



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

Green fuel: Delhi airport to pilot SAF trials

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

India is set to launch a pilot project to make sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) available at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.

In technical terms, SAF refers to renewable or waste-derived jet fuel that meets sustainability criteria.

Recently, the Indian Oil Corporation received certification to produce SAF at its Panipat refinery.

The SAF blend will be produced by using the hydroprocessed esters and fatty acids (HEFA) pathway, with feedstock such as used cooking oil or even rice straw (parali).

Notably, Delhi was chosen as the pilot site as the Indian Oil Corporation's Panipat refinery supplies aviation turbine fuel to a dedicated depot meant for the airport through a pipeline.

HUGE ADVANTAGE

"That is the beauty of SAF. You don't have to change the infrastructure to implement it. It's like fossil fuel," said Jane Hupe, Deputy Director, Environment Branch, Air Transport Bureau, UN



FUEL SHIFT. The Centre plans to implement indicative targets of 1 per cent SAF blend in ATF from 2027, increasing to 2 per cent in 2028 and eventually reaching 5 per cent by 2030 REUTERS

body International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Hupe pointed out that the existing pipeline gives India a huge advantage, as it avoids the need for costly new transport and distribution systems.

"So, the infrastructure that they already have to produce and distribute the fuel to the airport can also be used for SAF, and that's a big plus for this technology," Hupe told *businessline*.

Overall, SAF plays a pivotal role in the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA).

This scheme is being implemented in three phases,

with participation voluntary between 2021 and 2026.

India has chosen not to participate in the voluntary phases. However, offsetting requirements under CORSIA for Indian carriers will begin in 2027.

The scheme applies to international flights originating from one country and landing in another.

INDICATIVE TARGETS

Accordingly, the Centre plans to implement the scheme with indicative targets of a one per cent SAF blend in ATF starting in 2027, increasing to two per cent in 2028, and eventually reaching five per cent by 2030.

In addition, India is in the process of framing a comprehensive policy to promote both the production and utilisation of SAF.

Last month, speaking to *businessline*, Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu emphasised that India holds a natural advantage in this segment.

"The first advantage is our geography, which allows us to become an exporter, and the second is the massive availability of feedstock," Naidu said.

At present, India has over 750 million tonnes of available biomass and nearly 230 million tonnes of surplus agricultural residue that can be used to produce SAF.

"India has the capacity to become a global leader in SAF production," the Minister asserted, adding that SAF production in India is projected to exceed domestic demand, thereby positioning the country as a major exporter.

Currently, India's refining capacity enables it to export 50 per cent of its aviation turbine fuel (ATF) production.

"So it is natural for us to pursue this subject, given our commitment to sustainability," he said.

टर्मिनल 2 के लिए एअर इंडिया समूह उड़ानों में कर रहा बदलाव

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: एक ओर अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों की जरूरत को देखते हुए टर्मिनल 3 पर विस्तार कार्य हो रहा है तो वहीं टर्मिनल 2 को इसी महीने 26 तारीख से उड़ानों की आवाजाही के लिए खोला जाना है। दोनों बातों के मध्य सामंजस्य बैठाते हुए देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइंस एअर इंडिया समूह ने अपनी घरेलू उड़ानों (एअर इंडिया व एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस) में कुछ बदलाव करने का निर्णय लिया है। इसके तहत टर्मिनल 3 से संचालित हो रही कुछ उड़ानें टर्मिनल 2 से संचालित होंगी।

60 उड़ानें टर्मिनल 2 से: एअर इंडिया अपनी 180 दैनिक घरेलू उड़ानों में से 60 को टर्मिनल 2 में स्थानांतरित करेगा। इसके अलावा एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस अपनी सभी घरेलू उड़ानों को अब टर्मिनल 1



आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल 3 का प्रस्थान क्षेत्र ● जागरण

से संचालित करेगा। एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की सभी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे के टर्मिनल 3 से ही संचालित होती रहेंगी।

उड़ान संख्या का पहला अंक 1 तो समझें टर्मिनल 2 से है आपकी उड़ान: एअर इंडिया की घरेलू उड़ानें, जो टर्मिनल 2 से प्रस्थान करेंगी या

वहां पहुंचेंगी, उनकी उड़ान संख्या को चार अंकों में फिर से व्यवस्थित किया जा रहा है। जिस उड़ान संख्या का पहला अंक 1 से शुरू होगा, वह उड़ान T2 से होगी।

कनेक्टिंग उड़ान वाले यात्रियों के लिए इंटर-टर्मिनल ट्रांसफर व्यवस्था: एअर इंडिया या एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के वे यात्री जिनके पास

26 अक्टूबर से बदलाव होगा प्रभावी

180 घरेलू उड़ानों में 60 का संचालन टर्मिनल 2 से

उनकी अगली कनेक्टिंग उड़ान का बोर्डिंग पास है, उन्हें टर्मिनल 1, 2 या 3 के बीच इंटर-टर्मिनल ट्रांसफर सुविधा (शटल सेवा) उपलब्ध कराई जाएगी। इन यात्रियों का चेक-इन सामान एयरसाइड ही ट्रांसफर कर दिया जाएगा। उन्हें टर्मिनल बदलने के दौरान सामान लेने और उसे फिर से चेक-इन कराने की जरूरत नहीं होगी। टर्मिनल 2 व 3 के बीच ऐसे यात्री जो पैदल चलने में दिक्कत महसूस करते हैं, उनके लिए बग्गी राइड का विकल्प होगा।

एअर इंडिया टर्मिनलों पर अतिरिक्त संसाधन भी तैनात करेगा, जो यात्रियों को सहायता प्रदान करेंगे। एयरलाइन के कुछ ग्राउंड स्टाफ, जो यात्रियों को जानकारी, टर्मिनल स्थानांतरण आदि में सहायता प्रदान करेंगे, विशेष टी-शर्ट पहनेंगे ताकि यात्री उन्हें आसानी से पहचान सकें।

तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें शुरू करेगी इंडिगो

जासं, नई दिल्ली: देश की प्रमुख एयरलाइंस इंडिगो नई दिल्ली से तीन नए अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्ग शुरू करने जा रही है। नई उड़ानें नई दिल्ली से इंडोनेशिया के डेनपासार, थाइलैंड के क्राबी व यूनाइटेड किंगडम के मैनचेस्टर को नई दिल्ली से सीधे जोड़ देंगी। इनमें डेनपासार की उड़ान 24 अक्टूबर से रोजाना, क्राबी की उड़ान 26 अक्टूबर से सप्ताह में चार बार व मैनचेस्टर की उड़ान 15 नवंबर, 2025 से सप्ताह में चार बार संचालित होगी। नई उड़ानों के साथ ही इंडिगो दिल्ली-बैंकाक मार्ग पर 26 अक्टूबर से दैनिक उड़ानों को दोगुना करेगी।

FLYING HIGH | The VVIP aircraft made a quick visit to the NMIA on Wednesday to perform an operational drill; this is first instance of a wide-body plane touching down at new airport

‘India One’ to carry PM to NMIA for Oct 8 opening

Dhairya Gajara & Ashish Singh

MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will land at the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) on October 8 with the majestic ‘India One’ aircraft to inaugurate the airport. The VVIP aircraft also made a quick visit to NMIA on Wednesday to perform an operational drill. This became the first instance of a wide-body aircraft arriving at the NMIA, after IndiGo’s test flight in December with a narrow-body Airbus A320.

‘India One’, the multi-billion aircraft with the call sign ‘Air India One’, is one of the two custom-made VVIP Boeing-777 aircraft to transport the Indian PM, President and the Vice President.

The VVIP aircraft, operated by Air Force officials, landed at around 10.30am on Wednesday and departed for Delhi again at around 2pm, amid which the officials ensured all landing and take-off requirements were met.

Meanwhile, preparations are in full swing as the NMIA



nears its inauguration date, after battling multiple delays and postponement. The only pending formality, before the airport can be inaugurated, was completed on Tuesday as the airport operator, Navi Mumbai International Airport Ltd (NMIAL), obtained the aerodrome license from the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Along with India’s first ‘second city-airport’, the PM is also expected to inaugurate multiple development projects and a fintech event during his two-day visit to Mumbai. According to sources, he is likely to arrive straight at NMIA on the inaug-



uration day. “NMIA is equipped to handle Code E aircraft with wingspan from 52mt to 65mt, which includes Boeing-777. The PM’s aircraft can be easily landed here and therefore he does not need to fly in by a chopper,” said a source on condition of anonymity.

Gautam Adani, the chairperson of Adani Group which is the major stakeholder in NMIAL, had also visited the airport on Tuesday with his private jet for a comprehensive review and personal walkthrough of the final preparations. He undertook a detailed inspection of the airport by assessing technical

IN BRIEF

1 ‘India One’ is a multi-billion aircraft with the call sign ‘Air India One’

2 It is one of the two custom-made VVIP Boeing-777 aircraft

3 They are flown to transport the Indian PM, President and the Vice President

progress and operational readiness.

“Every runway, every terminal, every gate here carries the imprint of thousands of hands and hearts. This is more than an airport, it is a monument to the spirit of Bharat, built by its people, for its people,” he said.



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

3 OCTOBER 2025

Authorities plan traffic easing measures ahead of airport ops

Raina Assainar

NAVI MUMBAI

With the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) expected to become operational soon, civic and traffic authorities have begun drawing up plans to ease the anticipated surge in vehicular load across key city roads.

The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) is in talks with the traffic police to divert heavy vehicles through the MIDC area from Uran Phata to decongest the Sion-Panvel Highway, which will be one of the main corridors leading to the airport. Municipal Commissioner Kailash Shinde said Palm Beach Road (PBR), the city's arterial link from Thane and Vashi, will carry

both airport-bound and local traffic, making it highly vulnerable to bottlenecks. "Upgrading and maintaining Palm Beach Road will be our highest priority since there is no scope for expansion," Shinde said.

Several infrastructure projects are already underway, including a flyover at Turbhe, the Airoli-Katai Naka flyover, and phased concreting of the PBR stretch up to the NMMC headquarters. "We are sequencing projects one after another to minimise disruptions, as undertaking them all at once would worsen traffic," Shinde explained.

NMMC is also coordinating with the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) to strengthen connecting roads

leading into Navi Mumbai. With traffic from Mulund expected to funnel through Airoli and Mumbai-bound vehicles from Vashi, officials said careful coordination will be crucial to avoid gridlocks.

DCP Traffic Tirupati Kakade said that measures to widen Palm Beach Road near Killa Junction are being studied, including removing the footpath opposite Killa structure at Killa Junction. "Palm Beach Road would get congested, but since there are signals at all important junctions, we assume that traffic jams can be avoided. National Highways Authority of India is also planning flyovers along Palm Beach Road," Kakade said. NMIA is expected to get inaugurated on October 8 by PM Narendra Modi.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

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Hindustan Times

NAVI MUMBAI AIRPORT WILL BE NAMED AFTER DB PATIL: FADNAVIS

Press Trust of India

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MUMBAI: Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said the Navi Mumbai International Airport will be named after late DB Patil, a politician and social activist widely hailed for his work that ensured project-affected persons in the region received rightful compensation.

"While granting permission for the airport construction earlier, the centre had approved the name 'Navi Mumbai International Airport'. With the proposed renaming, it will now be officially known as 'Loknete DB Patil Navi Mumbai International Airport'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the state's proposal," Fadnavis said.

He also informed that approvals for renaming Pune and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar airports will also be granted soon, adding the state government's intent remains unchanged and the Centre has no objection to the naming.

Pune airport is proposed to be named after Jagadguru Sant Tukaram, while Aurangabad airport will be named after Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj. The state government had earlier renamed Aurangabad district as Chhatrapati Sambhaji nagar.

"The official name announcement will coincide with the commencement of passenger operations. During the interim 'dry run' period, advance bookings and technical readiness procedures will be conducted," Fadnavis said.

The decision for renaming was cleared by both Houses of the state legislature and approved by the state cabinet before being sent to the Central government, Fadnavis said.

