday said it has handled 3 million passengers since starting commercial operations last December, establishing greenfield facility as one of India's most promising new aviation gateways.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

3 SEPTEMBER 2026

Malda airport

■ **MALDA:** Englishbazar MLA Amlan Bhaduri, along with senior Malda district administration officials, inspected the defunct Malda airport on Wednesday. Bhaduri said the airport would soon become operational under the Centre's 'UDAN' or the regional connectivity scheme and the state was taking initiatives in that direction.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

3 SEPTEMBER 2026

Tiger attack leaves fisherman critical

SANJAY MANDAL AND
DEBRAJ MITRA

Calcutta: A fisherman in the Sundarbans was dragged deep into the forest by a Bengal tiger on Wednesday morning but was rescued by his companions, who chased the animal into the jungle.

Ajit Mollah, 33, has been admitted to the trauma care unit of SSKM Hospital with deep wounds to his neck and left shoulder.

Doctors have told his family that Mollah has also suffered spinal cord injuries in the attack and that his condition is critical.

Ajit, a resident of Maipith Nagenabad village in the Kultali block of South 24-Parganas, ventured into the Kalibera forest on

Tuesday to catch fish. He was accompanied by five other fishermen on a boat.

On Wednesday morning, he was attacked by the tiger.

"The big fishing nets had got tangled. So Ajit and another person were standing on the bank, untangling the nets. It was around 7am," said Ansar Mollah, 38, a cousin of Ajit who lives in the same village.

"Suddenly, we heard a splash in the water and Ajit crying out. The tiger silently came out of the forest and pounced on him," Ansar said.

"The tiger started dragging him into the forest. We jumped out of the boat and followed it into the forest," he said.

As the tiger continued to drag Ajit deeper into the

forest, the five men followed. "We were shouting at the top of our voices and running behind the tiger. After some time, we found that the tiger had left Ajit and fled. He was lying unconscious," Ansar said.

The fishermen travelled for one and a half hours by river to reach their village.

Ajit was taken to a local government hospital, where he received primary treatment before being referred to SSKM Hospital.

"Doctors have said his condition is critical. His wife, four children and parents are anxiously awaiting news of his recovery," said Rezaul Gazi, a neighbour.

Ansar said they had been fishing in the forest since they were 18, but this was his first encounter with a

tiger. "We had valid passes to enter the forest," he said.

"We were informed about the incident on Wednesday morning, but the exact location and details are awaited. We are trying to contact the fishermen who accompanied him. We are also seeking the help of Maipith Coastal police station to conduct the investigation," said an official of the South 24-Parganas forest division.

"Prima facie, they did not have the permit to enter the forest," the official said.

"We are demanding compensation of ₹4 lakh for Ajit, as per the directive of the Supreme Court," said Mithun Mondal, assistant secretary of the Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR), South 24-Parganas.



The stretch of the Kalibera forest in the Sundarbans where the tiger attacked fisherman Ajit Mollah on Wednesday



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

पायलट की तबीयत बिगड़ी, विमान डायवर्ट

नई दिल्ली। दोहा से बंगलूरु आ रहे इंडिगो विमान के पायलट की तबीयत खराब होने के बाद फ्लाइट मस्कट डायवर्ट करनी पड़ी। घटना बृहस्पतिवार की है। मस्कट पहुंचने पर डॉक्टरों की टीम ने पायलट की जांच की। एक वैकल्पिक विमान और कू की नई टीम का इंतजाम किया गया। एजेंसी

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

Civil Aviation Minister asks aircraft manufacturers to speed up deliveries

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Thursday urged global aircraft manufacturers to speed up deliveries to India, saying the country has built a large airport network and needs aircraft to meet the growing demand for regional connectivity.

Speaking at the signing ceremony of Fly91's firm order for 40 ATR 72-600 aircraft, Naidu said there was a "huge demand" for aircraft and asked ATR to deliver the planes as soon as possible.

At present, India-based airlines have outstanding aircraft deliveries of around 1,600 aircraft, with a large part of these expected to be delivered over the next decade.

The order, valued at around \$1 billion, will take FLY91's fleet from six aircraft currently to more than 60 aircraft over the coming



Civil Aviation Minister
K Ram Mohan Naidu

years. "Right now the target is to deploy these 40 aircraft by 2030, but I would like to request ATR to speed up those deliveries because there is a huge demand," Naidu said. At the same event, he called for aircraft deliveries from Airbus to be expedited, telling Airbus India and South Asia President and Managing Director Jürgen Westermeier that India needs more aircraft to support its expanding airport network and regional connectivity.

Besides, Naidu said the

scale of the Fly91 order demonstrates the "enormous potential" in India's aviation market.

Accordingly, he said the government's next phase of regional aviation development would focus on helping regional airlines consolidate and encouraging more airlines to enter the market.

The Minister said India currently has 166 airports and plans to develop another 100 airports over the next 10 years, with a focus on connecting currently unserved hinterland areas, including the Himalayas and the North East.

PASSENGERS SURGE

Furthermore, he said the number of daily air passengers has doubled over the past decade, from around 2-2.5 lakh to almost 5 lakh, underlining the need for a broader aviation ecosystem covering different types of aircraft and markets.

Meanwhile, Naidu cited

that India would need a mix of larger aircraft for high-demand markets and smaller aircraft for shorter routes and emerging aviation centres.

The government has also earmarked ₹28,840 crore under the modified UDAN scheme, aimed at strengthening regional connectivity.

Additionally, Naidu said the government wants to ensure that airports are accessible to people within a reasonable distance, while alternative modes such as seaplanes and helicopters could serve areas where terrain and land constraints make conventional airports difficult. He said seaplane operations are also expected to begin soon, with Kochi-Lakshadweep among the first proposed connections.

Meanwhile, Naidu invited ATR to consider setting up aircraft manufacturing in India, saying the government would be willing to provide support.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

Govt pushing SpiceJet to address financial issues: Minister Naidu

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The government is pushing SpiceJet to step up its operations and address its financial difficulties, said Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Thursday.

Speaking on the sidelines of an industry event, he said that the airline had assured the government that it will improve its operations soon.

At present, the airline operates only 11 aircraft. It has finalised lease agreements with three aircraft operators to induct 20 aircraft, comprising 15 Boeing and five Airbus aircraft, under damp and wet lease agreements.

The aircraft are scheduled to join the fleet in phases between mid-October and mid-November, ahead of the winter travel peak, beginning with the Durga Puja period.

With the additional aircraft, SpiceJet plans to ramp up operations to around 200 daily flights during the winter schedule.

HIGHER CAPACITY

The five Airbus aircraft will also include the A321 variant, which offers higher seating capacity and will allow the airline to deploy more seats on routes witnessing strong demand.

