



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

Govt cuts airport charges by 25% to shield airlines

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 8

The civil aviation ministry on Wednesday announced a 25% reduction in landing and parking charges across major airports, offering relief to the country's airlines that are under financial pressure due to the Iran war.

This reduction, which comes into immediate effect, will be applicable to all domestic flights for a period of three months, the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) said in its order. The tariff follows the government's directive to the authority in view of the ongoing West Asia crisis, it added.

The move to cut charges comes after IndiGo and Air India sought the rationalisation of some fees levied by airports. The country's two largest airlines are facing a double whammy from the Iran war, as Indian airlines are already barred from flying over Pakistan.

AERA said that any under-recovery by airports will be adjusted during tariff determination in the next five-year control period.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been directed to implement a 25 per cent reduction in landing and parking charges at all non-major airports under its control. These measures are

▶ **THE REDUCTION** will be applicable to all domestic flights for a period of three months. The measure is expected to reduce airline expenses by approximately ₹400 crores.

expected to reduce airline expenses by approximately ₹400 crore over the three-month period.

The ministry of civil aviation (MoCA) said it is keeping a close watch on the evolving situation, and further necessary measures will be taken to ensure the viability of air operations, as well as safe and affordable air travel for passengers.

Speaking on the measures, aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said, "Even in the prevailing challenging situation, when global air operations are impacted, we have ensured that rising fuel costs and disruptions do not severely affect domestic carriers. While ATF costs globally have risen by over 100 per cent, we have passed on only a moderated increase capped at 25 per cent."

He added that the reduction in airport charges is intended to contain airfare increases and support both airlines and passengers. "This is a significant intervention to provide relief to airlines grappling with rising operational costs," the minister said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

हवाई अड्डों पर 25% घटे लैंडिंग और पार्किंग शुल्क



नई दिल्ली। ईरान युद्ध के चलते वित्तीय दबाव झेल रहे विमानन क्षेत्र को केंद्र सरकार ने बड़ी राहत दी है। भारतीय विमानपत्तन आर्थिक विनियामक प्राधिकरण (एईआरए) ने देश के प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों को घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए लैंडिंग व पार्किंग शुल्क में तत्काल प्रभाव से 25% की कटौती का निर्देश दिया है।

यह रियायत आगामी तीन महीनों तक लागू रहेगी। दरअसल, पाकिस्तान के हवाई क्षेत्र पर प्रतिबंध और ईरान संकट की दोहरी मार के बीच इंडिगो और एअर इंडिया ने सरकार से शुल्क तर्कसंगत बनाने की अपील की थी। विमानन क्षेत्र में ईंधन और श्रम के बाद एयरपोर्ट शुल्क तीसरा सबसे बड़ा खर्च है। विनियामक ने आदेश जारी कर कहा, राजस्व में होने वाली किसी भी कमी की भरपाई भविष्य की शुल्क समीक्षाओं में की जाएगी। एजेसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

Airport charges cut 25% for three months to ease airlines' costs

Rohit Vaid

New Delhi

India's airport economic regulator has mandated a 25 per cent cut in landing and parking charges for domestic flights across major airports.

The move follows a directive from the Ministry of Civil Aviation to mitigate cost pressures arising from the West Asia crisis. Accordingly, the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority mandated a 25 per cent reduction in aeronautical charges, such as landing and parking fees.

The order will remain in force for three months, after which its applicability will be reassessed. In March, *businessline* had reported that the Centre was contemplating such a move to ease pressure on the airline industry.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

Cost relief: Airport charges cut by 25% for 3 months

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

India's airport economic regulator mandated a 25 per cent cut in landing and parking charges for domestic flights across airports. The move follows a directive from the Ministry of Civil Aviation to mitigate cost pressures arising from the West Asia crisis.

The Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) mandated a 25 per cent reduction in aeronautical charges such as landing and parking fees.

The order will remain in force for three months, after which applicability will be reassessed. In March, *business-line* reported that the Centre was contemplating such a move to ease pressure.

The move is part of a broader set of policy meas-



ures initiated by the Centre to address rising operational costs.

To prevent any substantial increase in expenses, the government has capped domestic aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price increases at 25 per cent. The government has removed airfare caps and kept the 60 per cent free seat allocation rule in abeyance to provide airlines greater pricing flexibility. Further, India's aviation regulator has temporarily eased pilot flight duty time limitations (FDTL) for long-haul flights in response to the global aviation disruptions. Sources

said measures are aimed at cushioning airlines against a sharp surge in operating costs driven by higher ATF prices, airspace restrictions, and currency pressures.

FARE SURGE

In the absence of such interventions, sources said airlines may have been forced to undertake steeper fare hikes, reduce capacity, and rationalise routes to maintain their financial viability. However, recent price trends indicate that domestic airfares have risen sharply despite the series of relief measures, with average domestic ticket prices in a 15-day booking period increasing by about 44 per cent year-on-year in April.