The three proposals are under consideration by the Centre and are expected to be cleared shortly in line with state requests and new policies, he added.

हवाई अड्डे के लिए यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे के समानांतर बन रहा अलग रास्ता

जनसत्ता संवाददाता
ग्रेटर नोएडा, 3 अक्टूबर।

नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के 30 अक्टूबर को उद्घाटन से पहले यमुना प्राधिकरण (बीडा) ने दिल्ली से जेवर तक एक नए वैकल्पिक मार्ग के निर्माण कार्य में तेजी ला दी है। यह मार्ग यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे के समानांतर तैयार किया जा रहा है, जिससे यात्री बिना टोल चुकाए हवाई अड्डे तक पहुंच सकेंगे।

बीडा अधिकारियों के अनुसार, ग्रेटर नोएडा के जीरो प्वाइंट से जेवर तक की दूरी को कम और सुविधाजनक बनाने के लिए 60 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क की मरम्मत कराई जा रही है। रबूपुरा क्षेत्र

नए भारत के सपनों का प्रवेश द्वार बनेगा हवाई अड्डा : धीरेंद्र सिंह
जेवर विधायक धीरेंद्र सिंह ने शुक्रवार को बीडा और निर्माण एजेंसी नायाल के अधिकारियों के साथ समीक्षा बैठक की। बैठक में हवाई अड्डे पर यात्रियों के लिए उपलब्ध सुविधाओं, सुरक्षा, कनेक्टिविटी और पर्यावरणीय मानकों की समीक्षा की गई। विधायक ने कहा कि हवाई अड्डा नए भारत के सपनों को साकार करने में अहम भूमिका निभाएगा। यह उत्तर प्रदेश ही नहीं, बल्कि पूरे देश का गौरव बनेगा और एशिया के सबसे बड़े हवाई अड्डों में से एक के रूप में अपनी पहचान बनाएगा।

में इस मार्ग की जर्जर स्थिति को युद्ध स्तर पर सुधारा जा रहा है। इस सड़क के जरिए दिल्ली, हरियाणा, अलीगढ़ और आगरा से आने-जाने वाले यात्रियों को वैकल्पिक व सुगम मार्ग मिलेगा, जिससे यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे पर वाहनों का

दबाव भी कम होगा। प्राधिकरण ने स्पष्ट किया है कि मार्ग से जुड़ी भूमि के मामलों को लेकर किसानों से बातचीत अंतिम चरण में है। उम्मीद जताई जा रही है कि हवाई अड्डे के उद्घाटन से पहले यह मार्ग तैयार कर लिया जाएगा।

फरीदाबाद से ग्रेनो पहुंचना होगा आसान

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 3 अक्टूबर (संवाददाता)।

ग्रेनो और फरीदाबाद को जोड़ने वाली महत्वाकांक्षी परियोजना अगले महीने से शुरू होने जा रही है। यमुना नदी पर बना मंझावली पुल तकरीबन तैयार हो चुका है।

अलबत्ता ग्रेनो की तरफ से सड़क निर्माण अधूरा होने के चलते फिलहाल वाहनों का आवागमन शुरू नहीं हो सका है। अब गौतमबुद्ध नगर की सीमा में अट्टा गुजरान गांव से मंझावली पुल तक नई सड़क और चौड़ीकरण का कार्य

किया जा रहा है। बता दें कि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने इस परियोजना के लिए 65.50 करोड़ रुपये का बजट अगस्त में मंजूर किया था। पुराने मार्गों का चौड़ीकरण और नई सड़क निर्माण के लिए चार गांवों की करीब सात हेक्टेयर जमीन अधिग्रहित की गई।

इस काम की जिम्मेदारी लोक निर्माण विभाग को सौंपी गई है। लोक निर्माण विभाग के अधिशासी अभियंता के मुताबिक चौड़ीकरण और नए मार्गों के निर्माण के लिए कंपनी चयन की प्रक्रिया जारी है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

Noida, Navi Mumbai international airports to begin operations in Oct

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA is all set to see two new mega airports opening up this month – Noida International Airport (NIA) in Delhi NCR and Navi Mumbai International Airport in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

While the Navi Mumbai International Airport is set to be inaugurated on October 8 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu recently announced that the much-delayed NIA will finally be inaugurated on October 30. The airports are being developed to meet the growing demand for air travel and to ease congestion at the two ex-



isting airports in the country's largest cities. Aviation regulator DGCA has already granted an aerodrome licence to NMIA to commence operations. NIA, located in Jewar (Uttar Pradesh) is expected to receive the important license very soon as much of the infrastructure is already complete.

Airlines have started tying

up with the airports. Last month, Air India joined IndiGo and Akasa Air to launch operations from NMIA. For Noida airport, IndiGo signed an MoU in November 2023 to serve as the launch carrier. Akasa Air has also committed to building a strong network from here.

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani on Wednesday personally inspected the final preparations of the NMIA. In a social media post, Adani wrote, "Ahead of the inauguration of Navi Mumbai International Airport on 8 Oct, I met with our differently-abled colleagues, construction workers, women staff, engineers, artisans, fire fighters and the guards who helped bring this vision to life".



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THE PIONEER

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

Major terminal shift at Delhi Airport from Oct 26

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

Air India will relocate 60 daily domestic flights to Delhi airport's Terminal 2 (T2) and Air India Express will shift all its domestic services to T1 from October 26.

The adjustments have been necessitated due to the ongoing activities to augment international passenger capacity that is resulting in reduced domestic capacity at T3, Air India said in a release on Friday.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital is the country's largest airport and has three terminals — T1, T2 and T3 — and the revamped T2 is set to reopen on October 26.

"Air India will relocate 60

of its 180 daily domestic departures out of Delhi to the upgraded T2. Concurrently, Air India Express will move all its domestic operations to the newly renovated and upgraded Terminal 1 (T1)," the release said.

According to the airline, the terminal enlargement works will reduce domestic capacity at T3, necessitating the relocation of certain domestic operations of Air India and Air India Express, effective October 26.

All international flights of Air India and Air India Express will continue to operate from T3.

Air India's domestic flights departing from or arriving at T2 have been renumbered in four digits, starting with '1' like 'A1XXXX'.



"Passengers whose bookings continue to operate to/from T3 will receive a reminder to check their terminal if they have connecting flights.

Additionally, all passengers checking in online for A1XXXX-series flights will receive an additional reminder that their flight departs from T2," it said.

पहली उड़ान से 180 यात्री आए, 115 लौटे, पारंपरिक ढंग से किया स्वागत जैसलमेर एयरपोर्ट का सन्नाटा टूटा, दिल्ली के लिए नियमित सेवा शुरू

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

जैसलमेर जैसलमेर के सिविल एयरपोर्ट पर पिछले महीनों से जारी सन्नाटा आखिरकार टूट गया। विंटर शेड्यूल के तहत जैसलमेर और दिल्ली के बीच इंडिगो एयरलाइन्स की ओर से नियमित विमान सेवा का आगाज हर्षपूर्ण माहौल में हुआ। दिल्ली से आए 186 सीटर विमान से 185 यात्री जैसलमेर पहुंचे जबकि लौटती फ्लाइट में 115 यात्रियों ने उड़ान भरी। दिल्ली से सुबह 11.45 बजे उड़कर विमान 1.00 बजे जैसलमेर एयरपोर्ट के रनवे पर उतरा यानी महज सवा घंटे में पश्चिमी सीमा पर बसे जैसलमेर से यात्रियों का देश की राजधानी पहुंचना मुमकिन हो गया। वापसी में 1.30 बजे विमान ने दिल्ली के लिए उड़ान भरी। एयरपोर्ट पहुंचने पर यात्रियों का तिलक कर पारम्परिक ढंग से स्वागत किया गया। सुविधापूर्ण हवाई सेवा का उपयोग कर जैसलमेर पहुंचने वाले यात्रियों के चेहरे भी खिले हुए नजर आए।

आगामी 26 अक्टूबर से जैसलमेर से दिल्ली के साथ जयपुर, मुम्बई, बंगलुरु और हैदराबाद के लिए भी विमान सेवा सुलभ हो जाएगी। जैसलमेर से हवाई सेवा की सुविधा मिलने से पर्यटन व्यवसायियों में खुशी



सिविल एयरपोर्ट पर विमान से उतरते हुए यात्री तथा लाउंज में यात्रियों का पारंपरिक ढंग से किया गया स्वागत।

का माहौल है। उन्हें पूरी उम्मीद है कि, इससे पर्यटन क्षेत्र को फायदा मिलेगा। इसके साथ ही उनकी निगाहें अब 26 अक्टूबर पर टिकी हैं, जब कई बड़े शहरों के लिए जैसलमेर सिविल एयरपोर्ट से विमानों की आवाजाही का दौर शुरू हो जाएगा।

जैसलमेर-दिल्ली के बीच नियमित विमान सेवा आज से शुरू हो गई है। पहले दिन अच्छी संख्या में यात्री पहुंचे हैं। आगामी 26 तारीख से चार बड़े शहरों के लिए भी यह सुविधा उपलब्ध हो जाएगी।

- प्रमोद मीणा, निदेशक, सिविल एयरपोर्ट, जैसलमेर

पर्यटन के लिए बूस्टर डोज

हवाई सेवाओं की शुरुआत को जैसलमेर पर्यटन के लिए बहुत लाभदायक माना जा रहा है। सड़क व रेल मार्ग से दूरी के चलते अनेक देशी-विदेशी सैलानी चाहते हुए भी समयभाव के कारण स्वर्णनगरी भ्रमण पर नहीं आ पाते हैं। माना जा रहा है कि ऐसे सैलानियों को हवाई सेवा की सुविधा मिलने से वे जैसलमेर पहुंच सकेंगे। ऐसे में यहां पर्यटन व्यवसाय में धन का प्रवाह बढ़ेगा। इसी क्रम में 26 अक्टूबर से जैसलमेर को देश की

आर्थिक राजधानी कहलाने वाले मुम्बई, दक्षिण के बड़े शहरों बंगलुरु और हैदराबाद और प्रदेश की राजधानी जयपुर के लिए विमान सुविधा मिलने से पर्यटन में और तेजी आएगी। इसके साथ ही अन्य क्षेत्रों के लोगों व स्थानीय जैसलमेर व पड़ोसी बाड़मेर जिलों के लोगों को भी बड़ी सुविधा मिल सकेगी। इस सीजन में इंडिगो के साथ स्पाइसजेट व एयर इंडिया कम्पनियां भी विमान सेवाओं का संचालन करेंगी।

Passenger traffic grows despite flight caps at country's two busiest airports

Manju.V@timesofindia.com



Despite having capacity-limited airports, India boasts the world's fastest-growing domestic air traffic market

As the long-delayed Navi Mumbai airport project nears its inauguration date and Delhi pushes ahead with the Noida-Jewar airport opening, India's air routes map is being redrawn. Mumbai-Delhi is the busiest domestic airport pair in the country, with more than 39,000 flights operated on this route last year. It translates to an average of over 100 flights per day in both directions. Yet, the two airports serving India's top two most populated urban agglomerates – the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and Delhi-NCR – have hardly seen any growth in air traffic since 2018.

Airports Authority of India data for air traffic (landings and take-offs) handled by Mumbai and Delhi between April and July 2025 compared to the same period in 2018 shows a telling decline. Delhi airport's air traffic dropped by 2.6%, while Mumbai's by 0.2%, which essentially means that the two airports are at the same place as in 2018. Despite a decrease in airline seat availability at the two airports, passenger traffic grew from Apr-July 2018 to Apr-July 2025 – by 8.5% for Mumbai and 6% for Delhi. It points to the ever-increasing demand for

air travel or bigger aircraft flying into the two airports. The story of poor air traffic growth repeats at India's other two big metros as well. Air traffic in Chennai dropped by 7.6% when Apr-July 2025 is compared with Apr-July 2018 and in Kolkata by 10%.