On the recent study conducted regarding the deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at

The Minister said that the airline had assured the government that it will improve its operations soon

airports, the Minister said the exercise is not about removing personnel but reorganising the structure.

As the airport network has increased, the government is looking at how to "re-spread" and "re-organise" CISF and, if possible, include the State police machinery to secure airports, said Naidu.

Regarding the probe into the incident that occurred onboard the Air India Phuket-Delhi flight, the Minister said that the investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is still going on, and a preliminary report has to be released.

He said the report has to be based on facts and thoroughly verified before it comes out.

On airfares, Naidu said the MoCA had a tariff monitoring unit, which keeps a constant watch on routes witnessing seasonally high demand.

According to Naidu, whenever an extraordinary circumstance arises, the government undertakes capping, while internationally there is a dynamic pricing model for airfares.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

FLY91 places \$1 billion order for 40 ATR 72-600 aircraft

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 3 September

Goa-based airline FLY91 on Thursday placed a firm order for 40 ATR 72-600 aircraft worth around \$1 billion, marking the largest ATR order globally by a regional airline.

It currently operates six ATR 72-600 aircraft. On Thursday, the carrier said it planned to lease another six to eight aircraft before the new aircraft begin arriving and expected its fleet to reach more than 60 aircraft over the coming years as it expands its network to smaller cities with limited or zero air connectivity.

European aircraft manufacturer ATR is a 50:50 joint venture

between French aerospace company Airbus and Italian defence giant Leonardo. The ATR 72-600 is a turboprop aircraft, meaning it uses propeller-driven engines rather than the jet engines used by larger commercial aircraft. Its



lower operating costs and ability to use shorter runways make it suited to regional routes.

"FLY91 was built on a singular conviction that India needs a dedicated regional airline... We have grown steadily and consistently since our launch, and this 40-aircraft order becomes the foundation for our next chapter," Manoj Chacko, founder, managing director, and chief executive officer of FLY91, said.

परेशानी • आसमान से हर 12वीं फ्लाइट 'गायब', जुलाई-सितंबर के लिए 2,73,549 उड़ानें, ये 8.5% कम ईंधन महंगा, यात्री कम... 25 हजार उड़ानें घटीं

भास्कर न्यूज | नई दिल्ली

इस महीने देश में ही कहीं या विदेश जाने के लिए सामान्य से कम फ्लाइट उपलब्ध होंगी। वजह साफ है, पश्चिम एशिया में जारी तनाव, लगातार महंगे होते विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) और यात्रियों की घटती मांग ने देश की एयरलाइन इंडस्ट्री पर असर दिखाना शुरू कर दिया है। विमानन कंपनियों को जुलाई-सितंबर तिमाही में अपना नेटवर्क सिकोड़ने पर मजबूर होना पड़ा।

ग्लोबल ट्रेवल डेटा कंपनी ओएजी (एविएशन शेड्यूलिंग एंड मार्केट डेटा फर्म) के विश्लेषण के मुताबिक, आठ भारतीय एयरलाइनों ने इस तिमाही में कुल 2,73,549 उड़ानें शेड्यूल की हैं। यह पिछले साल की समान अवधि के 2,98,939 उड़ानों से 8.5 फीसदी यानी करीब 25,000 कम हैं। यानी घरेलू आसमान से हर 12वीं फ्लाइट गायब रहेगी। घरेलू मार्गों पर 8.4 फीसदी और अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूट पर फ्लाइट्स में 9.9 फीसदी की कटौती की गई है। सबसे तेज गिरावट जुलाई में आई, जब घरेलू शेड्यूल 10 फीसदी और अंतरराष्ट्रीय शेड्यूल 14 फीसदी तक गिर गया। अगस्त में हल्की रिकवरी के बाद सितंबर में फिर कमी आई है क्योंकि इन दिनों यात्रियों की मांग भी कम है।

उड़ानों में कटौती क्यों...एयरलाइन की ऑपरेशन लागत में एटीएफ की हिस्सेदारी 40%, ये 10% महंगा हो चुका



लागत बढ़ रही
जुलाई से लगातार
महंगा हुआ ऑपरेशन

एयरलाइन की ऑपरेशन लागत में एटीएफ की हिस्सेदारी 40% तक होती है। पश्चिम एशिया संकट गहराने के बीच इस महीने (सितंबर) यह 10.25% महंगा हो चुका है। इस बीच जुलाई में यात्रियों की संख्या करीब 5% घट गई।

महीना एटीएफ की कीमत

जून 115
जुलाई 110
अगस्त 115
1 सितंबर 121.28

नोट: कीमत स्पष्ट/लैटर

टाइट शेड्यूल: देश की 8 में से 7 एयरलाइंस ने फ्लाइट 60% तक घटाई, सिर्फ अकासा एयर ने 2.3% बढ़ाई

एयरलाइन	जुलाई-सितंबर 2025	जुलाई-सितंबर 2026	कमी/बढ़ोतरी
इंडिगो	1,75,757	1,67,620	8,137 (4.60%)
एअर इंडिया	51,204	45,459	5,745 (11.2%)
एआई एक्सप्रेस	38,019	33,663	4,356 (11.5%)
अकासा एअर	12,647	12,937	290 (2.30%)
स्पाइसजेट	8,871	5,751	3,120 (35.2%)
अलायंस एअर	6,388	2,535	3,853 (60.3%)
स्टार एयर	4,553	4,296	257 (5.60%)
इंडियावन एअर	1,500	1,288	212 (14.10%)

ट्रेंड: दक्षिणी शहरों के लिए उड़ानों में सबसे ज्यादा कटौती

रूट	उड़ानें घटीं	रूट	उड़ानें घटीं
दिल्ली-मुंबई	2,606	हैदराबाद-तिरुपति	1,318
मुंबई-कोच्चि	827	चेन्नई-हैदराबाद	1,110
बंगलुरु-कोच्चि	620	बंगलुरु-हैदराबाद	1,014
बंगलुरु-पुणे	517	चेन्नई-मद्रास	946
दिल्ली-कोच्चि	481	हैदराबाद-विशाखापत्तनम	942

स्रोत: ओएजी, उड़ानों की संख्या जुलाई-सितंबर के लिए

अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्ग: ब्रिटेन के लिए सीटें 25% बढ़ीं, मलेशिया के लिए 22% घटीं

अगस्त के लिए ओएजी के सीट-क्षमता डेटा के मुताबिक, मुंबई-दुबई रूट सालाना 8% गिरावट के बावजूद भारत का सबसे व्यस्त अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूट बना रहा। सऊदी अरब जाने वाली फ्लाइट्स की सीट क्षमता 7% बढ़कर 3.31 लाख, ब्रिटेन के लिए 25% बढ़कर 2.20 लाख हो गई। वहीं थाईलैंड के लिए 21%, मलेशिया के लिए 22%, श्रीलंका के लिए 13% और सिंगापुर के लिए 10% सीटें घटी हैं।