Sources told *business-line* that the government expects these steps to eventually stabilise and reduce airfares, which will benefit

passengers. However, airlines have not yet responded to queries about how these measures will shape their fare structure.

The reduction in airport charges is currently limited to domestic operations.

AERA stated that it would reassess the decision before the end of the three-month period, based on prevailing conditions. "This step is part of the Ministry's overall effort to keep the aviation sector stable during this volatile period and to ensure ease of flying for passengers," Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said. "This is a significant intervention to provide relief to airlines grappling with increasing operational costs."

These measures are expected to reduce landing and parking charges during the three-month period by approximately ₹400 crore.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

एयरलाइंस को राहत हवाई अड्डा शुल्क घटे

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने बुधवार को घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए विमानों की लैंडिंग और पार्किंग शुल्क में तीन महीने के लिए 25 फीसदी की कटौती की घोषणा की। सरकार की इस पहल से विमानन कंपनियों को लगभग 400 करोड़ रुपये बचाने में मदद मिलेगी। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि शुल्क में कटौती को तुरंत लागू किया जाएगा। भारतीय हवाई अड्डा आर्थिक नियामक प्राधिकरण (एईआरए) भविष्य के शुल्क चक्र में हवाई अड्डों की आय में होने वाली कमी को भी समायोजित करेगा। एईआरए पांच साल के लिए हवाई अड्डा शुल्क निर्धारित करता है जिसे कंट्रोल पीरियड कहा जाता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

Govt announces 25% cut in airport charges Move will save airlines about ₹400 crore as jet fuel prices soar

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 8 April

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on Wednesday announced a 25 per cent cut in aircraft landing and parking charges for domestic flights for three months, a step expected to help airlines save about ₹400 crore during this period amid rising fuel costs.

The MoCA said the reduced charges will be implemented immediately, and the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) will adjust any revenue shortfall faced by airports in future tariff cycles.

Typically, AERA sets airport tariffs — which includes aircraft landing and parking charges — for a five-year period, known as a control period. Once set, the airport operator can collect these fixed tariffs from all aircraft operators. These

charges are revised at the end of each control period.

Therefore, the MoCA's statement on Wednesday means that any under-recovery now will be recovered in the next control period instead of being passed on immediately.

The MoCA's decision about these charges has come as part of a broader relief package for airlines grappling with multiple cost pressures, including higher Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices,

depreciation of the rupee which raises dollar-denominated expenses such as leasing and maintenance, and the closure of sizeable parts of Gulf airspace due to the West Asia conflict, which has led to longer routes and higher operating costs.

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said the reduction in airport charges is aimed at containing airfare

increases and supporting both airlines and passengers. "This is a significant intervention to provide relief to airlines grappling with increasing operational costs," he said, noting that the government is in touch with airlines, airport operators and the regulator.

The order applies to all major airports regulated by AERA and to non-major airports operated by the state-run Airports Authority of India (AAI), with both categories directed to implement a 25 per cent reduction for domestic flights for three months.

The MoCA's decision on Wednesday followed a series of developments since mid-March, when airlines began introducing fuel surcharges as ATF prices surged after the start of the West Asia conflict from February 28.

IndiGo on March 14 rolled out fuel charges across domestic and international routes, followed by Air India around the same time with surcharges on both segments.

**THE AIRPORTS
ECONOMIC REGULATORY
AUTHORITY OF INDIA
WILL ADJUST ANY
REVENUE SHORTFALL
FACED BY AIRPORTS IN
FUTURE TARIFF CYCLES**



The seized goods include of approximately 3.356 kilograms of high-purity gold, ingeniously concealed in paste form within capsule-shaped packets, valued at around Rs 5 crore. PHOTO: DRI

DRI busts int'l gold smuggling syndicate at B'luru airport

BENGALURU, DHNS: Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Bengaluru Zonal Unit, successfully busted a major international gold smuggling syndicate operating through Kempegowda International Airport (KIAL) here.

Acting on precise and actionable intelligence, DRI officers executed a well-coordinated surveillance operation at Terminal-2, leading to the interception of a sophisticated smuggling network involving Bangladeshi nationals in active collusion with local facilitators.

The operation resulted in the seizure of 3.356 kg of high-purity gold, ingeniously concealed in paste form within capsule-shaped packets, valued at around Rs 5 crore.

Investigations revealed a highly organised and clandestine modus operandi, wherein carriers arriving from abroad deliberately chose transit routes through Bengaluru with extended layovers to facilitate covert transfer of contraband within airport premises.

The gold was concealed on the body and transferred using a pre-arranged passcode system inside sensitive areas such as washrooms, smoking zones, thereby bypassing customs scrutiny.