In spite of its capacity-constrained four metro airports, India currently has the fastest growing domestic air traffic market in the

world. The split between India's airports is clear: On one hand are the British-era airport locations of Mumbai (commissioned in 1942), Kolkata (1924) and Chennai (1930) – with Delhi moving from Safdarjung airport to the current one in 1962 – and on the other the comparatively younger, better-planned airports that are riding double-digit passenger traffic growth. Among them are the 2008-born Bangalore

and Hyderabad airports.

The 2025 vs 2018 comparison of air traffic at Bangalore, the third busiest airport in India, shows a 21.6% growth, while Hyderabad grew by 27%. The commissioning of the Navi Mumbai airport and the Jewar-Noida airport will finally change the narrative and skewed air travel demand-supply equation for Mumbai and Delhi.

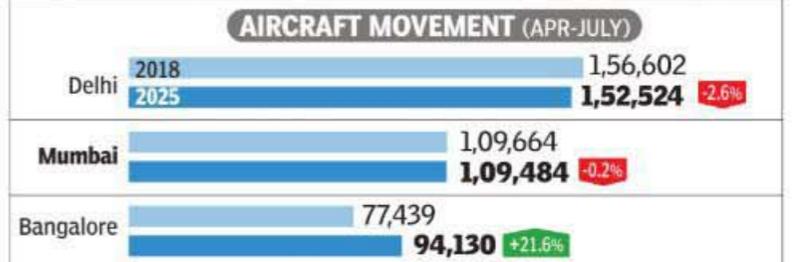
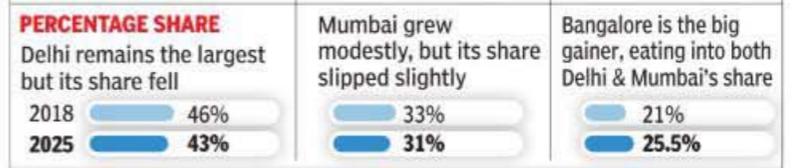
Mumbai-Delhi is the busiest domestic corridor of the country and accounts for 3.4% of all domestic flights, according to data shared by International Air Transport Association (IATA). Bengaluru-Delhi and Bengaluru-Mumbai are the second and third busiest routes, with around 27,000 (2.4% of domestic traffic) and 25,000 (2.2%) flights in 2024.

Between 2011 and 2019, India experienced a double-digit average annual growth rate of 10.3% in air passenger traffic. According to IATA, this performance easily outpaced that of the industry globally and for the Asia Pacific region. The growth stopped in 2019 when Jet Airways shut down and then in 2020 with the onset of Covid. While airports the world over and in India recovered in the following years and surpassed their pre-pandemic volumes, Mumbai and Delhi airports stayed constrained and congested.

IATA's 'Aviation in India' report says, "Investing in air transport infrastructure is essential to meet future passenger demand. Expanding and modernizing airports ensures they can accommodate the expected threefold increase in traffic over the next 20 years efficiently and effectively."

Graphics & Times Special page designed by Sandeep Soni

HOW INDIA'S TOP AIRPORTS STACK UP



OVERALL SHIFT

Delhi | Still number 1, but losing share in both passengers and flights – saturation, slower growth

Mumbai | Modest gains in passengers but flat in flights – capacity constraints

Bangalore | Strongest growth in both flights and passengers – emerging as the third powerhouse, catching up with Mumbai





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

3 OCTOBER 2025

Airport staffer purges ₹1.8cr gold, nabbed with 3 aides

Ahmed.Ali@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has arrested four persons for gold smuggling and found that one of them, an airport employee, had concealed 1.5kg of gold dust worth Rs 1.8 crore in his rectum.

DRI officials intercepted the airport employee, Aniket Revankar, near the staff exit gate of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport on Wednesday. While his bag contained no contraband, a body search revealed he had concealed egg-shaped capsules in his rectum. Revankar later purged four capsules containing 1.5kg of gold dust. During interrogation, Revankar said the gold was handed over by an accomplice, Sunny Jay Shinde, while two others, Wajid Shaikh and Bangladeshi national Aminul Haque, waited outside the airport to receive it. The three were later arrested.

Officials suspect the accused are part of a larger organised syndicate involving hawala operators, jewellers and foreign nationals. "Going by the modus operandi, it appears the syndicate had been using Revankar regularly to smuggle gold out of the airport. He had been on our radar and we caught him this time," a DRI official said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

3 OCTOBER 2025

India, China to resume direct flight services

NEW DELHI, Oct 2: After a gap of five years, India and China will resume direct flight services by the end of this month as part of efforts to rebuild their ties that came under severe strain following the border standoff in eastern Ladakh.

The announcement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's summit in China's Tianjin city.

The flight services between the two sides were suspended following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. They were not restored in view of the over four-year border face-off in eastern Ladakh, which ended in October last year.

"Since earlier this year, as part of the government's approach towards gradual normalisation of relations between India and China, the civil aviation authorities of the two countries have been engaged in technical-level discussions on resuming direct air services between

the two countries and on a revised air services agreement," the MEA said.

It has now been agreed that direct air services connecting designated points in India and China can resume by late October, in keeping with the winter season schedule and subject to commercial decision of the designated carriers from the two countries and fulfilment of all operational criteria, it added.

"This agreement of the civil aviation authorities will further facilitate people-to-people contact between India and China, contributing towards the gradual normalisation of bilateral exchanges," the MEA said in a statement.

In a social media post, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said India and China will resume direct air services by the end of October.

"This follows continuous technical-level engagement between civil aviation authorities as part of broader efforts to normalise bilateral ties," it said.

"The move will greatly enhance air connectivity, support people-to-people exchanges and contribute to the strengthening of economic collaboration

between the two countries," it added.

In his remarks at the meeting with Xi on August 31, PM Modi had said that direct flights are being resumed between the two countries.

India-China relations plunged to their lowest point since the 1962 war following the Galwan Valley clashes in June 2020.

Following a series of diplomatic and military talks, the two sides withdrew their troops from several friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

In October last, the two sides firmed up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

Days after the agreement was finalised, PM Modi and President Xi held talks in Russia's Kazan city on the sidelines of the BRICS summit and took a number of decisions to improve the ties.

In the last few months, the two sides have taken a series of measures to repair the ties that included the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. – PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर टर्मिनल बदलने की तैयारी

नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट में अपने घरेलू उड़ानों के टर्मिनल बदलने की योजना बनाई है। 26 अक्टूबर से एअर इंडिया 60 दैनिक घरेलू उड़ानों को टर्मिनल-2 (टी-2) में शिफ्ट करेगी, जबकि एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस अपनी सभी घरेलू उड़ानों को टर्मिनल-1 (टी-1) में ले जाएगी। यह बदलाव इसलिए किया गया है क्योंकि टर्मिनल-3 (टी-3) में अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों के लिए जगह बढ़ाने का काम चल रहा है।

26 से एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस सभी घरेलू उड़ानों को टर्मिनल-1 में ले जाएगी

टी-3 की क्षमता में कमी के कारण कुछ घरेलू उड़ानों को टी-2 और टी-1 में स्थानांतरित करना जरूरी हो गया है। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट में तीन टर्मिनल हैं - टी1, टी2 और टी3। टी2 का नवीनीकरण कार्य पूरा हो चुका है और यह 26 अक्टूबर से फिर से खुल जाएगा।

एअर इंडिया की टी2 से उड़ानों के फ्लाइट नंबर

चार अंकों में बदले गए : एअर इंडिया की टी2 से उड़ानों के फ्लाइट नंबर चार अंकों में बदल दिए गए हैं, जो 1 से शुरू होते हैं, जैसे एआई1XXX। जिन यात्रियों की उड़ान अभी भी टी3 से है, उन्हें कनेक्टिंग फ्लाइट के लिए सही टर्मिनल चेक करने की सलाह दी जाएगी। ऑनलाइन चेक-इन करने वाले यात्रियों को भी टी2 से उड़ान के लिए नोटिफिकेशन मिलेगा। एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की सभी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें टी3 से जारी रहेंगी। ब्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

विमानों की देरी से 74,381 यात्री प्रभावित, 1.18 करोड़ रुपये का मिला मुआवजा

नई दिल्ली। घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों की लेट-लतीफी का सिलसिला जारी है। अगस्त में उड़ानों में देरी से कुल 74,381 यात्री प्रभावित हुए। इससे एयरलाइनों को मुआवजा व सुविधा पर 1.18 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करना पड़ा। इसमें विमानों के रद्द होने से 36,362 यात्री प्रभावित हुए। इनके मुआवजे और सुविधाओं पर 64.51 लाख रुपये खर्च हुए। कुल 1,407 यात्री संबंधी शिकायतें मिलीं। यानी प्रति 10,000 यात्रियों पर शिकायतों की संख्या लगभग 1.09 थी। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय ने रिपोर्ट में कहा, 705 यात्रियों को विमान में चढ़ने से रोक दिया गया। एयरलाइनों से अगस्त में 1.29 करोड़ ने यात्रा की है। यह एक साल पहले की समान अवधि में 1.31 करोड़ की तुलना में कम है। हालांकि, जुलाई के 1.26 करोड़ की तुलना में ज्यादा है। 64.2 प्रतिशत वाजार हिस्सेदारी के साथ इंडिगो सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइंस है। एजेंसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

Domestic passenger traffic falls a tad to 1.29 crore in Aug: DGCA

Press Trust of India
New Delhi

Domestic airlines flew 1.29 crore passengers in August, a tad less than the 1.31 crore people carried by them in the year-ago period, according to the latest official data. However, the traffic volume was higher in August over July's 1.26 crore.

IndiGo's domestic market fell to 64.2 per cent in August against 65.2 per cent in July, while that of the Air India Group, comprising Air India and Air India Express, rose to 27.3 per cent from 26.2 per cent during the same period.

ANNUAL GROWTH

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-August 2025 were 1,107.26 lakh as against 1,054.66 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of 4.99 per cent and a monthly growth of -1.40 per cent," DGCA said in its monthly traffic report for August.



In August, the passenger number stood at 1.29 crore, lower than 1.31 crore recorded in the same period a year ago.

The market share of Akasa Air dipped to 5.4 per cent in August from 5.5 per cent in the previous month, while that of SpiceJet remained unchanged at 2 per cent.

In August, government-owned Alliance Air's market share slipped to 0.3 per cent from 0.4 per cent in July. Star Air and Fly91's market share remained unchanged at 0.5 per cent and 0.2 per cent, respectively.

A total of 1,407 passenger-related complaints were received by the scheduled do-

mestic airlines, and the number of complaints per 10,000 passengers carried in August was around 1.09. As per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) data, a total of 74,381 passengers were affected due to flight delays, and airlines shelled out ₹1.18 crore towards facilitation in August.

BOARDING DENIED

As many as 36,362 passengers were impacted by flight cancellations, with airlines spending ₹64.51 lakh for compensation and facilities.

The DGCA said a total of 705 passengers were denied boarding, and carriers spent ₹24.52 lakh towards compensation and facilities.

In terms of on-time performance (OTP) in August, IndiGo topped the list with 90.6 per cent, followed by Akasa Air (87 per cent), Air India Group (84.5 per cent), SpiceJet (68.2 per cent) and Alliance Air (55.2 per cent).

OTP is computed for six metro airports — Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

Air India Group to adjust domestic ops at IGI Airport



MAJOR REJIG. The terminal enlargement works will reduce domestic capacity at Terminal 3 of the Delhi airport

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Air India Group will adjust its domestic operations at Delhi's Indra Gandhi International Airport due to the ongoing expansion activities at Terminal 3 (T3).

Accordingly, the terminal enlargement works will reduce domestic capacity at T3, necessitating the relocation of certain domestic operations of Air India and Air India Express, effective October 26. "Air India will relocate 60 of its 180 daily domestic departures out of Delhi to the upgraded Terminal 2 (T2). Concurrently, Air India Express will move all its domestic operations to the newly renovated and upgraded Terminal 1 (T1)," the airline group said.