जुलाई में फ्लाइट्स सबसे ज्यादा घटीं

जुलाई: सबसे बड़ी गिरावट, घरेलू उड़ानें 10%, अंतरराष्ट्रीय 14% घटीं। अगस्त: जुलाई की तुलना में ज्यादा उड़ानें- मामूली रिकवरी। सितंबर: 2,923 उड़ानें घटीं, इंडिगो ने 2,158, एअर इंडिया ने 875 घटाई।

औसत किराया 15 महीने में 20.5% बढ़ा

• डीजीसीए के मुताबिक, इस साल जुलाई में घरेलू यात्री घटकर 120 लाख रह गए, जो जुलाई 2025 में 126.05 लाख थे। • 72 घरेलू रूटों पर औसत किराया मार्च 2025 से जून 2026 के बीच करीब 20.5% बढ़ गया। • रेंटिंग एजेंसी इक्रा के मुताबिक, जुलाई में यात्री ट्रेफिक 4.8% और क्षमता तैनाती 7.8% घटी; अप्रैल-जुलाई में कुल ट्रेफिक ग्रोथ सिर्फ 0.1% रही।

कंपनियां ऊड़े
फैसले करने के
लिए मजबूर

इंडिगो के प्रबंध निदेशक राहुल भाटिया ने कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया के संघर्ष से रूट बाधित हुए और ईंधन कीमतें बढ़ी हैं। इससे एयरलाइनों को कुछ कड़े फैसले करने पड़े। मई में एयर इंडिया ने भी एयरस्पेस प्रतिबंधों और रिकॉर्ड ईंधन कीमतों का हवाला देकर जून-अगस्त के बीच कुछ अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूट घटाने का ऐलान किया था।





Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

स्पाइसजेट का 20 नए विमानों के लिए एग्जीमेंट फाइनल

गुरुग्राम। विंटर शेड्यूल से पहले स्पाइसजेट ने अपनी उड़ानों का विस्तार करने की तैयारी कर ली है। एयरलाइन ने 20 विमानों को शामिल करने के लिए तीन एयरक्राफ्ट ऑपरेटर्स के साथ लीज एग्जीमेंट फाइनल कर लिया है। इनमें 15 बोइंग और 5 एयरबस विमान शामिल हैं, जिन्हें डेम्प और वेट लीज एग्जीमेंट के तहत लिया जा रहा है। कंपनी ने बताया कि ये विमान अक्टूबर के मध्य से नवंबर के मध्य के बीच चरणबद्ध तरीके से बेड़े में शामिल होंगे। यह समय दुर्गा पूजा से शुरू होने वाले विंटर ट्रेवल पीक से ठीक पहले का है। इन विमानों के आने से स्पाइसजेट के घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय नेटवर्क में क्षमता बढ़ेगी और सर्दियों के साथ-साथ अगले साल के पीक समर सीजन में भी अतिरिक्त क्षमता मिलेगी। इन अतिरिक्त विमानों के साथ, स्पाइसजेट विंटर शेड्यूल के दौरान अपने ऑपरेशन को बढ़ाकर लगभग 200 डेली फ्लाइट्स तक ले जाने की योजना बना रही है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

2 SEPTEMBER 2026

विमानों का ईंधन फिर महंगा एविएशन सेक्टर पर बढ़ा दबाव जुलाई के मुकाबले 11.28 रुपए प्रति लीटर महंगा हुआ ईंधन

नवज्योति, जयपुर। एविएशन सेक्टर के लिए एक बार फिर मुश्किलें बढ़ गई हैं। विमानों में इस्तेमाल होने वाले एविएशन टरबाइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में लगातार दूसरे माह बढ़ोतरी की गई है। मंगलवार से एटीएफ की दर में 6 रुपए से अधिक प्रति लीटर की वृद्धि हुई है। वहीं जुलाई की तुलना में अब एटीएफ करीब 11.28 रुपए प्रति लीटर महंगा हो गया है। ईंधन की कीमतों में लगातार बढ़ोतरी का सीधा असर एयरलाइंस के संचालन खर्च पर पड़ेगा। विमानन कंपनियों के लिए एटीएफ सबसे प्रमुख खर्चों में शामिल है। ऐसे में

ईंधन महंगा होने से घरेलू फ्लाइट संचालन की लागत बढ़ना तय माना जा रहा है। इसका असर यात्रियों पर भी पड़ सकता है। लागत बढ़ने की स्थिति में एयरलाइंस कुछ रूट्स पर फ्लाइट्स की संख्या कम कर सकती हैं। वहीं हवाई किराए में भी बढ़ोतरी की संभावना है। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट समेत देश भर के हवाई अड्डों पर इसका असर दिखाई दे सकता है। पहले से परिचालन लागत और प्रतिस्पर्धा का सामना कर रहे एविएशन सेक्टर के लिए एटीएफ की बढ़ती कीमतें नई चुनौती बन गई हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

2 SEPTEMBER 2026

मुंबई के लिए जयपुर से 3 नई फ्लाइटें शुरू

नवज्योति, जयपुर। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से मुंबई के लिए हवाई कनेक्टिविटी मंगलवार से और मजबूत हो गई है। यात्रियों की सुविधा के लिए मुंबई रूट पर 3 नई फ्लाइट्स शुरू हो रही हैं। जयपुर और मुंबई के बीच योजना संचालित होने वाली फ्लाइट्स की संख्या 5 से बढ़कर 8 हो जाएगी। वहीं जयपुर से दिल्ली के लिए भी एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने नई फ्लाइट शुरू की है। नई उड़ानों में एक एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट शामिल है। यह फ्लाइट मुंबई से रात 11.10 बजे जयपुर पहुंचेगी और अगले दिन सुबह 6 बजे जयपुर से मुंबई के लिए रवाना होगी। वहीं एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की नई फ्लाइट सुबह 8 बजे मुंबई से जयपुर पहुंचेगी और महज 35 मिनट बाद सुबह 8.35 बजे जयपुर से मुंबई के लिए रवाना होगी। इसके अलावा एयर इंडिया की एक अन्य फ्लाइट मुंबई से शाम 6.50 बजे जयपुर पहुंचेगी। यह फ्लाइट जयपुर से शाम 7.40 बजे मुंबई के लिए रवाना होगी। इससे जयपुर-मुंबई रूट पर हवाई कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ने के साथ यात्रियों की सुविधा मिलने की उम्मीद है। जयपुर से दिल्ली के लिए मंगलवार से नई फ्लाइट शुरू हुई है। यह फ्लाइट जयपुर से शाम 5.55 बजे दिल्ली जाएगी।