The syndicate had infiltrated the airport ecosystem, with the involvement of an insider who misused authorised access to restricted zones to receive and smuggle out the contraband. The entire operation was coordinated through encrypted communication channels, including coded messages and disappearing chats.

Preliminary investigation indicates that the network is part of a larger cross-border smuggling syndicate, involving foreign operatives — suspected to be Bangladeshi nationals — working in tandem with domestic handlers and facilitators.

Five persons have been arrested in connection with the case. Further investigation is underway.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

'Airport Fee Cut to Save Airlines ₹400 cr'

New Delhi: Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Wednesday said a 25% cut in aircraft landing and parking charges for domestic flights for three months is expected to help airlines save about ₹400 crore during this period, helping partly cushion the impact of high jet fuel prices. "This is a significant intervention to provide relief to airlines grappling with increasing operational costs," said Naidu, emphasising that the government is in continuous touch with airlines, airport operators, and the sector regulator. **Our Bureau**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

Airport charges cut by 25% to ease airline cost pressure

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, April 8

THE CENTRE ON Wednesday announced a 25% cut in airport charges to ease airline cost pressures, directing major airports to reduce landing and parking fees for domestic flights for three months. The move offers relief to the country's airlines, which are under financial strain due to the Iran war.

Following the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) directive, the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) has mandated a 25% reduction from prevailing tariffs, applicable to aeronautical charges such as landing and parking fees, to mitigate cost pressures arising from the ongoing West Asia crisis. Similarly, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has also been directed to reduce landing and parking charges at all its non-major airports by 25% of the approved rate. This reduction for all domestic flights will also remain applicable for a period of



three months.

"Now, as part of a multi-layered response to these unprecedented challenges, the Ministry has taken another significant decision to reduce landing and parking charges for domestic carriers by 25% for a period of three months," the MoCA said.

These measures are expected to reduce landing and parking charges payable by airlines at major airports during the three-month period by approximately ₹400 crore, the ministry said. The move to cut charges comes after IndiGo and Air India sought the rationalisation of some fees levied by air-

ports. The measure is aimed at addressing rising operational costs faced by airlines. With expenses increasing, the government has capped domestic Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price hikes at 25%.

Additionally, the government has removed airfare caps and kept the 60% free seat allocation rule in abeyance to provide airlines with greater pricing flexibility. Furthermore, the aviation regulator has temporarily eased pilot flight duty time limitations (FDTL) for long-haul flights in response to global aviation disruptions.

According to sources, these measures are intended to cushion airlines against a sharp surge in operating costs driven by higher ATF prices, airspace restrictions, and currency pressures.

In the absence of such interventions, sources said airlines may have been forced to implement steeper fare hikes, reduce capacity, and rationalise routes to maintain financial viability.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

Govt cuts airport fees by 25% to ease cost pressure

NARESH BISWANI

NEW DELHI: A sudden shift in aviation fees emerges amid growing pressure from higher fuel prices linked to unrest in West Asia. To ease financial strain on carriers, authorities have adjusted ground service tariffs for local flight operators, the officials informed on Wednesday.

A quarter drop in landing and storage expenses will apply across Indian airports beginning immediately. This temporary change lasts exactly ninety days without possibility of extension. Decisions followed internal reviews assessing economic stress within the airline sector. Charges normally contribute significantly to airport revenue streams. The adjustment reflects sensitivity to operational cost spikes beyond carrier control.

INSIGHT

» Financial relief targets only services operating inside national borders

» The step aligns with wider efforts to assist air travel amid growing difficulties tied to soaring worldwide aviation turbine fuel rates

Movement comes directly from the national civil aviation office. Financial relief targets only services operating inside national borders. Effects may influence scheduling and pricing decisions by airlines during the coming weeks.

This step aligns with wider efforts to assist air travel amid growing difficulties tied to soaring worldwide aviation tur-

bine fuel rates. Though global fuel expenses climbed rapidly, authorities previously limited how much of those rising ATF costs could be transferred to local airlines – setting a 25 per cent ceiling – to ease financial pressure on carriers while avoiding heavier impacts on travellers.

Despite worldwide challenges, attention stays fixed on keeping air travel costs steady, stated Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu. With recent cuts to airport fees, stress on carriers should ease – thus limiting steep ticket price increases, he observed. Without delay, a reduction of 25 per cent in landing and parking fees now applies at key airports regulated by the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India.

This move follows guidance from the ministry, taking force right away.

Cut airport fees for domestic flights by 25% for 3 mths: Govt

Bid To Ensure Air Fares Don't Defy Gravity

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a bid to provide reprieve to airlines affected by the US-Iran war, the aviation ministry has directed all 34 major airports to reduce landing and parking charges for domestic flights by 25% for three months.

Accordingly, Airports Economic Regulatory Authority on Tuesday issued an order directing the operators of airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and others to do so with immediate effect.