"All international flights of Air India and Air India Express will continue to operate from T3 Delhi Airport."

According to the group, Air India's domestic flights departing from or arriving at T2 have been renumbered in

four digits, starting with '1'.

"This clear distinction will help travellers easily identify that their flight operates from/to T2," the group said.

Besides, the group pointed out that Air India or Air India Express guests with connections, carrying boarding passes for their onward flights will be provided inter-terminal transfers between T1, T2, and T3. This service applies to connections between Air India flights, Air India Express flights, and on applicable codeshare connections.

SEAMLESS TRANSFER

"Any through-checked baggage for these guests will be seamlessly transferred air-side, eliminating the need to collect and recheck baggage during terminal transfers," the release said.

"For all guests requiring transfers between T1, T2 and T3, Delhi International Airport provides a convenient shuttle service running every 10 minutes, ensuring quick and easy connectivity between the terminals."



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

Maldivian plans India expansion, eyes Delhi and Bengaluru flights

V Sajeev Kumar
Kochi

Focusing on the Indian market for leisure and business travel, Maldivian, the national airline of the Maldives, is exploring ways to enhance its connectivity to more cities.

Destinations such as Bengaluru and Delhi are in the pipeline, and the airline is working with general sales agents (GSAs) to launch the service, said Ibrahim Iyas, Managing Director of Maldivian. The airline currently operates services to Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi.

CRUCIAL HUB

"India is not only a key source market for leisure and business travel, it is also a vital hub for medical tourism. Many Maldivians travel to India for advanced health-care, education and for holidays, and our flights play a crucial role in facilitating this access," he said.

Speaking to *businessline* on the sidelines of the appointment of Aviareps as the GSA for South India, the Managing Director said the Indian market had shown remarkable resilience and growth, especially in the post-Covid era.

India now ranks sixth among source markets, with



a 5.7 per cent share of total arrivals.

Until August, the Maldives welcomed 85,306 Indian visitors, a 4.7 per cent increase year-on-year.

By the end of 2024, tourist arrivals from India to the Maldives reached 1,30,805.

UPWARD TREND

Quoting government figures, Iyas said that the Maldives had already welcomed 94,553 Indian visitors this year.

These numbers reflect a strong upward trend and underscore the immense potential for further growth, he said.

With projections indicating a further 20 per cent growth in 2025, he said the Maldives is poised to capture a larger share of the outbound segment, particularly from South India, where proximity and connectivity make the Maldives one of the most convenient international gateways.

भारत और चीन की विमानन कंपनियों की रणनीति

बाजार भागीदारी बढ़ाने की होड़

सुरजीत दास गुप्ता
नई दिल्ली, 3 अक्टूबर

इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया जैसी भारतीय विमानन कंपनियां भारत-चीन के विमानन क्षेत्र में बड़ी हिस्सेदारी हासिल करने के लिए चीन की विमानन कंपनियों से प्रतिस्पर्धा करने को तैयार हैं। यह क्षेत्र 2020 की शुरुआत में परिचालन बंद होने के पांच साल से अधिक समय के बाद अब फिर से सीधी उड़ानों के लिए खोला जा रहा है।

वर्ष 2019 में जब दोनों देशों के बीच सीधी उड़ानें थीं तो उस समय चीनी एयरलाइन कंपनियां चाइना ईस्टर्न, चाइना सदरन, चाइना एयर और शांडोंग का दबदबा था। सीएपीए-ओएजी के आंकड़ों के अनुसार ये कंपनियां मिलकर भारत-चीन रूट पर 89 प्रतिशत सीटों पर हावी थीं। अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर एकमात्र बड़ी कंपनी एयर इंडिया वित्तीय संकट से जूझ रही थी, उसकी भागीदारी सिर्फ 11 प्रतिशत थी और वह मुख्य रूप से दिल्ली से शांघाई और पेइचिंग की उड़ानें संचालित करती थी।

सितंबर 2019 में, इंडिगो ने दिल्ली-चेंगदू उड़ान के साथ इस क्षेत्र में प्रवेश किया और अगले महीने ही कोलकाता से ग्वांगझू के लिए एक और उड़ान शुरू की। आंकड़ों के अनुसार, उसने जल्द ही कुल बाजार का 16.8 प्रतिशत हिस्सा हासिल कर लिया। लेकिन फिर कोविड-19 आ



गया। इस साल 26 अक्टूबर को इंडिगो कोलकाता और ग्वांगझू के बीच अपनी सेवाएं पुनः शुरू करेगी। यह इस रूट पर हफ्ते में तीन बार उड़ान भरेगी। एयरलाइन दिल्ली से ग्वांगझू के लिए एक और उड़ान शुरू करने की भी तैयारी कर रही है, हालांकि इसकी शुरुआत की तारीख अभी तय नहीं हुई है।

सूत्रों के अनुसार एयर इंडिया इस साल के आखिर तक दिल्ली और शांघाई के बीच उड़ान शुरू करने की भी तैयारी कर रही है। चाइना सदरन, चाइना ईस्टर्न और शांडोंग एयरलाइंस के अलावा, अन्य चीनी एयरलाइंस ने भी पेइचिंग, शांघाई, ग्वांगझू और कुनमिंग से भारत के लिए उड़ानें शुरू करने में दिलचस्पी दिखाई है।

यह कदम प्रतिबंधों को समाप्त करने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण है। ये प्रतिबंध

2020 की शुरुआत में लागू हुए थे, जब महामारी के कारण भारत और चीन के बीच सीधी उड़ानें दोनों देशों द्वारा निलंबित कर दी गई थीं। लेकिन गलवान सीमा विवाद के बाद दोनों देशों के बीच बढ़ते तनाव के कारण वे निलंबित ही रहीं। विश्लेषकों का कहना है कि 2025 में अब हालात बदल गए हैं। इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया (जो अब टाटा समूह के स्वामित्व में है) ने मीडियम और लॉन्ग रूट के लिए 1,800 से अधिक विमानों का ऑर्डर दिया है और वे अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अपनी ताकत दिखाने तथा तेजी से विस्तार करने की कोशिश कर रही हैं।

एयर इंडिया और इंडिगो जैसी भारतीय एयरलाइंस दिल्ली और मुंबई में अंतरराष्ट्रीय हब बनाने की योजना भी बना रही हैं और इस योजना में चीनी

प्रतिस्पर्धा तेज

■ पांच साल बाद अब फिर सीधी उड़ानों के लिए विमानन क्षेत्र को खोला जा रहा है

■ 26 अक्टूबर को इंडिगो कोलकाता और ग्वांगझू के बीच अपनी सेवाएं पुनः शुरू करेगी

■ यह कदम 2020 की शुरुआत में लागू हुए प्रतिबंधों को समाप्त करने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण है

बाजार तक पहुंच महत्वपूर्ण हो सकती है। इसके अलावा, अब जब इंडिगो के बेड़े में ए321 एक्सएलआर विमान शामिल हो गया है, तो यह एयरलाइन आठ से दस घंटे की दूरी वाले और भी चीनी गंतव्यों तक उड़ानें संचालित कर सकेगी, जो कोलकाता से उड़ान भरने वाले ए320नियो विमान से संभव नहीं है।

ओएजी आंकड़े के अनुसार, वर्ष 2024 में (जब दोनों देशों के बीच उड़ानें नहीं थीं) करीब 572,000 यात्रियों ने अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से यात्रा की और सिंगापुर, हांगकांग, बैंकॉक तथा वियतनाम जैसी जगहों का भी इस्तेमाल किया।

भारतीय एयरलाइनों ने सीधी उड़ानें शुरू करने के लिए कम से कम चार प्रमुख चीनी शहरों का चयन किया है। ये पेइचिंग, शांघाई, ग्वांगझू और चेंगदू हैं।

बिज़नेस स्टैंडर्ड

वर्ष 18 अंक 196

पायलट प्रशिक्षण में खामियां

भारत में नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) द्वारा पंजीकृत उड़ान प्रशिक्षण संगठनों (एफटीओ) की पहली रैंकिंग एक स्पष्ट एवं व्यावहारिक संदेश देती है। इनमें कोई भी संगठन या प्रशिक्षण केंद्र विमानन नियामक की शीर्ष दो श्रेणियों 'ए प्लस' और 'ए' में जगह नहीं बना पाया है। 22 संगठनों को 'बी' रैंकिंग और 13 को 'सी' रैंकिंग दी गई है। अधिक स्पष्ट शब्दों में कहें तो भारत के अधिकांश एफटीओ 'औसत' या 'औसत से ऊपर' हैं। 'बी' रैंकिंग 70 प्रतिशत और 50 प्रतिशत के बीच अंक (स्कोर) दर्शाती है और बताती है कि केवल कुछ ही एफटीओ शीर्ष समूह में शामिल हैं। 'सी' श्रेणी में आए एफटीओ को 'आत्म-विश्लेषण और सुधार' के लिए नोटिस जारी किए गए हैं और वे डीजीसीए की जांच के दायरे में भी आ सकते हैं। सरकार से समर्थन प्राप्त प्रायोजित एफटीओ रैंकिंग में काफी नीचे हैं। एफटीओ हर साल 800 से 1,000 वाणिज्यिक-पायलट लाइसेंस धारकों को स्नातक की उपाधि देते हैं लेकिन यह संख्या बढ़ने की उम्मीद है। घरेलू एफटीओ के औसत एवं इससे थोड़े अधिक प्रदर्शन की रैंकिंग ऐसे समय में आई है जब पायलटों की मांग काफी बढ़ रही है। अनुमान है कि अगले 15 वर्षों में पायलटों की संख्या मौजूदा कार्यरत 6,000 - 7,000 से बढ़कर 30,000 तक पहुंच सकती है। इसका कारण यह है कि प्रमुख भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों ने एफटीओ के लिए भारी भरकम ऑर्डर दे रही हैं।

डीजीसीए ने रैंकिंग तय करने के लिए जो मानदंड लागू किए हैं। उन पर गहराई से विश्लेषण करें तो स्थिति काफी चिंताजनक लगती है। यह विश्लेषण बताता है कि मुख्य समस्या प्रशिक्षण संबंधित आवश्यक ढांचे की कमी और अपेक्षाकृत ढीले सुरक्षा मानकों से जुड़ी है। रैंकिंग तय करने में इन दोनों पहलुओं का भारांश 60 प्रतिशत है। उदाहरण के लिए नियामक 'परिचालन से जुड़े विषयों पहलुओं' को 40 प्रतिशत यानी सबसे अधिक भारांश देता है जिसमें छात्र-विमान अनुपात, छात्र- अनुदेशक अनुपात, बेड़े का आकार और ग्राउंड स्कूल और सिमुलेटर की उपलब्धता जैसे मानदंड शामिल हैं। सुरक्षा मानकों का भारांक 20 प्रतिशत है और इनमें पिछले 12 महीनों में दुर्घटनाओं एवं घटनाओं की संख्या शामिल है।

इससे भी महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि ये पाठ्यक्रम सस्ते नहीं हैं। उदाहरण के लिए नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय के तहत काम करने वाली इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय उड़ान अकादमी वाणिज्यिक पायलट के लाइसेंस के लिए 30 लाख रुपये अग्रिम फीस ले लेती है (जिसमें 200 घंटे की उड़ान शामिल है)। डीजीसीए ने इस अकादमी को 'सी' रेटिंग दी है। इस फीस में 'टाइप रेटिंग' शामिल नहीं है, जो पायलटों को विशिष्ट विमान उड़ान के लिए अनिवार्य रूप से हासिल करनी होती है। इस तरह, पाठ्यक्रम का खर्च 15-20 लाख रुपये बढ़ जाता है। कुल मिलाकर, एक प्रशिक्षु पायलट के लिए 40-60 लाख रुपये खर्च आता है। जो लोग दूसरे विकल्प तलाश रहे हैं वे विमानन कंपनियों द्वारा प्रायोजित कार्यक्रम (डीजीसीए रेटिंग प्राप्त नहीं) चुन सकते हैं, लेकिन ये अच्छी गुणवत्ता के बावजूद अधिक महंगे हो सकते हैं यानी फीस 1 करोड़ रुपये तक पहुंच सकती है। चिंता की दूसरी बात यह है कि पायलट प्रशिक्षण पर यह भारी खर्च (जिस पर परिवार अक्सर अपनी बचत का बड़ा हिस्सा खर्च करते हैं) नौकरी की गारंटी नहीं देता है क्योंकि भारतीय विमानन उद्योग में अनुभवी पायलटों को अधिक तवज्जो दी जाती है, न कि नए प्रशिक्षित पायलटों की।