अब योजना 8 उड़ानें

फ्लाइट्स में बोर्डिंग पास पर इमीग्रेशन स्टांपिंग नहीं

नवज्योति, जयपुर। इंटरनेशनल हवाई यात्रियों के लिए मंगलवार से एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव लागू हो गया है। केंद्र सरकार की गाइडलाइन के तहत अब अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों से यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों के बोर्डिंग पास पर इमीग्रेशन स्टांपिंग नहीं की जाएगी। रात 12 बजे के बाद संचालित होने वाली फ्लाइट्स से यह व्यवस्था लागू कर दी गई है। अब इमीग्रेशन प्रक्रिया के दौरान यात्रियों के बोर्डिंग पास पर मुहर लगाने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। इससे यात्रियों की प्रक्रिया में लगने वाला अतिरिक्त समय कम होगा और एयरपोर्ट पर इमीग्रेशन क्लॉकर्स की प्रक्रिया को अधिक सुविधाजनक बनाने में मदद मिलेगी। हालांकि यात्रियों के पासपोर्ट पर इमीग्रेशन स्टांपिंग की व्यवस्था बचावत रहेगी। यानी पासपोर्ट पर इमीग्रेशन अधिकारी की ओर से की जाने वाली आवश्यक स्टांपिंग पहले की तरह जारी रहेगी। बदलाव केवल बोर्डिंग पास पर की जाने वाली स्टांपिंग को लेकर किया गया है। नई व्यवस्था का उद्देश्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों की प्रक्रिया को सरल और समयबद्ध बनाना है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

SpiceJet to Add 20 Leased Aircraft

Our Bureau

Mumbai: SpiceJet is bringing in 20 leased aircraft ahead of winter travel season, a move that could substantially increase its flying capacity.

But the expansion comes at a difficult point for the airline, which is still dealing with tight liquidity, grounded aircraft and a costly legal dispute with KAL Airways and Kalanithi Maran.

The airline said Thursday it has finalised agreements with three aircraft operators for 15 Boeing and five Airbus aircraft. The planes are scheduled to be inducted in phases between mid-October and mid-November, ahead of the festive travel rush.

SpiceJet is targeting about 200 daily flights during the winter schedule, with the added capacity also expected to support the peak next year.

The aircraft will come through a mix of wet and damp-lease arrangements, giving SpiceJet a faster way to add capacity without buying aircraft outright.

The Airbus additions include an A321, a higher-capacity narrow-body aircraft that can give the airline more seats on routes where demand is strong.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

Air India close to securing ₹10,000 crore from Tata, SIA

AIR INDIA IS close to securing ₹10,000 crore in financial aid from its owners Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, according to people familiar with the matter, as the carrier grapples with the fallout from a turbulent year.

The money is conditional on reaching certain performance milestones and will be paid out in instalments, said the people. The support would be proportional to shareholding, the people said, with Tata Sons owning 74.9% of Air India and Singapore Airlines the remainder.

Air India, Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines (SIA) didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. Air India is coming off a difficult period marked by the deadly crash of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, the closing of Pakistani airspace to Indian carriers, and the West Asia conflict that's disrupted travel and driven up fuel costs. Air India reported a record loss of ₹22,000 crore in FY26.

Chief Executive Officer-designate Tewolde Gebremariam, who officially joins the carrier later this month, seeks to bolster Air India's cargo business and curb plane maintenance problems. —BLOOMBERG

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

AVIATION DEMAND SURGES ACROSS PASSENGER & CARGO SEGMENTS

FLY91 places \$1-bn order for 40 aircraft

● Largest ATR plane order globally by a regional airline

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, September 3

REGIONAL AIRLINE FLY91 on Thursday placed an order for 40 ATR 72-600 aircraft worth nearly \$1 billion, in what the company described as the largest ATR order globally by a regional carrier.

The delivery of these planes will start from the end of 2027 and is expected to be completed over five years. The deal is expected to significantly expand the Goa-based carrier's fleet as it looks to widen its network across the country.

Two-and-a-half years into commercial operations, FLY91 currently operates six ATR 72-600 aircraft and more than 280 weekly flights to 12 cities. Its 13th destination — Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh — is scheduled to commence later this month. The airline targets expanding its fleet to more than 60 aircraft over the coming years.

Manoj Chacko, founder, MD and CEO, FLY91, said the order would provide the foundation for the airline's next phase of



(From left) FLY91 Chairman Harsha Raghavan, ATR CEO Nathalie Tarnaud Laude, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu and FLY91 MD & CEO Manoj Chacko at a ceremony to sign aircraft purchase agreement in New Delhi on Thursday

expansion. "FLY91 was built on a singular conviction that India needs a dedicated regional airline focused on connecting emerging cities directly and efficiently. We have grown steadily and consistently since our launch, and this 40-aircraft order becomes the foundation for our next chapter," he said. The airline has operated more than 15,000 flights since its launch.

The order comes as the government has announced the UDAN 2.0 framework to provide further impetus to regional

air connectivity. Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said regional connectivity remained a priority and pointed to the government's ₹28,840-crore investment under UDAN 2.0. "Regional connectivity is a fundamental pillar of India's aviation growth story, and bridging smaller cities with major economic hubs remains a national priority," he said. ATR CEO Nathalie Tarnaud Laude said the aircraft's economics and efficiency would support the airline's expansion.

SpiceJet brings in 20 planes to rebuild fleet

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, September 3

SPICEJET HAS FINALISED agreements with three aircraft operators to induct 20 aircraft — 15 Boeing and five Airbus models — under damp and wet lease arrangements. The aircraft are expected to join the fleet in phases between mid-October and mid-November, ahead of the peak winter travel season beginning with Durga Puja.

SpiceJet recently retired its last three Boeing 737-8 MAX aircraft, according to sources. However, its active fleet remained at 11 with the airline inducting three Airbus A320s

on wet lease from the Cambodia-based Sky Angkor Airways.

With the planned additions, SpiceJet is targeting around 200 daily flights during the winter schedule. The five Airbus aircraft will also include A321 variant, which has a higher seating capacity. Debojyoti Maharshi, chief business officer, SpiceJet, said, "We are preparing for the winter season with a clear focus on adding capacity where our passengers need it most.... These aircraft will support our operations through both the winter and summer peak travel periods, while helping bring greater stability to capacity and ease pressure on airfares."

Afcom proposes to buy 4 Boeing freighter jets

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, September 3

CHENNAI-BASED AIR FREIGHT company Afcom Holdings has signed a letter of intent (LoI) with Boeing for the acquisition of up to four Boeing 777-300ER freighter aircraft, as it looks to expand its cargo operations and build long-haul freight capacity. An LoI is a preliminary agreement to negotiate a future firm order.