With assembly elections in crucial states like Kerala and West Bengal on the horizon, the aviation ministry is making all possible attempts to ensure that domestic airfare hikes don't defy gravity. The hike in domestic ATF was capped at 25% this month. The ministry made a rare intervention in airport tariffs, given that a majority of them are run on a PPP model.

The order reads: "Landing and parking charges (part of aeronautical tariff) at all major airports shall be reduced by 25% from the prevailing tariff. This reduction comes into immediate effect and will



Under-recovery will be trued up during tariff determination of the next control period, Airports Economic Regulatory Authority said

be applicable on all domestic flights for a period of three months. The decision shall be reviewed prior to completion of the three-month period. Any under-recovery from aggregate revenue requirement will be trued up during the tariff determination of the next control period."

This month, oil marketing PSUs hiked aviation turbine fuel base price for domestic and international flights by 25% and over 100%, respectively. The Air India group and IndiGo have hiked their fuel surcharge. Coupled with airspace restrictions to the West that force airlines to take much longer routes to Europe and America, apart from far fewer flights on lucrative Gulf routes and a weak rupee, airlines have been badly hit.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

Flyer held at IGI with marijuana worth ₹13cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A passenger, who arrived from Bangkok to Indira Gandhi International Airport on March 31, has been arrested after marijuana worth nearly Rs 13 crore was found in his possession.

Customs officials said, "When the baggage of a passenger was subjected to X-ray screening, it indicated suspicious contents. Upon examination, 13 polybags were found containing a green coloured substance, suspected to

be marijuana."

The net weight of the seized product was 12,910 grams with officials estimating its value at nearly Rs 13 crore. "The contraband along with packing material has been seized and the passenger has been arrested under section of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. Further investigation is under progress to identify the persons involved and the associated smuggling network," said an official.

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson quits; panel to find successor

MUMBAI, April 7: Air India CEO & MD Campbell Wilson has resigned after helping the Tata Group-owned airline for four years that have been punctuated by multiple headwinds, including the fatal AI171 crash in June last year.

The Air India board has constituted a committee that will find the successor in the coming months, a statement from the airline said on Tuesday.

“Wilson had conveyed his intention to step down in 2026 to Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran in 2024 and, since then, has been working to ensure the organization and leadership team is on a stable footing for the transition,” it said.

Wilson had been under fire since June 12 last year follow-



ing the crash of the airline’s London-bound flight soon after takeoff from Ahmedabad airport, killing 241 of the 242 persons on board. He also came under attack for various regulatory lapses.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), which is probing the crash, has already filed its preliminary report while the final report is expected to be submitted in June this year.

With Air India officially announcing the planned departure of Wilson, he joins the list of two other airline leaders who have already departed from their respective corner offices.

Aloke Singh, MD of Air India Express, which is the low-cost arm of Air India, left the airline after completing his 5-year tenure on March 19 while IndiGo announced the sudden exit of Dutch man Pieter Elbers on March 10.

IndiGo has appointed former British Airways CEO William Walsh as the new CEO subject to regulatory approvals. However, Air India Express has not announced a successor for Singh, who is now with IndiGo as its chief strategy officer. – PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

8 APRIL 2026

Over 10,000 int'l flights cancelled since start of West Asia conflict

NEW DELHI, April 7: Indian carriers have cancelled over 10,000 flights since the onset of the West Asia conflict, as escalating tensions and airspace restrictions disrupted international operations, a senior government official said.

The widespread closures of key transit corridors forced airlines to suspend or reroute services, particularly on long-haul routes to Europe and North America.

"On an average, Indian carriers used to fly about 300 to 350 flights daily to the Middle East (both ways put together). Today that number has come down to 80-90. That takes the total (flights cancelled by Indian carriers) since the beginning of the situation, that is from February

28, to over 10,000," Asangba Chuba Ao, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, said at a news briefing on West Asia developments.

The conflict, which started with the US and Israel attacking Iran and Tehran's sweeping retaliation, has led to airspace closure or severe restrictions in several countries across West Asia, including Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and the UAE.

This, he said, has led to "unprecedented disruption in global aviation networks and international connectivity. Flights, especially to Europe and North America by Indian carriers, have to take longer routes, which has increased travel time and associated cost," he said.

To deal with the situation, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) recently granted a temporary relaxation in Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) for pilots operating long-haul flights, primarily to address operational disruptions and pilot shortages.

Under this relaxation, permissible flight time and duty periods have been extended (for example, flight time increased to around 11.5 hours), enabling airlines to manage longer routes caused by airspace restrictions and geopolitical tensions.

The move aims to ensure smoother flight operations and maintain schedule reliability, especially for international routes affected by rerouting.

The relaxation, which is

valid till April 30, is to help prevent acute crew shortages, he said, adding that the deadline will be reviewed closure to its expiry.