इस तरह की पहली रैंकिंग में निकल कर आए तथ्यों के बाद डीजीसीए ने उन सैकड़ों युवा महिलाओं और पुरुषों को एक महत्वपूर्ण संदेश दिया है जो तेजी से बढ़ते भारतीय विमानन उद्योग में उड़ान भरने की आकांक्षा रखते हैं। यह रैंकिंग से जुड़ी कवायद वर्ष में दो बार 1 अप्रैल और 1 अक्टूबर को आयोजित की जाएगी जिससे एफटीओ अपनी तरफ से कोई अनुचित कार्य व्यवहार नहीं कर पाएंगे। नियामक के लिए सभी संस्थागत रैंकिंग में निहित महत्वपूर्ण चुनौती सार्थक जांच के साथ प्रणाली की विश्वसनीयता बनाए रखनी है ताकि यह पूरी कवायद केवल दिखावे एवं हल्की-फुल्की औपचारिकताएं निभाने तक सिमट कर नहीं रह जाए। तेजी से भीड़भाड़ वाले भारतीय विमानन उद्योग में गहन जांच एवं समीक्षा की जरूरत है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

India, China airlines to vie for bigger market share

SURAJEET DAS GUPTA
New Delhi, 3 October

Indian carriers led by IndiGo and Air India are poised for a head-to-head battle with Chinese carriers to grab a bigger share of the lucrative India-China sector, which is being opened up once again for direct flights after suspension of operations for over five years from early 2020.

In 2019, when direct flights were on, Chinese carriers China Eastern, China Southern, China Air, and Shandong were the kings, collectively dominating with an 89 per cent share of India-China seats, according to CAPA-OAG data. Air India, the only big player in the international space, was in financial trouble, managing with an 11 per cent share and flying mostly from Delhi to Shanghai and Beijing.

In September 2019, IndiGo entered the fray with a Delhi-Chengdu flight, and then added another from Kolkata to Guangzhou the next month, soon grabbing 16.8 per cent of the overall market, the data showed. But then Covid intervened.

On October 26 this year, IndiGo will be

resuming its services between Kolkata and the industrial hub of Guangzhou. It will fly on this route thrice a week. The airline is also readying for another flight from Delhi to Guangzhou, though the date for its launch has not yet been finalised.

According to sources, Air India is also preparing for a flight between Delhi and Shanghai by the end of the year. Apart from China Southern and Eastern, and Shandong Airlines, other Chinese carriers have also shown interest in flying from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Kunming into India.

The move marks the end of the restrictions, which came into effect from early 2020, when direct flights between India and China were suspended from both sides due to the pandemic. But they continued to remain suspended because of the growing tensions between the two countries after the Galwan border dispute.

The game has now changed in 2025. IndiGo and Air India (now under the Tatas), which have ordered over 1,800 aircraft, including medium- and long haul planes, are flexing their wings and pushing aggressively in the international skies, say analysts.



For one, Indian carriers led by Air India and IndiGo are looking at building international hubs in Delhi and Mumbai, and access to the Chinese market could be key to this plan. And, with the mid-haul A321XLR now joining the fleet of IndiGo, the airline

will be able to fly to more Chinese destinations of eight to ten hours, which is not possible with its A320neo that is being used for the flight from Kolkata.

Also, there is a large untapped market of passengers, who have continued to fly

- As of January 2019, Chinese carriers controlled 85-90% of the bilateral flight capacity
- IndiGo entered the fray in September 2019, and was able to quickly garner market share, but Covid intervened
- Flights were suspended since 2020 in the aftermath of the Galwan valley clash
- With flights now set to resume, Air India and IndiGo will soon start operations to China
- Indian carriers have identified at least four key Chinese cities for direct flights. These are Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Chengdu

between India and China through third countries, consuming more time and forking out more. According to OAG data, in 2024 (when there was no flights between the two countries), as many as 572,000 passengers travelled indirectly, using hubs like Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangkok, and even Vietnam.

Not only that, even in the pre-pandemic 2019 peak, there were over 1.2 million passengers who travelled between the two countries on direct nonstop flights.

If non-direct flights are added to it, the number hits 1.9 million. But with thaw in the relationship between the two countries, and possible easing of visas, the overall shift to direct flights could see a bigger jump in the number of travellers.

Indian carriers have identified at least four key Chinese cities for direct flights — Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Chengdu.

For Chinese airlines too, flying to India is an attractive proposition, especially at a time when China-US travel has hit a new low, with the number of flights falling by over 75 per cent.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

A-I to shift 60 domestic flights to T2

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 3 October

Air India Group on Friday announced that select domestic flights of Air India from Delhi would shift to Terminal 2 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport, while its low-cost airline subsidiary Air India Express would operate all its domestic flights from Terminal 1 from October 26 onwards.

These decisions have been taken due to the ongoing expansion work at Terminal 3 of Delhi airport.

Air India will relocate 60 of its 180 daily domestic departures to Terminal 2.

Air India Express will shift its entire domestic network to the upgraded Terminal 1. "The terminal enlargement works at T3 will reduce domestic capacity, necessitating the relocation of certain domestic operations of Air India and Air India Express," the airline stated in a press release. All international flights of Air India and Air India Express will continue to operate from Terminal 3. For passengers with connecting flights, the group said inter-terminal transfers would be provided between T1, T2, and T3.

"Any through-checked baggage for these guests will be seamlessly transferred airside, eliminating the need to collect and recheck baggage during terminal transfers," it added.



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BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

IndiGo to start Manchester, Bali, Krabi flights from Delhi this mth

IndiGo on Friday announced that it will start three new international routes from Delhi and add several new domestic flights from October-end as part of an expansion of operations from its hub at Indira Gandhi International Airport.

The airline said it will begin daily flight services to Denpasar, Bali from October 24, to Krabi in Thailand from October 26 with four weekly services, and to UK's Manchester from November 15 with four weekly flights.

The Manchester service will be operated with wide-

body Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft and marks the start of IndiGo's long-haul operations from Delhi. IndiGo will also increase flights between Delhi and Bangkok to twice daily from October 26.

On the domestic front, IndiGo will launch 10 additional daily non-stop services from October 26. These include new flights from Delhi to Rajkot, Vadodara, Patna, Goa, Shirdi, Nagpur, Nashik, Jabalpur, and Raipur, along with a completely new route to Purnea in Bihar.

DEEPAK PATEL



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

बड़ा बदलाव • 26 अक्टूबर से कोलकाता-ग्वांगझू फ्लाइट भारत-चीन के बीच सीधी उड़ान शुरू होने से तीन गुना बढ़ सकते हैं यात्री

भास्कर न्यूज | मुंबई

भारत और चीन के बीच सीधी उड़ानें अक्टूबर 2025 के अंत से शुरू होंगी। शुरुआत इंडिगो करेगी, जो कोलकाता से ग्वांगझू की उड़ान 26 अक्टूबर से शुरू कर रही है। उड़ान रात 10 बजे कोलकाता से रवाना होगी और सुबह 4 बजे ग्वांगझू पहुंचेगी। टिकट कीमत लगभग 15 हजार रुपए है। एअर इंडिया दिल्ली-शंघाई सर्विस पर काम कर रही है। इंडिगो के सीईओ पीटर एल्बर्स ने कहा, 'यह कदम हमारे ग्लोबल ग्रोथ प्लान का हिस्सा है। हम चीन में और रूट जोड़ने पर विचार कर रहे हैं।' इस ऐलान के बाद शुक्रवार को इंडिगो के शेयरों में 1.5 फीसदी तक की तेजी आई।

इससे पहले, विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा, 'भारत-चीन के बीच सीधी हवाई सेवाएं अक्टूबर 2025 के अंत से शीतकालीन शेड्यूल के तहत शुरू होंगी।' एविएशन विश्लेषकों का अनुमान है कि भारत-चीन डायरेक्ट फ्लाइट्स बहाल होने पर यात्री संख्या तीन गुना बढ़कर 30 लाख सालाना पहुंच सकती है। 5 साल बाद इस बहाली को रिश्तों में 'आइस-ब्रेकिंग स्टेप' कहा जा रहा है। इस साल भारत सरकार ने चीनी नागरिकों के लिए टूरिस्ट वीसा बहाल किया है।

भास्कर नॉलेज

गलवान झड़प से पहले भारत-चीन के बीच हर हफ्ते 500 सीधी उड़ानें थीं

- 2020 में गलवान घाटी में झड़प के बाद भारत-चीन संबंध बिगड़ गए। इससे दोनों के बीच सीधी उड़ानें बंद कर दी गईं। इस घटना से पहले हर हफ्ते लगभग 500 डायरेक्ट फ्लाइट्स चलती थीं।
- भारत-चीन के बीच 9 नॉन-स्टॉप रूट थे। इनमें दिल्ली-शंघाई, मुंबई-बीजिंग, कोलकाता-कुनमिंग आदि प्रमुख थे। लोड फैक्टर 90%

तक रहता था, यानी फ्लाइट्स लगभग पूरी भरी रहती थीं।

- सालाना ट्रेफिक 12.5 लाख था। इनमें सबसे बड़ा रूट दिल्ली-शंघाई था। इस पर करीब 1.49 लाख लोग सालाना यात्रा करते थे।
- 2024 में दोनों देशों के बीच सालाना यात्री घटकर 6.17 लाख रह गए, जो हांगकांग, सिंगापुर, बैंकॉक के रास्ते चीन जाते हैं।

असर: छोटे, मझोले उद्यमों को बड़ी राहत मिलेगी

- डायरेक्ट फ्लाइट्स से छात्रों, बिजनेस यात्रियों और पर्यटकों को समय, खर्च दोनों में बचत होगी।
- छोटे और मध्यम उद्यमों के लिए यह बड़ी राहत होगी, जिनके सप्लाय चैन चीन से जुड़े हैं।
- ई-कॉमर्स, फार्मा, मैनुफैक्चरिंग

सेक्टर को तेज सप्लाय चैन और व्यापारिक लाभ। एयरलाइंस और एयरपोर्ट्स को नए राजस्व स्रोत।

- नोमाड ट्रेवल्स के अजय प्रकाश के मुताबिक इससे पीपुल टू पीपुल कनेक्ट बढ़ेगा। कारोबारियों को राहत मिलेगी।

बौद्ध पर्यटन, वेलनेस पर्यटन में चीनी पर्यटकों की दिलचस्पी

- ऐतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक धरोहर जैसे आगरा (ताजमहल), दिल्ली, जयपुर, राजस्थान।
- बौद्ध पर्यटन स्थल जैसे लद्दाख,

गया, बोधगया, सारनाथ, कुशीनगर, नालंदा, अजंता-एलोरा गुफाएं।

- उच्च गुणवत्ता स्वास्थ्य/वेलनेस पर्यटन (योग, आयुर्वेद केंद्र)



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

घरेलू हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या घटी

उड़ानों में देरी से 74 हजार यात्री प्रभावित

अहमदाबाद, 3 अक्टूबर (एजेंसियां)। अहमदाबाद विमान ह्रादसे के बाद से कई लोगों को हवाई यात्रा से थोड़ा ही सही पर हां डर तो लगने लगा था। इसी बीच डीजीसीए ने एक ताजा रिपोर्ट पेश की है। इसमें बताया गया है कि अगस्त 2025 में कुल कितने लोगों ने उड़ान भरी है। अगस्त 2024 के मुकाबले इस साल में अगस्त के आंकड़ों में गिरावट आई है। हालांकि पिछले महीने के मुकाबले ये आंकड़े थोड़े बेहतर हैं। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय की ताजा रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, इस महीने घरेलू एयरलाइनों ने कुल 1.29 करोड़ यात्रियों को उड़ान भराई, जबकि पिछले साल अगस्त में यह आंकड़ा 1.31 करोड़ था। हालांकि जुलाई की तुलना में अगस्त का यात्री आंकड़ा थोड़ा बेहतर रहा। अगस्त में इंडिगो की घरेलू बाजार हिस्सेदारी घटकर 64.2 प्रतिशत रह गई, जबकि जुलाई में यह 65.2 प्रतिशत थी।





Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

3 OCTOBER 2025



Two Delta Air Lines regional jets collide on the taxiway at LaGuardia airport in New York on Wednesday night.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

3 OCTOBER 2025

India, China to resume direct flights

New Delhi, Oct. 2: After a gap of five years, India and China will resume direct flight services later this month as part of efforts to rebuild their ties that came under severe strain following a border stand-off in eastern Ladakh.