The proposal was disclosed in an exchange filing. If finalised, the deal would mark the first order for the Boeing 777-300ER by an Indian carrier, Afcom said. The proposed acquisition would mark Afcom's entry into wide-body freighter operations. The airline, which operates narrow-body Boeing 737-800 freighters, recently started a three-times-a-week freighter service between Navi Mumbai and Dubai World Central.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

Airbus finds quality issues on A330neo jet, slowing output



AIRBUS HAS IDENTIFIED quality lapses on a tail section of its

A330neo aircraft, bringing deliveries of the widebody jet to a near halt over the past three months. "The root cause is identified and A330 deliveries have resumed," Airbus said, calling the quality issue "isolated."



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

3 SEPTEMBER 2026

AI Express set to stun with new uniforms

FPJ News Service

MUMBAI

Air India Express rolled out a dynamic new uniform collection for its cabin crew and frontline teams across its entire global network with effect from September 1.

The new uniforms will flaunt textile legacy from India's five states to bring a unified aesthetic to touch-points across airports, flight operations, security and onboard cabins.

According to Air India Express, the new attire extends the airline's popular 'Tales of India' initiative – originally launched through custom aircraft tail art – directly into everyday guest interactions.

Drawing inspiration from traditional Indian weaves and crafts, the collection subtly incorporates motifs inspired by Tamil Nadu's Kanjeevaram,



Himachal Pradesh's Pattu, Gujarat's Patola, Assam's Gamosa and Madhya Pradesh's Bagh handicraft styles.

The silhouettes blend ethnic roots with modern practicality, featuring contemporary adaptations of the classic kurti paired with tailored jackets, scarves, and pocket squares. The new uniform's color scheme centres on the airline's signature Xpress Blue base, highlighted by vibrant Xpress Orange accents to maintain strong brand recognition.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

3 SEPTEMBER 2026

SURAT

Air India Express to resume Surat-Sharjah flight in November

Air India Express is set to resume direct flights between Surat and Sharjah from November, with bookings already open for the service under the upcoming winter schedule. Initially, the airline will operate the service once a week, with the frequency likely to be increased to three or four days a week later, depending on demand. According to the booking schedule, the first direct flight from Surat to Sharjah is scheduled for November 4. Flight IX 275, operated by an Airbus A320, will depart from Surat Airport at 1:25 pm and arrive at Sharjah International Airport at 3:15 pm. The return flight, IX 342, will depart from Sharjah at 5:50 pm and arrive in Surat at 10 pm on the same day. The service will also be operated by an Airbus A320.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

पायलट की तबीयत बिगड़ी, बेंगलुरु की उड़ान मस्कट मेजी

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। दोहा से बेंगलुरु जा रही इंडिगो की उड़ान में एक पायलट की अचानक तबीयत बिगड़ गई। इसके बाद विमान का मार्ग बदलकर मस्कट ले जाया गया। विमान में सवार यात्रियों को आगे की यात्रा के लिए दूसरे विमान और नए चालक दल की व्यवस्था की गई।

विमानन कंपनी के अनुसार, उड़ान संख्या 6-ई 1302 एयरबस ए-321 विमान से संचालित हो रही थी। उड़ान के दौरान चालक दल के एक सदस्य को तत्काल चिकित्सकीय सहायता की जरूरत पड़ी। इसके बाद विमान को मस्कट की ओर मोड़ने का फैसला किया गया।

बीमार चालक दल के सदस्य की चिकित्सकों की टीम ने जांच की: एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया कि मस्कट में विमान उतरने के बाद बीमार चालक दल के सदस्य की चिकित्सकों की टीम ने जांच की। कंपनी ने बताया कि उपचार के बाद उनकी तबीयत अब बेहतर है। इंडिगो ने कहा कि यात्रियों को बेंगलुरु पहुंचाने के लिए दूसरे विमान और नए चालक दल की व्यवस्था कर दी गई है। इसके बाद यात्रा आगे जारी रखी जाएगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

फुकेत विमान हादसे की रिपोर्ट जल्द : नायडू

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने कहा कि एयर इंडिया की फुकेत-दिल्ली उड़ान से जुड़ी घटना की प्रारंभिक जांच रिपोर्ट जल्द जारी होगी।

घटना की जांच विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (एएआईबी) कर रहा है और एएआईबी की रिपोर्ट आने के बाद आगे की कार्रवाई की जाएगी। गुरुवार को आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम के बाद मीडिया से बातचीत में केंद्रीय मंत्री ने यह जानकारी दी। उन्होंने कहा कि जांच में जल्दबाजी नहीं की जा रही है। रिपोर्ट जारी करने से पहले सभी तथ्यों

पूरे साल पायलटों की रैंडम जांच पर विचार



केंद्रीय मंत्री ने बताया कि नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय पायलटों की निगरानी और जांच के नियमों की और सख्त करने पर विचार कर रहा है।

और जांच के निष्कर्षों की पूरी तरह से पुष्टि की जाएगी। उनके मुताबिक, एएआईबी द्वारा काफी बिंदुओं पर जांच पूरी की है और उसका बारीकी से

सभी एयरलाइंस से हर महीने हो रही बैठक

मंत्री ने बताया कि वित्तीय और संवाहन संबंधी समस्याओं पर लगातार बातचीत चल रही है। सरकार हर महीने सभी एयरलाइंस के साथ बैठक कर उनकी समस्याओं और चुनौतियों की समीक्षा करती है। स्याइसजेट के साथ भी नियमित बैठकें हो रही हैं।

विश्लेषण किया जा रहा है। प्रारंभिक रिपोर्ट जल्द जारी होने की उम्मीद है। गत चार अगस्त को फुकेत से दिल्ली आ रही एयर इंडिया की एयरबस

इंडिगो मामले की जांच डीजीसीए कर रहा

इंडिगो विमान की इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग को लेकर केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि मामले की जांच डीजीसीए द्वारा की जा रही है। सितंबर को इंडिगो की फ्लाइट 6ई 2102 गोवा से रवाना हुई, लेकिन एक इंजन में खराबी की सूचना पर एयरपोर्ट पर इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग कराई गई।

ए320 उड़ान की फ्लाइट ओडिशा के ऊपर 300 फीट कम हो गई थी। इस घटना में 20 यात्री और चालक दल के चार सदस्य घायल हुए थे।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

Pilot falls ill, IndiGo flight makes mayday call, diverted to Oman

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A Mayday call signaling a life-threatening emergency was made after one of the pilots of a Doha-Bengaluru IndiGo flight became incapacitated, prompting its diversion to Oman's Muscat on Thursday. Officials said the pilot required urgent medical attention and that flight 6E 1302 landed safely in Muscat, where a medical team attended to the affected crew member.

"The pilot became incapacitated during the flight, and a Mayday emergency was declared," an official said. It was not immediately clear whether the Airbus A320neo aircraft's first officer (co-pilot) or the pilot-in-command needed medical attention.