"It will be revisited. We still have some time. It is an evolving situation and taking into consideration what happens in coming days, this dispensation will be relooked at. If required, we will take the

necessary call at that point of time," he said.

Talking about operational challenges that the conflict has posed for the sector, he said the aviation turbine fuel – the fuel that helps aircraft fly – has shot up internationally. But in India, the rates have been calibrated, passing on only a portion of the required increase to domestic airlines.



"Government intervention on the price of ATF, which constitutes around 40 per cent of an airline's operating cost, has ensured that domestic airfares remain stable," he said. "Government response has been focused on ensuring passenger safety and convenience."

The Ministry of Civil Aviation "is actively engaged in working on significant measures to support the industry during this time", he said without elaborating.

Other measures taken in view of the war included granting special dispensation to foreign carriers such as Emirates, Kuwait Airways, and Jazeera to operate passenger aircraft for all cargo services to maintain the supply chain.

"This has ensured seam-

less continuity of critical cargo movement despite the ongoing disruptions," he said.

"While the situation remains dynamic, the government remains firmly committed to ensuring passenger safety and convenience, uninterrupted cargo movement and overall sectoral stability."

Acknowledging pressure on airlines operations, he said 50 per cent of all international operations by Indian operators was to West Asia and international flights are a good source of revenue. "So that has definitely impacted their revenue income which obviously affects the financials of an airline," he said.

Second, the rise in operational cost due to increase in ATF price. He said the government intervention en-

sured that the ATF price increase for domestic carriers was moderated despite international oil prices doubling since the outbreak of war.

This calibrated price increase has been taken into consideration by the airlines, who have now started imposing distance based surcharge in airfares, he said, adding that the surcharge is to cover rise in operational cost due to ATF price surge.

"The civil aviation ministry is actively working with all stakeholders... exploring all means of who we can support the industry, especially the airlines and to bring down the cost which eventually will be passed on to consumers," he said. "To ensure that the sector remains buoyant, all measures are being explored." – PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

केदारनाथ हेली सेवा की बुकिंग 11 से

देहरादून। केदारनाथ हेली सेवा के लिए ऑनलाइन टिकट बुकिंग 11 अप्रैल से शुरू होगी। पहले चरण में 22 अप्रैल से 15 जून की यात्रा के लिए टिकट की बुकिंग की जाएगी। आईआरसीटीसी ने अपनी अधिकारिक वेबसाइट पर बुकिंग की सूचना जारी कर दी गई है।

उत्तराखंड नागरिक उड़्डयन विकास प्राधिकरण (यूकाडा) के दिशा-निर्देश पर आईआरसीटीसी के वेबसाइट पर अपडेट करने के साथ ही बुकिंग शेड्यूल जारी कर दिया है। इस बार गुप्तकाशी हेलिपैड से ट्रांस भारत, चिप्सन एविएशन, फाटा से यूनाइटेड हेलीचार्टर्ड, थुंवी, रजस एयरोस्पोर्ट्स, पीलिग्रेमेज एविएशन, सिरसी से एरो एयरकाफ्ट, हिमालयन हेली के माध्यम से शटल सेवा का संचालन किया जाएगा। सचिव नागरिक उड़्डयन सचिन कुर्वे ने बताया कि इस बार सुरक्षित हेली सेवा के लिए संचालन के मानकों का सख्ती से पालन किया जाएगा। संवाद



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

IndiGo ends over 8%, SpiceJet hits upper circuit



New Delhi: Aviation stocks ended sharply higher on Wednesday following a steep decline in crude oil prices after the US and Iran announced a two-week ceasefire. Easing of geopolitical stress led to a sharp fall in Brent crude oil prices, which tumbled 14.12 per cent to \$93.95 per barrel. InterGlobe Aviation, the parent firm of IndiGo, jumped 8.16 per cent to settle at ₹4,616.60 on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 10.98 per cent to ₹4,737.40. The stock of SpiceJet climbed 5 per cent to reach its upper circuit limit of ₹11.14. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

WEST ASIA WAR IMPACT

Indian airlines' global business under stress

SURAJEET DAS GUPTA

New Delhi, 8 April

Even as Iran and the US have agreed to a ceasefire for the next two weeks, the West Asia conflict's huge impact on India's air carriers collectively can be gauged from the fact that as much as one-fifth of the total international flights flown by them between March 1 and March 31 got cancelled primarily because of dislocation of airports during the war.

According to the latest operating data by aviation analytics platform Cirium, Indian carriers cancelled 3,025 flights out of a total 15,984 international flights in March. The cancellations they were forced to make in the month was a staggering 13 times more



than the previous month that witnessed only 228 flight routine cancellations.