The announcement by the ministry of external affairs (MEA) came a month after Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) summit in China's Tianjin city.

Indian carrier IndiGo and China Eastern will be the first two airlines to resume direct flights between the two countries, people familiar with the

development said. IndiGo said it plans to operate daily flights from Kolkata to Guangzhou from October 26. The flight services between the two sides were suspended following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. They were not restored in view of the over-four-year border face-off in eastern Ladakh, which ended in October

last year.

"Since earlier this year, as part of the government's approach towards gradual normalisation of relations between India and China, the civil aviation authorities of the two countries have been engaged in technical-level discussions on resuming direct air services between the two countries," MEA said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

अगस्त में घरेलू हवाई यातायात घटकर 1.29 करोड़ यात्री रहा

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस: इस वर्ष अगस्त में घरेलू हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या घटकर 1.29 करोड़ रही है। नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) की ओर से शुक्रवार को जारी डाटा के अनुसार, अगस्त 2024 में 1.31 करोड़ लोगों ने घरेलू हवाई यात्रा की थी। हालांकि, इसी वर्ष जुलाई के 1.26 करोड़ के मुकाबले ज्यादा लोगों ने हवाई यात्रा की है।

डाटा के अनुसार, पिछले महीने विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो की बाजार हिस्सेदारी घटकर 64.2 प्रतिशत रही है, जो इसी वर्ष जुलाई में 65.2 प्रतिशत थी। हालांकि, एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का संचालन करने वाले एअर इंडिया समूह की अगस्त में हिस्सेदारी बढ़कर 27.3 प्रतिशत रही है, जो जुलाई 2025 में 26.3 प्रतिशत थी।

डीजीसीए के डाटा के अनुसार, अगस्त में उड़ान में देरी के कारण कुल 74,381 यात्री प्रभावित हुए और एयरलाइनों ने सुविधा के लिए 1.18 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए।



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RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

अहमदाबाद विमान दुर्घटना की जांच में नहीं शामिल हो सकेंगे एएलपीए के प्रतिनिधि

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर: पायलटों के संगठन एएलपीए इंडिया ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि एएआइबी ने जून में अहमदाबाद में हुए एअर इंडिया विमान हादसे की जांच कर रही टीम में उसके प्रतिनिधि को शामिल करने के अनुरोध को सरकारी मानदंडों का हवाला देते हुए अस्वीकार कर दिया है। इस हादसे में 260 लोग मारे गए थे।

एयरलाइन पायलट एसोसिएशन (एएलपीए) इंडिया के प्रतिनिधियों ने शुक्रवार को दिल्ली में विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (एएआइबी) के महानिदेशक जीवीजी युगंधर के साथ बैठक की। चर्चा मुख्य रूप से विमान दुर्घटना जांच में विषय विशेषज्ञों की नियुक्ति पर केंद्रित रही। बैठक के बाद एएलपीए इंडिया के अध्यक्ष सैम थामस ने कहा कि एएआइबी ने सरकारी मानदंडों का हवाला देते हुए विमान दुर्घटना की जांच कर रही टीम में एएलपीए के पायलटों को विषय विशेषज्ञ के रूप में शामिल करने में असमर्थता जताई। वैश्विक पायलटों के संगठन आइएफएलपीए का एक सहयोगी सदस्य एएलपीए इंडिया, विमान दुर्घटना की जांच कर रही टीम में अपने प्रतिनिधि को शामिल करने की मांग कर रहा है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

■ Domestic Air Traffic Declines YoY in Aug



NEW DELHI Domestic airlines flew 1.29 crore passengers in August, lower than 1.31 crore in the same month last year, according to the latest official data. However, the traffic quantum was higher in August compared to July, when it stood at 1.26 crore. IndiGo's domestic market share fell to 64.2% in August from 65.2% in July while Air India Group's share increased to 27.3% from 26.2%. **PTI**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

AIR INDIA EXPRESS TO MOVE ITS DOMESTIC OPERATIONS TO T1

AI to shift 60 Delhi domestic flights to T2 from Oct 26

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, October 3

AIR INDIA WILL relocate around one-third of its domestic departures from Delhi airport's Terminal 3 (T3) to Terminal 2 (T2) starting October 26, due to expansion work.

The Tata Group-owned carrier will move 60 of its 180 daily domestic flights to the upgraded T2.

Air India Express, meanwhile, will shift all of its domestic operations to the newly renovated Terminal 1 (T1). All international flights of Air India and Air India Express will continue to operate from T3.

To help passengers identify the changes, Air India said all flights operating from T2 will be renumbered into a four-digit format prefixed with '1' (AI1XXX). For example, AI1737

TERMINAL REJIG

■ All international flights of Air India, Air India Express will continue ops from T3

■ All flights operating from T2 will be renumbered into 4-digit format prefixed with '1' (AI1XXX): Air India

■ Free shuttle services every 10 minutes among T1, T2, T3 for passengers needing inter-terminal transfer

■ Realignment comes as Delhi airport pushes ahead with major expansion of T3



or AI1787 will indicate departures from T2.

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) will provide free shuttle services every 10 minutes between T1, T2 and T3 for passengers needing inter-terminal transfers. Spe-

cial buggy rides will also be available for passengers with reduced mobility.

Air India assured that travellers with onward connections won't need to worry about baggage, as through-checked luggage will be trans-

ferred seamlessly between terminals. Additional ground staff, wearing special uniforms, will be deployed to guide passengers during the transition phase.

Passengers with bookings on affected flights will be notified via their registered contact details, while those making fresh bookings on AI1XXX flights will be informed that the flight operates from T2.

Air India has advised travellers to update their contact details in bookings and check terminal information before travel via the airline's website, app or customer service channels.

The realignment comes as DIAL pushes ahead with a major expansion of T3, aimed at boosting Delhi airport's international passenger capacity.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

3 OCTOBER 2025

INDIA, CHINA TO RESUME FLIGHTS THIS MONTH

FPJ News Service

MUMBAI

India and China will restart direct flights later this month, ending a suspension of more than five years. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday that services between designated cities in both countries will resume by late October, subject to the commercial choices of airlines and fulfilment of operational requirements.

Direct flights between the two neighbours have been suspended since 2020, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the sharp deterioration in relations after a violent clash in eastern Ladakh triggered a prolonged military standoff. Despite this, China remains India's largest bilateral trade partner.

The decision comes weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to China for the first time in seven years to attend a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit.

India, China flights...

During talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, both leaders described India and China as "development partners, not rivals" and discussed ways to strengthen trade ties amid global tariff uncertainties. Modi also flagged concerns over India's widening trade deficit with China, which now stands at \$99.2 billion, and underlined the need for peace and stability along the disputed border.

According to the MEA, civil aviation authorities from both sides have been holding technical discussions through the year on resuming services and revising the existing air services agreement. With an understanding now reached, carriers designated by both countries will be able to operate flights connecting approved destinations.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

Talks continue as India and China plan to restart flights from Oct. 26

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

The green signal from the Centre for resumption of flights between India and China from October 26 after a gap of five years comes even as the two sides “remain engaged” on revising the bilateral air service agreement, according to a senior government official.

On Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced that India and China had agreed to resume direct flights from October 26, coinciding with the start of the winter schedule.

Soon after, IndiGo said it would launch a daily Kolkata-Guangzhou service from October 26, and add daily flights from New Delhi to the Chinese trade hub once regulatory approvals were in place.



Taking off: The two nations ‘remain engaged’ on revising the bilateral air service agreement. FILE PHOTO

Five Chinese carriers have approached the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for passenger and cargo flights.

“We remain engaged on air service agreements,” a senior government official said when asked if the two sides had agreed on a revised pact covering seat capacity and destinations allowed to the airlines of the

two countries. The official added that they did not want these discussions to further delay the resumption of flights.

In a statement on Thursday, the Ministry said the two countries had been holding technical-level discussions since early this year, including on the air service agreement, as part of the government’s strate-

gy for the “gradual normalisation of relations”.

Passenger services

Apart from IndiGo, Air India plans to resume flights to Shanghai “before the end of the year”.

Government officials said Akasa also intends to fly to China. The DGCA has granted permission for passenger flights to Chinese carriers China Eastern (Shanghai-Delhi; five weekly flights). Others who have applied in the passenger category are Air China and Shandong. Two Chinese airlines have also sought permission for cargo flights, and these include China Southern and Sichuan Airlines.

The Indian carriers have sought “modernisation” of the air services agreement, said another industry source without elaborating on the specifics.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

Domestic air traffic slipped to 1.29 cr. in August: DGCA data

Domestic airlines flew 1.29 crore passengers in August, lower than the 1.31 crore people carried by them in the year-earlier period, according to the latest official data. However, the traffic quantum was higher in August compared to July, when it stood at 1.26 crore. IndiGo's domestic market share fell to 64.2% in August against 65.2% in July, while that of Air India Group – comprising Air India and Air India Express – rose to 27.3% from 26.2% during the same period. PH



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

दिल्ली से पूर्णिया की उड़ान 26 से

पूर्णिया, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। अब दिल्ली दूर नहीं। सीमांचल की जनता को छठ का तोहफा मिल गया है। 26 अक्टूबर से पूर्णिया से दिल्ली के बीच हवाई सेवा की शुरुआत हो जाएगी।

टिकट की बुकिंग शुक्रवार से शुरू हो गयी है। इंडिगो की एयर बस योजना पूर्णिया से दिल्ली के लिए उड़ान भरेगी। दिल्ली से दिन में 10.45 बजे चलकर 12:50 बजे यह फ्लाइट पूर्णिया पहुंचेगी। फिर यही विमान दोपहर बाद 13:50 बजे रवाना होकर 15:55 बजे दिल्ली पहुंचेगा। एयरपोर्ट डायरेक्टर डीपी गुप्ता ने पूर्णिया-दिल्ली के बीच 26 अक्टूबर से हवाई सेवा की शुरुआत होने की पुष्टि की है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

चीन की उड़ानों के लिए बुकिंग शुरू

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। लंबे समय बाद भारत से चीन के लिए 26 अक्टूबर से उड़ान सेवा शुरू होगी। कोलकाता से चीन के ग्वांगझू के लिए इंडिगो का विमान उड़ान भरेगा, जिसके लिए टिकटों की बुकिंग शुक्रवार से शुरू हो गई है।

26 अक्टूबर से लेकर एक नवंबर के बीच अभी तक टिकट मूल्य 14998 रुपये हैं। हालांकि बुकिंग के आधार पर आगे टिकट की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी हो सकती है। इंडिगो की तरफ से कहा गया है कि वह कोलकाता से ग्वांगझू के बीच नॉन-स्टॉप डेली फ्लाइट शुरू करेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

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घरेलू हवाई यातायात में गिरावट दर्ज

नई दिल्ली। घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों में यात्रा करने वाले लोगों की संख्या अगस्त में घटकर 1.29 करोड़ रही, जो पिछले साल इसी अवधि में 1.31 करोड़ थी। हालांकि, मासिक आधार पर अगस्त में यात्रियों की संख्या बढ़कर 1.29 करोड़ हो गई, जो जुलाई में 1.26 करोड़ थी। इंडिगो का घरेलू बाजार जुलाई में 65.2% था जो अगस्त में 64.2% पर आ गया, जबकि एयर इंडिया समूह का बाजार इसी अवधि के दौरान 26.2 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 27.3 प्रतिशत हो गया।



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Hindustan Times

[AIR INDIA CRASH]

AAIB said it will push law to allow pilots in future probes: ALPA

Snehashish Roy

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NEW DELHI: The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), which is leading the inquiry into the June 12 crash of Air India Flight 171, on Friday declined a proposal by the pilots' association to include external subject matter experts (SMEs) in the probe team, citing legislative "limitations" but assured that future amendments to the law could allow for external participation, the pilots' body said.