In a statement, IndiGo said the crew member is feeling better now. It added that an alternate aircraft and a new crew were arranged for the flight from Muscat to Bengaluru. The passengers were being provided refreshments and regular updates in Muscat, it said.

"We regret the inconvenience caused to our customers and are making all efforts to minimise it," the statement said.

The incident came two days after a Goa-Delhi IndiGo flight made an emergency landing shortly after take-off. A person aware of the matter said the issue was related to one of the engines, even as IndiGo has not confirmed it.

It was the second IndiGo flight to face an engine snag in

AI EXPRESS FLIGHT REPORTS SNAG, LANDS AT LUCKNOW AIRPORT

LUCKNOW: An Air India Express flight from Varanasi to Delhi made a precautionary landing at Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow on Thursday morning after a smoke detection alarm allegedly went off in its aft cargo compartment, prompting an emergency response.

All 155 passengers and crew members were safely evacuated, while preliminary checks found no smoke or fire, airport officials said.

Flight IX 1253 took off from Varanasi around 8am and landed in Lucknow at 8.52am.

An Air India Express spokesperson said the crew, prioritising passenger safety, opted for a precautionary diversion to Lucknow after detecting a technical issue. **HTC**

the past month.

On August 11, a Kolkata-Chennai flight made a priority landing after declaring an emergency when its left engine developed problems on approach.

HT on Wednesday reported that "serious findings" were reported as the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) conducted safety audits of four major airlines ahead of a US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) assessment of India's civil aviation regulator oversight scheduled between November 16 and 20.

The DGCA completed the safety audits in August, three months before a five-member FAA team will visit India.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026



IAF pilot who shot down Pak. plane joins regional airline

Former Indian Air Force Group Captain and Vir Chakra awardee Abhinandan Varthaman has joined Goa-based regional airline FLY91 as a pilot, according to sources. Mr. Varthaman, who downed an enemy jet during an aerial combat with Pakistan in 2019 and was held captive for three days in that country, was honoured with the Vir Chakra award in 2021 for displaying an “exceptional sense of duty” during the dogfight, as per the award citation. FLY91, which started flying in March 2024, currently operates a fleet of six ATR 72-600 aircraft. Its two bases are Goa and Hyderabad. Sources said that Mr. Varthaman joined the airline as a pilot in August. PTI

FLY91 inks firm order for 40 ATR aircraft



Flying higher: Fly91 will lease another six to eight aircraft before the new aircraft begin arriving.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Regional airline FLY91 signed a firm order for 40 70-seater ATR 72-600 aircraft, marking the largest ATR order globally by any regional airline. The deal is valued at about \$1 billion though clients negotiate discounts on listed price.

The airline will lease another six to eight aircraft before the new aircraft begin arriving. For the Fran-

co-Italian aircraft maker, a big Indian order comes nine years after IndiGo ordered 50 ATRs in 2017.

The airline, unveiled in 2024, operates 280 weekly flights to 12 destinations. It connects Pune, Sindhudurg, Solapur and Jalgaon in Maharashtra; Agatti in Lakshadweep Islands; Hubballi in Karnataka; Tirupati, Vijayawada and Rajahmundry in AP; along with Bengaluru, Goa, Kochi and Hyderabad.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

Fighter pilot Abhinandan, taken POW after he downed Pak jet, joins pvt airline

Amrita Nayak Dutta
New Delhi, September 3

THE NEXT time you are on a commercial flight, you would do better to listen to the announcement that introduces the pilots. Who knows, in the cockpit may be a former fighter pilot who made headlines during the Balakot airstrikes, as much for his flying prowess as for his moustache and his love for tea.

Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman, a Vir Chakra awardee, has retired from the Indian Air Force and joined Goa-based regional airline FLY91 as a pilot. He is 43.

A Group Captain can serve in the IAF until age 54. No pub-



Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman

lic statement details the reasons for his premature retirement.

The decorated officer, who prefers to maintain a low profile, shot down an enemy jet

during aerial combat with Pakistan in February 2019. The combat occurred on February 27, 2019, following the Balakot airstrikes India carried out to target terror camps in Pakistan in retaliation for the Pulwama attack.

During the encounter, Varthaman shot down a Pakistani F-16 fighter jet before his own MiG-21 Bison was hit by enemy fire. At the time, he held the rank of Wing Commander.

Following his ejection, Varthaman landed in Pakistani territory and was captured before Indian authorities secured his release in a globally watched diplomatic move. He was honoured with the Vir Chakra award in 2021. Varthaman is

learnt to have joined the airline as a commercial pilot last month and was relieved by the IAF a few months ago.

As a fighter pilot in the IAF, Group Captain Varthaman flew the Su-30 MKI and later the MiG-21. He will now fly ATR aircraft for FLY91.

It is not uncommon for IAF pilots to retire relatively young and move into commercial aviation, given the substantial experience of fighter, helicopter and transport pilots in handling aircraft, navigation, emergencies, crew coordination and disciplined operating procedures.

Commercial airlines are also said to value military experience.



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

स्पाइसजेट 20 विमानों को पट्टे पर लेकर परिचालन करेगा

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 3 सितंबर।

विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट ने सर्दियों का मौसम शुरू होने से पहले यात्रियों को हवाई सफर का बेहतर मौका देने की तैयारी कर ली है। इसके तहत कंपनी ने 20 नए विमानों को पट्टे पर लेने का निर्णय लिया है। इनमें 15 बोइंग और एअरबस के पांच विमान होंगे, जिन्हें अक्टूबर मध्य से नवंबर के बीच चरणों में कंपनी के बेड़े में शामिल किया जाएगा। स्पाइसजेट ने इसके लिए तीन कंपनियों के साथ समझौता किया है। इस पहल से यात्रियों को गंतव्य तक पहुंचने के लिए बेहतर विकल्प मिलेगा।

स्पाइसजेट के मुताबिक, अक्टूबर मध्य से नवंबर के बीच बेड़े में नए विमानों को चरणों में शामिल किया जाएगा। बेड़े में शामिल होने वाले विमानों में 15 बोइंग

और पांच एअरबस शामिल होंगे और रोजाना उड़ानों का संख्या 200 तक हो जाएगी। सर्दियों से पहले एअरलाइंस के बेड़े में नए विमानों के शामिल होने से त्योहार के दौरान भीड़भाड़ से भी यात्रियों को राहत मिलने की उम्मीद जताई जा रही है।