Air India Express took the largest hit owing to its business being concentrated in West Asia. The Tata Group airline saw 1,215 flight cancellations in March — half of its total scheduled international flights. Spicejet was also

Broken wings

Carrier	Feb		Mar	
	Total scheduled flights	Flights cancelled	Total scheduled flights	Flights cancelled
IndiGo	8,207	44	7,431	724
Air India	4,697	86	4,910	659
Akasa	560	5	556	73
Air India Express	3,256	69	2,495	1,215
Spicejet	643	24	622	354

Source: Cirium

impacted as over 55 per cent of the carrier's international flights were cancelled. IndiGo's exposure to West Asia forced it to cancel nearly 10 per cent of 7,432 international flights scheduled in March. Air India also saw cancellations for 13 per cent of its total international flights in March compared with only 2

per cent cancellations in February.

Based on their schedule, India's top two air carriers, IndiGo and Air India Group, collectively, reduced their seat capacity by a substantial 313,000 seats in March over February between India and West Asia, according to Cirium data.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

8 APRIL 2026

Indian airlines cancelled over 10K flights since war began

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indian carriers have cancelled over 10,000 flights since the onset of the West Asia conflict, as escalating tensions and airspace restrictions disrupted international operations, a senior government official said.

The widespread closures of key transit corridors forced airlines to suspend or reroute services, particularly on long-haul routes to Europe and North America.

“On an average, Indian carriers used to fly about 300 to 350 flights daily to the Middle East (both ways put together). Today that number has come down to 80-90. That takes the total (flights cancelled by Indian carriers) since the beginning of the situation, that is from February 28, to over 10,000,” Asangba Chuba Ao, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, said at a news briefing on West Asia developments.

The conflict, which started with the US and Israel attack-

ing Iran, has led to airspace closure or severe restrictions in several countries across West Asia, including Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and the UAE.

This, he said, has led to “unprecedented disruption in global aviation networks and international connectivity”.



“Flights, especially to Europe and North America by Indian carriers, have to take longer routes, which has increased

travel time and associated cost,” he said.

To deal with the situation, the DGCA recently granted a temporary relaxation in Flight Duty Time Limitations for pilots operating long-haul flights, primarily to address operational disruptions and pilot shortages.

The relaxation, which is valid till April 30, is to help prevent acute crew shortages, he said, adding that the deadline will be reviewed closure to its expiry.

Air India CEO's resignation comes in turbulent times

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson—who has been commanding the transformation of the flagship airline—has resigned.

The resignation of the chief of the Tata Group-owned airline comes within a year of the devastating June 12, 2025, crash of Air India Flight 171 in Ahmedabad, shortly after take-off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport for London-Gatwick, which led to the death of 260 people, including 241 on board. Besides, Air India witnessed operational delays, rising losses, a slower-than-expected turnaround, and faced geopolitical disruptions.

The Tata Group took over Air India from the government on January 27, 2022. Wilson has been serving as CEO and MD since July 25 of the same year.

Wilson, a veteran in the aviation industry, will remain in the role until a successor is in place. The Board of Air India

has constituted a committee to find a successor in the coming months.

Wilson had conveyed his intention to step down in 2026 to Tata Sons Chairman and Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran in 2024. Since then, he has worked to ensure that the organisation and leadership team are on a stable footing for the transition.

“The four years since Air India’s privatisation have seen the acquisition and successful merger of four airlines, an evolution from public to private sector practices, along with renewal of the leadership team, workforce, culture and ways of operating,” said Wilson.

Chandrasekaran said he wishes to place on record deep appreciation for Wilson’s leadership and contribution over four years.





Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

ऋषिकेश में उतरा सी-प्लेन, पर्यटन भरेगा नई उड़ान

जागरण संवाददाता, ऋषिकेश: उत्तराखंड में ऋषिकेश स्थित पशुलोक जलाशय में सोमवार को रोमांचित करने वाला नजारा दिखा। जलाशय में सी-प्लेन उतरा और उड़ान भी भरी। उत्तराखंड नागरिक उड़्डयन विकास प्राधिकरण (यूकाडा) और नागरिक उड़्डयन मंत्रालय के सहयोग से स्काई हाक कंपनी की ओर से पशुलोक जलाशय में 19 सीटर सी-प्लेन उतारने का सफल ट्रायल किया गया। इसे उत्तराखंड में पर्यटन और परिवहन के क्षेत्र में नई उड़ान की शुरुआत माना जा रहा है।

यूकाडा ने प्रदेश की पांच झीलों ऊधम सिंह नगर में हरिपुरा



वैराज जलाशय में सी-प्लेन को उतारने का ट्रायल किया गया ● वृजेवीएनएल

जलाशय, ऋषिकेश बैराज, टिहरी झील, नानकमत्ता बैराज और कालागढ़ झील को जोड़ते हुए सी-प्लेन सर्किट योजना बनाई है।

पहले ट्रायल के रूप में सोमवार शाम करीब छह बजे उत्तराखंड जल विद्युत निगम लिमिटेड के बैराज जलाशय में सी-प्लेन की लैंडिंग