On June 12, AI-171 carrying 230 passengers and 12 crew members crashed shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad airport, killing 229 passengers, all crew members, and 19 people on the ground. Several others sustained serious injuries. AAIB is leading the inquiry into the tragedy, with participation from the US National Transportation Safety Board, the UK's Air Accidents Investigation Branch, and Boeing representatives.

On Friday, representatives of the Airline Pilots Association (ALPA) India held a meeting with AAIB director general GVG Yugandhar in New Delhi. The meeting comes after the body sent a letter to the civil aviation minister to discuss ways of better representing pilots' stand point and views during the course of the investigation.

After the meeting on Friday, ALPA India president Sam Thomas said the ongoing probe into the crash was not discussed. "The DG AAIB made it known to us his limitations as far as including any outside body is concerned that does not belong to the Government of India. This is as per the Act. However, they will do everything to see that when the Act is being amended, there is a provision where outside experts can be involved officially," he said.

He added that the AAIB agreed to hold quarterly meetings with



The wreckage of the crashed Air India plane.

ALPA India to develop a roadmap for future collaboration. "All further accident investigations would also have either ALPA India or its nominees. The final choice of the inclusion of the SMEs in a particular accident would be the absolute choice of the lead investigator."

However, a PIB official said that the government had not been made aware of AAIB's assurances.

An AAIB official aware of the matter said: "It's a courtesy meet and ALPA presented their role in safety and global presence. AAIB informed that the investigations are conducted as per AAIB rules and ICAO norms."

The demand for external experts was first raised after ALPA India requested that SMEs, including its representatives, be made part of the AI-171 crash probe. The request came after AAIB's preliminary report, released on July 12, had said that the aircraft's fuel switches were cut off within a one-second gap immediately after takeoff from Ahmedabad, causing confusion in the cockpit before the aircraft crashed into a building. However, media reports on July 17 cited US officials as suggesting that the cockpit recordings indicated captain Sumeet Sabharwal switched off fuel control switches while first officer Clive Kunder questioned his actions.

AAIB had criticised the reports as "selective and unverified".

India-China flights to resume after five years from Oct. 26

The first flight, operated by IndiGo, will take off for Guangzhou from Kolkata and the tickets will go on sale from today; Air India is expected to start services to Shanghai by year-end, say sources

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday gave the green signal to resume direct flights between India and China after a gap of five years with IndiGo's flights from Kolkata to the trading hub of Guangzhou set for take-off from October 26.

"It has now been agreed that direct air services connecting designated points in India and China can resume by late October 2025, in keeping with the winter season schedule," a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, adding that the move will "further facilitate people-to-people contact between India and China, contributing towards the gradual normalisation of bilateral exchanges".

The statement was followed by IndiGo announcing daily flights between Guangzhou and Kolkata,



The annual aviation timetable is divided into summer and winter schedules and allows airlines to plan and adjust flights. FILE PHOTO

adding that the trading city would be connected with New Delhi soon "subject to regulatory approvals". Tickets of flights between Kolkata and Guangzhou will open for sale from Friday. Sources said Air India too expected to start flights to Shanghai "before the end of the year".

In July, the Indian government had announced resumption of tourist visas to Chinese nationals.

Direct flights between India and China have been suspended since March

2020, when India halted all international travel amid the COVID-19 pandemic. While restrictions eased gradually for many countries, flights to China remained suspended due to heightened tensions along the Line of Actual Control.

IndiGo's flights start on the first day of the winter schedule that begins on the last Sunday of October.

On the resumption of flights by Chinese carriers such as Air China, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines, and

Shandong Airlines, sources said there had been a delay in submission of their applications to the government. Air China is learnt to have sought permission to connect Beijing with Delhi and later Mumbai, said one industry veteran.

Affected small traders

The disruption had especially impacted small traders. For over five years, travellers needing to move between India and China relied on connecting flights via third-country hubs.

The tourism industry welcomed the government decision. "China has a significant contribution to in-bound tourism for India. Resumption of air links is welcome especially as India hasn't yet reached pre-Covid levels of in-bound tourists which used to be at 11.5 million and today lags behind at 9.5 million," said founder-chairman of STIC Travel Group of Companies, Subhash Goyal.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

AFTER LONG-HAUL DEBUT FROM MUMBAI

IndiGo to operate flights from Delhi hub to Manchester, Bali and Krabi

SUKALP SHARMA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

AFTER MAKING its long-haul debut from Mumbai, IndiGo plans to add its primary hub, Delhi, as a base for inter-continental flights with the launch of the Delhi-Manchester service from November 15.

India's largest carrier also announced the launch of two other international services from Delhi — to Bali in Indonesia from October 24 and Krabi in Thailand from October 26 — further strengthening its international operations from the Capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA). IndiGo will increase the frequency of its Delhi-Bangkok service to twice daily from October 26.

On the domestic front, from October 26, IndiGo will be introducing additional daily, non-stop services from Delhi to nine cities — Rajkot, Vadodara, Patna, Goa, Shirdi, Nagpur, Nashik, Jabalpur, and Raipur. It will also introduce Purnea in Bihar as a new destination from Delhi, bringing the total domestic enhancement to 10

On the domestic front, from Oct 26, IndiGo will introduce additional daily, non-stop services from Delhi to Rajkot, Vadodara, Patna, Goa, Shirdi, Nagpur, Nashik, Jabalpur, and Raipur

daily non-stop services. With this expansion, IndiGo will connect Delhi to 21 international and 74 domestic destinations, with over 1,700 weekly departures. "This international expansion further strengthens the airline's network depth in South-East Asia, and the Manchester service marks the start of IndiGo's long-haul services from Delhi," IndiGo said in a release Friday.

Flight frequency and jets in use

While the non-stop Delhi-Manchester and Delhi-Krabi flights will be operated four days a week, the Delhi-Bali flight will be a daily service, but not a non-stop one. It will have a refueling

halt in Bhubaneswar.

IndiGo will operate its damp-leased Boeing 787-9 aircraft between Manchester and Delhi. Flights to Bali and Krabi will be operated using the airline's Airbus A320 family aircraft, and the enhanced services on the Delhi-Bangkok route will be operated with IndiGo's A321 aircraft, which will also include the "stretch" cabin, its business class product.

"Delhi has always been central to IndiGo's growth story. Introducing new flights and additional frequencies from the National Capital will help us offer seamless and convenient air travel to our customers, enabling international connectivity from domestic as well as international locations via Delhi, and strengthening India's links to key global markets. As we continue to grow internationally, developing globally competitive and locally connected aviation hubs in India will be a cornerstone of our growth strategy, accelerating our journey to become a global aviation leader by 2030," said IndiGo's Chief Executive Officer Pieter Elbers.

रिपोर्ट में खुलासा उड़ानों में देरी से 74 हजार यात्री प्रभावित

घरेलू हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या में आई गिरावट

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्य

डीजीसीए की अगस्त रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, घरेलू हवाई यात्रा में सालाना आधार पर गिरावट दर्ज हुई। अगस्त 2025 में 1.29 करोड़ यात्रियों ने उड़ान भरी, जो पिछले साल से कम है। इंडिगो की हिस्सेदारी घटकर 64.2 प्रतिशत रही, जबकि एअर इंडिया ग्रुप 27.3 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ा।

अहमदाबाद विमान हादसे के बाद से कई लोगों को हवाई यात्रा से थोड़ा ही सही पर हां डर तो लगने लगा था। इसी बीच डीजीसीए ने एक ताजा रिपोर्ट पेश की है। इसमें बताया गया है कि अगस्त 2025 में कुल कितने लोगों ने उड़ान भरी है। रिपोर्ट के आंकड़े बताते हैं कि अगस्त 2024 के मुकाबले इस साल में अगस्त के आंकड़ों में गिरावट आई है। हालांकि पिछले महीने के



मुकाबले ये आंकड़े थोड़े बेहतर हैं। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (DGCA) की ताजा रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, इस महीने घरेलू एयरलाइनों ने कुल 1.29 करोड़ यात्रियों को उड़ान भराई, जबकि पिछले साल अगस्त में यह आंकड़ा 1.31 करोड़ था। हालांकि जुलाई की

तुलना में अगस्त का यात्री आंकड़ा थोड़ा बेहतर रहा। इंडिगो का शेयर घटा, एअर इंडिया ग्रुप में बढ़त इस रिपोर्ट में ये भी बताया गया कि अगस्त में इंडिगो की घरेलू बाजार हिस्सेदारी घटकर 64.2 प्रतिशत रह गई, जबकि जुलाई में

यह 65.2 प्रतिशत थी। इसके विपरीत, एअर इंडिया ग्रुप (एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस) का मार्केट शेयर जुलाई के 26.2 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 27.3 प्रतिशत हो गया। अकासा एयर का बाजार हिस्सा अगस्त में घटकर 5.4 प्रतिशत रह गया, जबकि जुलाई में

यह 5.5 प्रतिशत था। स्पाइसजेट का हिस्सा 2 प्रतिशत पर स्थिर रहा। सरकारी एलायंस एयर का मार्केट शेयर जुलाई के 0.4 प्रतिशत से गिरकर 0.3 प्रतिशत हो गया। वहीं स्टार एयर और फ्लाई91 क्रमशः 0.5 और 0.2 प्रतिशत पर कायम रहे।

शिकायतें और उड़ान रद्द होने का असर

अगस्त में कुल 1,407 यात्री शिकायतें एयरलाइनों को मिलीं। डीजीसीए के मुताबिक, 10,000 यात्रियों पर 1.09 शिकायतें दर्ज हुईं। महीने भर में 74,381 यात्री उड़ानों में देरी से प्रभावित हुए, जिनके लिए एयरलाइनों ने 1.18 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए। वहीं, 36,362 यात्री उड़ान रद्द होने से प्रभावित हुए और उन्हें 64.51 लाख रुपये का मुआवजा दिया गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

T-3 EXPANSION REDUCES SPACE FOR DOMESTIC OPS

Air India shifts select domestic flights to T-2 from October 26

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Air India will move 60 of its 180 daily domestic flights at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport to Terminal 2 (T2) from 26 October 2025, while Air India Express will operate all its domestic flights from the upgraded Terminal 1 (T1). The changes come as Terminal 3 (T3) undergoes expansion to increase international passenger capacity, reducing domestic flight space.

Air India flights to and from T2 will be renumbered in four digits with a '1' prefix (AI1XXX) to help passengers identify their departure terminal. All international flights of both airlines will continue



to operate from T3.

Passengers with connecting flights will be provided inter-terminal transfers between T1, T2 and T3. Through-checked baggage will be automatically transferred, eliminating the need for recheck. Delhi International Airport (DIAL) will run a free shuttle every 10 minutes, while passengers requiring special assistance can avail buggy rides

between T2 and T3.

Air India and Air India Express are notifying affected passengers via registered contact details. Ground staff in distinctive t-shirts will assist passengers with terminal navigation. Travellers are advised to verify flight and terminal details through airline websites, apps or customer service.