अक्टूबर मध्य से नवंबर के बीच बेड़े में नए विमानों को चरणों में शामिल किया जाएगा।

स्पाइसजेट ने यात्रियों को बेहतर सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के लिए अपनी उड़ानों की संख्या बढ़ाने के लिए तीन अलग-अलग एअरक्राफ्ट संचालकों के साथ एक समझौता किया है। बेड़े में कुल 20 नए विमानों के शामिल होने से यात्रियों को अक्टूबर से नवंबर के दौरान चरणों में विभिन्न गंतव्यों के लिए हवाई सफर का बेहतर विकल्प मिलेगा। इस विस्तार से स्पाइसजेट के घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय दोनों तरह के नेटवर्क को बहुत मजबूती मिलेगी। नए विमानों के शामिल होने से विमानन कंपनी को सभी मौसम में गंतव्य तक पहुंचाने के लिए अतिरिक्त क्षमता होगी।

Regional aviation needs policy push: ATR chief

Franco-Italian firm says India needs financially viable regional airlines

Abhishek Law
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NEW DELHI

India may have a large untapped market for regional air travel, but turning that demand into a viable airline business will require more than government subsidies. Franco-Italian firm ATR, world's largest maker of small commercial aircraft, says India needs financially viable regional airlines, backed by more airports, lower airport costs and taxes, and incentives beyond the government's flagship Udan (*Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik*) scheme, if it is to turn the vast market for travel between smaller cities into a sustainable aviation business.

"I don't know if India needs more regional airlines. What I know is India needs profitable regional airlines for sure," ATR chief executive officer Nathalie Tarnaud Laude told *Mint* in an interview. "Because it can only be a success if you are profitable in this business."

ATR is a joint venture between Airbus and Leonardo, and specializes in turboprop aircraft for regional routes. Turboprops are smaller planes, with a 70-odd seating capacity, capable of accessing smaller airports with limited runway space.

Laude said the regional air connectivity scheme played a key role in developing the sector in the world's fastest-growing commercial aviation market. "Udan has been very helpful to increase connectivity in India," she said, adding that the scheme had allowed ATR and its customers to enter the Indian market. But the chief said Udan alone will not be enough to achieve the scale of connectivity the plane-maker envisages: 200-300 turboprops in 20-odd years.

"In the future, will this (Udan) be enough to increase that connectivity to the num-



ATR chief executive officer Nathalie Tarnaud Laude said the regional air connectivity scheme played an important role in developing the sector.

bers that I was mentioning? Maybe not," she said. "And maybe we will need other incentives while maintaining, of course, the scheme."

"It could be more airports - building more airports, support to manufacturing,

However, nearly half, or 327 are non-operational. Routes are discontinued for reasons such as poor visibility, runway restrictions, aircraft shortage, low passenger count and financial failure of airline companies.

The Udan 2.0 scheme, launched earlier this year, has increased focus on airport infrastructure and commercial viability of routes. It now has an outlay of ₹28,000 crore, almost six times the previous scheme's disbursements of ₹4,600 crore.

ATR's India thesis is based on the size of the country's existing ground-transport market. The company estimates that about 4.6 billion trips take place annually between tier-2 and -3 cities, but only 3% are made by air.

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

INDIA OPPORTUNITY

ATR India thesis is based on the size of the country's existing ground-transport market

ATR, a joint venture between Airbus and Leonardo, builds turboprop aircraft for regional routes

UDAN 2.0 scheme has increased focus on airport infra and commercial viability of routes

giving the right conditions to manufacture aircraft at the right cost-effective price," Laude said. "It can be some incentives... tax incentives. (Lower) airport taxes, for example."

Udan was launched in October 2016, with 663 routes getting operationalized.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

Air India closes in on ₹10,000 crore aid



Tata Sons owns 74.9% of Air India and Singapore Airlines the remainder.

Air India Ltd is close to securing ₹10,000 crore (\$1.1 billion) in financial aid from its owners Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd and Singapore Airlines Ltd, according to people familiar with the matter, as the carrier grapples

with the fallout from a turbulent year.

The money is conditional on reaching certain performance milestones and will be paid out in instalments, said the people, who asked not to be named because the matter is private. The support would be proportional to shareholding, the people said, with Tata Sons owning 74.9% of Air India and Singapore Airlines the remainder.

India's flag carrier is coming off a difficult period marked by the deadly crash of a Boeing Co. 787 Dreamliner, the closing of Pakistani airspace to Indian carriers, and the Middle East conflict that's disrupted travel and driven up fuel costs. Air India reported a record loss of ₹22,000 crore in its fiscal year through March.

Chief executive officer-designate Tewolde Gebremariam, who officially joins the carrier later this month, seeks to bolster Air India's cargo business and curb plane maintenance problems.

BLOOMBERG

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MONING STANDARD

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026



FLY91 orders 40 ATR 72-600 planes for \$1 bn

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

REGIONAL carrier FLY91 on Thursday signed a firm order for 40 ATR 72-600 aircraft, marking the largest ATR order globally by a regional airline and the third largest by any airline. The landmark deal, which is expected to give a big boost to FLY91's operations, is valued at approximately \$1 billion, said the airline in a statement.

With this, FLY91 joins the league of major airlines to place a large order for aircraft. Indian carriers hold a massive pending aircraft order book of about 1,700-2,000 jets as of early 2026, driven by rapid expansion from IndiGo, Air India and Akasa Air. From its current fleet of six ATR 72-600 aircraft, FLY91 targets to have over 60 aircraft over the coming years. It said the landmark order for 40 aircraft will provide scale to build a much larger regional network and connect more unserved and underserved cities across the country. In two-and-a-half years since commencing operations, the Goa-based airline has operated over 15,000 flights and 280 weekly flights to 12 cities, with its 13th destination set to commence later this month.

"We have grown steadily and consistently since our launch, and this order becomes the foundation for our next chapter. Having operated over 15,000 flights in just two-and-a-half years, we have built the operating experience and foundation to scale significantly," said Manoj Chacko, founder, MD and CEO, FLY91.

एयरलाइंस के मनमाने किराये पर नज़र, लेकिन नशे पर खैर नहीं: केंद्र हर साल पायलटों का डोप टेस्ट कराना होगा: केंद्रीय मंत्री

Maneesh Aggarwal
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■ नई दिल्ली: इंडिगो, एयर इंडिया, अकासा और स्पाइसजेट समेत देश की तमाम एयरलाइंस की ओर से यात्रियों से डायनामिक फेयर के नाम पर मनमाना किराया वसूलने पर केंद्र सरकार की नज़र रहेगी। नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने कहा कि इंटरनेशनल एयर फेयर पॉलिसी के तहत सरकार और DGCA हवाई किराये को लेकर तो एयरलाइंस पर ज्यादा कंट्रोल नहीं लगा सकती, लेकिन नशेड़ी पायलटों की अब खैर नहीं होगी।

नागर विमानन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू ने कहा कि हर साल पायलटों का डोप टेस्ट कराना होगा, हम इसके लिए नियम लाएंगे। नायडू ने कहा कि एयरलाइंस के किराये पर मंत्रालय में टैरिफ मॉनिटरिंग यूनिट है, जो त्योहारों या विशेष मौकों पर किराये की निगरानी करती है।