19 सीटर सी-प्लेन की पशुलोक जलाशय में लैंडिंग और टेकआफ का सफल ट्रायल

हुई। सी-प्लेन ने जौलीग्रंट एयरपोर्ट के रन-वे से शाम पांच बजकर 53 मिनट पर उड़ान भरी। छह बजे सी-प्लेन जलाशय में पहुंचा और पानी में लैंडिंग की। डीएचसी-6 सीरीज 400 का यह सी-प्लेन जलाशय में लैंड होने के बाद लोगों को उतरने के लिए जलाशय में बनाए गए अस्थायी रास्ते तक भी पहुंचा। कुछ देर बाद सी-प्लेन ने जलाशय से उड़ान भरी। ट्रायल के दौरान प्लेन में पायलट, को-पायलट और इंजीनियर सवार थे।

Caution prevails as carriers delay full return to West Asia skies

NIHIN KUMAR
New Delhi, April 8

DOMESTIC AIRLINES ARE in no hurry to fully resume operations over West Asia airspace, adopting a cautious, wait-and-watch approach despite early signs of easing geopolitical tensions.

Executives across carriers said flight paths through sensitive corridors near Iran will remain restricted until there is clear and sustained evidence of stability, highlighting concerns that the situation could deteriorate quickly.

"Resuming in a rush does not make sense at this point," a senior airline official said. "The situation remains fluid, and the risks of sudden escalation cannot be ruled out."

The war involving the US, Israel and Iran triggered widespread airspace closures from February 28, disrupting international flight networks and forcing airlines to reroute or suspend services.

Operations across the region remain patchy. In the UAE, airlines are operating limited, non-scheduled commercial flights based on safety assessments. Flights from Saudi Arabia and Oman to India continue, while Qatar's airspace is only partially open. Qatar Airways is expected to

FACING HEADWINDS



- Flight paths near Iran remain restricted despite early signs of de-escalation
- Airlines adopt 'wait-and-watch' stance amid fears of sudden geopolitical flare-ups
- Conflict since Feb 28 disrupted routes, forcing rerouting and suspensions globally
- UAE sees limited ad hoc flights; Saudi Arabia and Oman routes to India continue
- Qatar partially reopens; Kuwait and Bahrain largely shut, prompting workaround hubs
- Weak passenger demand, especially outbound from India, weighs on capacity decisions

operate 8-10 flights to India on Wednesday.

Kuwait and Bahrain, however, remain largely closed. Carriers such as Jazeera Airways, Kuwait Airways and Gulf Air are operating special flights from Dammam in Saudi Arabia to maintain connectivity with India. Alternative transit corridors have been activated, via Egypt and Jordan for those in Israel; through Jordan and Saudi

Arabia for travellers from Iraq; and via Saudi Arabia for passengers from Kuwait and Bahrain.

Airlines said weak passenger demand has compounded the uncertainty. Flights on existing routes are reporting low occupancy, particularly on outbound sectors from India, making it commercially unviable to scale up operations.

"With demand still muted and uncertainty persisting,

restoring capacity aggressively would not be prudent. Neither tourists nor workers are in a hurry to return so soon," another airline executive said.

Industry insiders said airlines are balancing operational readiness with financial discipline, wary of deploying capacity without adequate passenger loads.

A broader resumption of services, they added, will certainly depend not only on geopolitical stability but also on a tangible recovery in travel demand.

The government, meanwhile, said it is closely monitoring the evolving situation. The Ministry of Civil Aviation said on Tuesday it remains in constant coordination with airlines and other stakeholders.

Since February 28, about 760,000 passengers have travelled from the region to India, indicating continued, though constrained, connectivity. While outbound figures have not been disclosed, industry estimates suggest they remain in the low thousands.

An airline executive said that if outbound traffic rises sharply, carriers may add routes to safer parts of the region while continuing to avoid high-risk zones.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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No immediate relief for airlines, travel bodies

YI-CHIN LEE, JULIE ZHU &
ALESSANDRO PARODI
Singapore/Hong Kong, April 8

US PRESIDENT DONALD Trump's two-week ceasefire with Iran is unlikely to provide immediate relief to the global aviation industry as it reels from its worst crisis in years, executives said on Wednesday, even as airline shares rallied after the deal.

Willie Walsh, director general of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), warned it would take months for jet fuel supply to recover even if Iran reopened the Strait of Hormuz, given disruptions to West Asia refining capacity.

Delta Air Lines forecast



lower-than-expected profit for the second quarter and said it would cut capacity across the board to make up for the \$2 billion in extra fuel costs it expects to book in the second quarter.