The Air India group, which includes the full-service Air

“Ground staff in distinctive t-shirts will assist passengers with terminal navigation. Travellers are advised to verify flight and terminal details through airline websites, apps or customer service”

India and low-cost Air India Express, operates over 300 aircraft to 55 domestic and 45 international destinations. Since returning to Tata Sons in 2022, the airline has been undergoing a major transformation, including fleet expansion, mergers with Air Asia India and Vistara, and infrastructure upgrades such as a new flying school and maintenance base.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

FLIGHT DELAYS HIT 74,381 PASSENGERS

Domestic air traffic declines to 1.29 cr in August, says DGCA data

However, the traffic quantum was higher in August compared to July, when it stood at 1.26 crore

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Domestic airlines flew 1.29 crore passengers in August, lower than 1.31 crore people carried by them in the year-ago period, according to the latest official data.

However, the traffic quantum was higher in August compared to July, when it stood at 1.26 crore.

IndiGo's domestic market fell to 64.2 per cent in August against 65.2 per cent in July, while that of Air India Group — comprising Air India and Air India Express — rose to 27.3 per cent from 26.2 per cent during the same period.

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-August 2025 were 1,107.26 lakhs as against 1054.66 lakhs during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of 4.99 per cent and a monthly growth of 1.40 per cent," DGCA said in its monthly traffic report for August.

In August, the passenger number stood at 1.29 crore, lower than 1.31 crore recorded in the same period a year ago.

Meanwhile, the market share of Akasa Air dipped to 5.4 per cent in August from 5.5 per cent in the previous month, and that of SpiceJet remained unchanged at 2 per cent.



'Domestic airlines carried 1,107.26 lakh passengers during January-August 2025 against 1054.66 lakh passengers during January-August 2024'

In August, government-owned Alliance Air's market share slipped to 0.3 per cent from 0.4 per cent in July; Star Air and Fly91's market share remained unchanged at 0.5 per cent and 0.2 per cent, respectively.

A total of 1,407 passenger-related complaints were received by the scheduled domestic airlines, and the number of complaints per 10,000 passengers carried in August

was around 1.09.

As per the DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) data, a total of 74,381 passengers were affected due to flight delays, and airlines shelled out Rs 1.18 crore towards facilitation in August.

As many as 36,362 passengers were impacted by flight cancellations, with airlines spending Rs 64.51 lakh for compensation and facilities.

DGCA said a total of 705 passengers were denied boarding, and carriers spent Rs 24.52 lakh towards compensation and facilities.

In terms of On-Time Performance in August, IndiGo topped the list with 90.6 per cent, followed by Akasa Air (87 per cent), Air India Group (84.5 per cent), SpiceJet (68.2 per cent) and Alliance Air (55.2 per cent). OTP is computed for six metro airports — Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

4 OCTOBER 2025

‘No provisions’: Pilots can’t be in AI Ahmedabad crash probe committee

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has informed a leading pilot body, the Airline Pilots’ Association of India (ALPA INDIA), that it would not be possible to include pilots in the ongoing final probe into the AI 171 crash at Ahmedabad. In its present form, the AAIB Act does not have any such provision, the association has been told.

The June 12 Boeing Dreamliner crash had left 260 people dead and the preliminary report has been released. Investigations are underway in connection with the final report. Various pilot bodies had blamed the preliminary report which pointed to human error and demanded that Subject Matter Experts (pilots with expertise) be included in the investigation process.

AAIB Director General, Yugandhar held a meeting at the DGCA office with the manag-



Meetings for aviation safety

The DG also promised to have quarterly meetings where a road map would be drawn for aviation safety and further investigation will involve ALPA India directly or their nominee, Rao added.

ing committee of ALPA, a Bengaluru-headquartered body with 1,000-plus pilots in India and abroad under its fold.

Capt Anil Rao, General Secretary of ALPA India, told this newspaper, “The DG made it known to us during the meeting that he had limitations in

including outside bodies that are not part of the Government of India. This is as per the AAIB Act. Moreover, this is an ongoing investigation.”

“The AAIB promised that they will do everything to ensure that when the Act is amended, they will have a provision where outside experts can be involved officially.”

The DG also promised to have quarterly meetings where a road map would be drawn for aviation safety and further investigation will involve ALPA India directly or their nominee, Rao added.

The final choice on whether the SMEs can be involved in a particular accident probe would be the absolute right of the lead investigator, the General Secretary stressed.

In an official release on Thursday, ALPA INDIA was optimistic that members of the body would be made a part of the investigation into the crash.

घरेलू हवाई यातायात अगस्त में घटकर 1.29 करोड़ पर: डीजीसीए

नई दिल्ली, 3 अक्टूबर (एजेंसी): घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों में यात्रा करने वाले लोगों की संख्या अगस्त में घटकर 1.29 करोड़ रही, जो पिछले साल इसी अवधि में 1.31 करोड़ थी। हाल ही में जारी किए गए अधिकारिक आंकड़ों में यह जानकारी दी गई। हालांकि, मासिक आधार पर अगस्त में यात्रियों की संख्या बढ़कर 1.29



करोड़ हो गई, जो जुलाई में 1.26 करोड़ थी।

इंडिगो का घरेलू बाजार जुलाई में 65.2 प्रतिशत था जो अगस्त में घटकर 64.2 प्रतिशत पर आ गया, जबकि एयर इंडिया समूह का बाजार इसी अवधि के दौरान 26.2 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 27.3 प्रतिशत हो गया।

नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डी.जी.सी.ए.) ने अगस्त के लिए अपनी मासिक यातायात रिपोर्ट में कहा, "जनवरी-अगस्त 2025 के बीच 1,107.26 लाख लोगों ने घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों की सेवाएं लीं। पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि के दौरान यह संख्या 1054.66 लाख थी। इसमें सालाना आधार पर 4.99 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि और मासिक आधार पर 1.40 प्रतिशत की गिरावट आई।" अगस्त में यात्रियों की संख्या 1.29 करोड़ रही, जो एक साल पहले इसी

माह में दर्ज 1.31 करोड़ से कम है। अकासा एयर की बाजार हिस्सेदारी घटी

इस बीच, अकासा एयर की बाजार हिस्सेदारी अगस्त में घटकर 5.4 प्रतिशत रह गई, जो पिछले महीने (जुलाई) 5.5 प्रतिशत थी। स्पाइसजैट की हिस्सेदारी दो प्रतिशत पर बरकरार रही।

अगस्त में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की विमानन कंपनी एलायंस एयर की बाजार हिस्सेदारी घटकर 0.3 प्रतिशत रह गई जो जुलाई में 0.4 प्रतिशत थी। स्टार एयर और फ्लाई91 की बाजार हिस्सेदारी क्रमशः 0.5 प्रतिशत और 0.2 प्रतिशत पर बरकरार रहीं। अनुसूचित घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों को कुल 1,407 यात्री-संबंधी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुईं तथा अगस्त में प्रति 10,000 यात्रियों पर शिकायतों की संख्या लगभग 1.09 थी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

3 OCTOBER 2025

October-end direct China flights

OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: The decks have been cleared for the resumption of direct flights between India and China from October-end, the external affairs ministry announced on Thursday, adding that it was now up to the designated carriers to draw up their schedules.

Shortly afterwards, IndiGo announced daily, non-stop services between Calcutta and Guangzhou from October 26. The airline also plans to soon introduce direct flights between Delhi and Guangzhou, depending on regulatory approvals.

Direct flights between India and China were suspended in March 2020 owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. The suspension continued as tensions mounted following the Galwan clash.

A ministry statement said: "It has now been agreed that direct air services connecting designated points in India and China can resume by late October 2025, in keeping with the winter season schedule, subject to commercial decision of the designated carriers from the two countries and fulfilment of all operational criteria."



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

3 OCTOBER 2025

5 yrs on, India, China to restart direct flights later this month

**Sachin Parashar &
Saurabh Sinha** | TNN

New Delhi: In the middle of Dussehra festivities, India Thursday announced resumption of direct air services with China from late Oct, marking another significant step in efforts to normalise the relationship that saw PM Narendra Modi visiting Tianjin last month for the SCO summit and also having a bilateral meeting with President Xi Jinping.

This is the second major step taken by India to facilitate regular exchanges between the two countries, after govt resumed tourist visas for Chinese nationals.

Govt said in a statement that the agreement between civil aviation authorities would further ease people-to-people contact between India and China, contributing towards gradual normalisation of bilateral exchanges, and economic cooperation.

Direct flights remained



IndiGo said it would start a daily nonstop between Kolkata and Guangzhou from Oct 26

suspended since early 2020, initially because of the pandemic and later because of military and political tensions. India's efforts to normalise the relationship have acquired a greater sense of urgency because of its recent experience with the Trump administration.

Both countries had agreed in principle to resume air services in Jan during foreign secretary Vikram Misri's visit. Since then, said MEA, civil aviation authorities had been engaged in

technical-level discussions on resuming direct air services and on a revised Air Services Agreement.

Shortly after MEA's announcement, IndiGo said it would start a daily nonstop between Kolkata and Guangzhou from Oct 26. The airline will fly between Delhi and Guangzhou, the date for which will be announced shortly. Air India is likely to resume China flights with a nonstop between Delhi and Shanghai by the year-end, say sources.

IndiGo said its "familiarity with local partners" enabled it to resume these flights swiftly. IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said: "This will once again allow seamless movement of people, goods, and ideas, while also strengthening bilateral ties between two of the world's most populous countries and fast-growing economies..." The flights between Kolkata and Guangzhou will open for sale from Friday.



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THE TRIBUNE

GURUGRAM

3 OCTOBER 2025

Airfares soar on Delhi-Dharamsala, other routes

RAVINDER SOOD

SHALAMPUR, OCTOBER 2

With Diwali approaching and the winter tourist season around the corner, airline companies have once again hiked airfares on the Delhi-Dharamsala and Chandigarh-Dharamsala routes, pushing them beyond the reach of most locals and tourists.

Travelers are shocked by the abrupt rise in prices. A one-stop connecting flight from Mumbai to Dharamsala via Delhi is now priced between Rs 25,000 and Rs 30,000 per person. Similar fares are being charged on connecting flights from Bengaluru, Ahmedabad and Jaipur. Even the short Delhi-Dharamsala sector has seen prices surge to Rs 12,000-Rs 18,000, while tickets from Chandigarh to Dharamsala are also being quoted far above normal.

Travel agents' associations, speaking to *The Tribune*, strongly criticised airlines for what they termed "open exploitation" of passengers. They also accused the Union Government of turning a blind eye to the issue. Currently, Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet operate around half a dozen flights on the Delhi-Dharamsala and Chandigarh-Dharamsala sectors. Industry stakeholders warn that unchecked airfare hikes could severely dent Himachal's tourism economy in the coming days. They have urged members of Parliament from the state to press the Centre for airfare subsidies similar to those available for Kashmir and the North-East.



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THE TRIBUNE

GURUGRAM

3 OCTOBER 2025

Govt tweaks green approval norms for airport expansion

AKSHEEV THAKUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

Streamlining the clearance process, the Environment Ministry has exempted expansion and modernisation activities at airports from environmental impact assessment (EIA). However, this exemption will be granted only if the expansion is strictly within the existing airport boundaries and does not involve any additional land.

The ministry said such activities would now be categorised under B2. The projects under categories A and B are

No nod required if work done within existing boundaries

required to undergo public consultation, whereas the category B2 schemes are exempted from the EIA. Earlier, the expansion activities within the airport also required environmental clearance, as these came under category B.

The ministry had received a representation from the Airports Authority of India seeking rationalisation of clearance

requirements for expansion activities confined within the existing boundaries of airports.

"It has been submitted that under the UDAN scheme, air travel is being expanded to improve accessibility and affordability, and the Krishi UDAN scheme has facilitated movement of agricultural produce from remote areas to markets. These initiatives have led to significant growth in passenger traffic and cargo movement, necessitating capacity enhancement at both major and regional airports," an official memorandum said.