मनमाने किराये का केस SC में, 7 को सुनवाई

एयरलाइंस की ओर से मनमाना किराया वसूलने, बैगेज फीस और रिफंड से जुड़ा मामला सुप्रीम कोर्ट में चल रहा है। 7 सितंबर को इस पर फिर सुनवाई होगी है, जिस पर केंद्र सरकार और डीजीसीए को जवाब दाखिल करना है। सूत्रों का कहना है कि इस मामले में एयर फेयर को लेकर एयरलाइंस पर बड़ा कंट्रोल तो नहीं लगाया जाएगा, लेकिन इसका मतलब यह भी नहीं होगा कि वह मनमाना किराया वसूल सकेगी। इसका एक बीच का रास्ता निकाला जा रहा है। साथ ही फ्लाइट कैसिल होने और बैगेज फीस को लेकर भी समय और घंटों के हिसाब से नियम बनाए जा रहे हैं।



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NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

दावा- प्लेन खरीदने का यह सबसे बड़ा ऑर्डर

फ्लाई 91 बढ़ाएगी कनेक्टिविटी, 40 विमान खरीदने की तैयारी

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

देश में रीजनल एयर कनेक्टिविटी को पंख लगने वाले हैं। गोवा आधारित रीजनल एयरलाइंस फ्लाई 91 ने 90 सीट तक के छोटे एयरक्राफ्ट बनाने वाली फ्रांसीसी-इटालीयन कंपनी एटीआर से 40 नए एटीआर 72-600 टर्बोप्रॉप प्लेन खरीदने का ऑर्डर दिया है। एयरलाइंस ने इसे दुनिया में किसी भी रीजनल एयरलाइंस द्वारा एक बार में दिया गया अब तक का सबसे बड़ा ऑर्डर बताया है। नई दिल्ली स्थित नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में नागर विमानन मंत्री के राम मोहन नायडू, नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में सचिव समीर सिन्हा और फ्लाई 91 के चेयरमैन हर्षा राघवन की उपस्थिति



में फ्लाई 91 के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर और सीईओ मनोज चाको और एटीआर की सीईओ नथाली टर्नोड लॉड के बीच 40 नए हवाई जहाज खरीदने की यह डील साइन हुई। सीईओ मनोज चाको ने एनबीटी को बताया कि यह एक बिलियन डॉलर का ऑर्डर है।

NRGs seek direct flights from city to US, Canada

Kapil Dave@timesofindia.com

Gandhinagar: Non-resident Gujaratis (NRGs) have sought direct flights from Ahmedabad to major destinations in the US and Canada. The demand came during chief minister Bhupendra Patel's interactions with the diaspora on his recent visit to the US and Canada to promote Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2027.

Gujarat govt officials said the state has reportedly requested the ministry of civil aviation and other authorities concerned to consider the demand.

Ahmedabad currently has no direct flight to any destination in the US or Canada. Most travellers from Gujarat use connecting flights through Gulf hubs such as Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha. Some travellers also fly via Singapore or Malaysia. These connections increase travel time and can raise the overall cost of the journey.

Ahmedabad-based travel company owner Ankit Bajaj said demand for direct US and Canada flights varies across passenger groups. "Elderly passengers often prefer a layover, but younger travellers, businesspersons and those travelling for work generally prefer direct flights. First-time travellers to the US also tend to prefer direct services."

Speaking about airfare, he said, "A one-way economy-class fare from Ahmedabad to

"I usually travel to San Francisco and most flights I take are via Singapore or Hong Kong. A direct flight would save considerable time. Layovers can range from four to 10 hours, and flight delays often disrupt the entire journey"

Anith Patel | TECH ENTREPRENEUR



"Travelling via the Middle East means an estimated 20 hours of flying time, besides the time spent at the connecting airport. A direct flight from Ahmedabad could reduce travel time by around 25%

Ankit Bajaj | TRAVEL EXPERT



"For passengers frequenting US and Canada, direct flights from Ahmedabad are a much-needed addition as they will substantially cut travel time"

Pathik Patwari | INDUSTRIALIST



the US currently costs Rs 70,000-80,000."

Air India had operated a direct Ahmedabad-Newark service before Covid-19. Industry players hope for a change in the international connectivity pattern with the hub-and-spoke operations just launched at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) Airport, Ahmedabad.

Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru already have direct services to several destinations in North America. These include New York, Newark, Chicago and San Francisco. Delhi also has direct connections to Toronto and Vancouver in Canada. "I personally do not prefer such a flight, but I am sure most travellers would. Direct connectivity will eliminate the need for transfers and reduce the uncertainty and an-

xiety associated with connecting flights," said Beena Munshi, a Boston resident for 20 years.

Travel industry players said the US and Canada are home to a large Gujarati and Indian diaspora. Gujarat's expanding IT and technology sectors are also creating greater demand for business travel. Virendra Shah, former chairperson of Travel Agents Association of India (TAAD), Gujarat, said most travellers from the state visiting the US and Canada travel to meet family and friends.

"Leisure travel to these destinations is relatively limited. There is also a sizeable number of people travelling for business and work, although this segment has declined in recent times due to visa issues," he said.



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THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

IndiGo Doha-Bengaluru flight diverted as pilot falls ill

SHEKHAR SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3

An IndiGo flight from Doha to Bengaluru was diverted to Muscat on Thursday after one of the operating pilots fell ill mid-air and required urgent medical attention, forcing the airline to arrange another aircraft and a fresh set of crew to complete the journey.

Flight 6E 1302 was diverted after the pilot-in-command (PIC) reported feeling unwell, according to sources.

The aircraft landed safely in

AI PLANE MAKES PRECAUTIONARY LANDING

An Air India Express flight from Varanasi to Delhi made a precautionary landing at Lucknow airport on Thursday after a smoke detection alarm went off in

the aircraft's cargo hold, sources said. However, preliminary checks at the Lucknow airport found no sign of smoke or fire in the aircraft, they added.

Muscat, where a medical team attended to the pilot immediately after landing. The airline said the pilot was feeling better.

"IndiGo flight 6E 1302, operating from Doha to Bengaluru, was diverted to Muscat due to an urgent requirement of medical attention for one of the

operating crew members," an IndiGo spokesperson said.

The airline did not disclose the nature of the medical condition and referred to the person only as an "operating crew member" in its statement.

"The said crew member was attended to by medical team

upon landing and is feeling better now," the spokesperson said.

As the original crew was unable to continue the service as scheduled, IndiGo arranged an alternate aircraft and a fresh crew to fly the passengers from Muscat to Bengaluru.

The airline said passengers waiting at Muscat were provided refreshments and regular updates while arrangements were made for the onward journey. "We regret the inconvenience caused to our customers and are making all efforts to minimise it," the airline said.