Airline shares surge

Jet fuel prices normally move in tandem with oil prices, but they have more than doubled since the Iran conflict, far outpacing a 50% rise in crude

prices prior to the two-week ceasefire. That has inflated costs, disrupted schedules, prompted airlines to cut routes and pushed the limits of what travelers will pay. On Wednesday, Delta said it expects to pay about \$4.30 a gallon for jet fuel in the June quarter, adding more than \$2 billion to the price a year earlier.

Even so, global airline and travel stocks rose. Australia's Qantas Airways jumped more than 9%, Air New Zealand rose over 4%, Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific climbed 5% and while India's IndiGo rose 8%. In Europe, travel operator TUI was up over 12%, Wizz Air gained 10%, Air France-KLM climbed around 14%, and Lufthansa was up 11%. —REUTERS

Air India CEO resigns

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

The Air India Group announced CEO and Managing Director **Campbell Wilson's** resignation on Tuesday, cutting short his five-year tenure that was scheduled to end in July 2027. AI said he had informed Chairman N Chandrasekaran of his intention to step down in 2026 as early as 2024. The board has constituted a committee to identify his successor, and Wilson will continue until



a replacement is appointed.

In an internal message to employees, Wilson said, "We have accomplished much. I am incredibly proud of what you have achieved, especially in the face of unprecedented headwinds in the form of aircraft delivery and supply chain challenges, two wars, crippling airspace closures and fuel prices and, most acutely, tragedy."

► Contd on | nation

Air India CEO...

Appointed in 2022 to lead the Tata Group's Vihaan.AI transformation plan, Wilson was tasked with turning around the former state-run airline. His tenure saw large aircraft orders and initial modernisation efforts, but persistent external and internal challenges slowed progress.

The airline continues to face the fallout from the June 12, 2025, crash of Flight AI-171, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner bound for London Gatwick, which crashed into the BJ Medical College hostel complex in Ahmedabad seconds after take-off. The crash claimed 260 lives and marked the first fatal accident involving a Dreamliner aircraft. The incident brought intense scrutiny from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

The final investigation report is expected on the first anniversary of the tragedy, and the airline awaits the findings.

Even before the crash, Air India was facing financial challenges. Although it had reduced losses over the past three years, the AI-171 tragedy is expected to push losses for FY2026 to around ₹20,000 crore, sharply higher than the earlier estimate of ₹2,000 crore.

Geopolitical instability has further strained operations. The prolonged closure of Pakistani airspace and conflict in West Asia have forced longer flight routes, increasing fuel consumption and stretching crew resources. This has impacted profitability, particularly on long-haul western routes. At the same time, aviation turbine fuel costs have risen by 115%.

The Vihaan.AI transformation programme has also faced delays. The airline's \$400 million wide-body retrofit programme, aimed at upgrading Boeing 777 and 787 aircraft interiors, has been delayed by at least two years and is now expected to be completed by late 2028 due to global supply chain issues and delays from seat manufacturers.

As a result, Air India continues to operate older aircraft with outdated cabins and non-functional in-flight entertainment systems on key routes. Combined with inconsistent service and fluctuating on-time performance, these challenges have slowed the airline's turnaround.

KVJ Rao, a former Air India cabin crew member and union member, said deeper structural issues remain. "As long as the work culture doesn't change, nothing really changes at Air India, as they haven't come out of the era when it was government-owned. They hire the same old officials for important positions and then expect them to transform the airline. The new CEO will take at least a year to understand the spiderweb of issues at the organisation," he said.

The incoming CEO will take charge at a time when the airline faces regulatory scrutiny and market pressure. Immediate priorities will include addressing concerns raised by the aviation regulator, strengthening internal processes to prevent future incidents, and managing the aftermath of the crash investigation with transparency.

केंद्र सरकार का बड़ा फैसला, घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए लैंडिंग-पार्किंग शुल्क 25 प्रतिशत कम किया

विमान किराए में कटौती का रास्ता खुला

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। सरकार ने यात्रियों और एयरलाइंस को राहत देने के लिए बड़ा फैसला किया। गैरिफ उड्डयन मंत्रालय के निर्देश पर विमानपत्तन आर्थिक विनियामक प्राधिकरण (एईआरए) ने देश के सभी बड़े एयरपोर्ट पर घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए लैंडिंग और पार्किंग शुल्क में 25 फीसदी की कटौती की है।

मंत्रालय की तरफ से बताया गया है कि यह फैसला पश्चिम एशिया में चल रहे संकट को देखते हुए लिया गया। नई दरें तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू हो गई हैं जो अगले तीन महीनों तक लागू रहेंगी। जारी आदेश में कहा गया है कि इस अवधि के दौरान एयरलाइंस को शुल्क में राहत मिलेगी, जिससे यात्रियों को भी किराए में कुछ कमी का फायदा मिल सकता है। हालांकि, इस फैसले को समीक्षा तीन महीने पूरे होने से पहले की जाएगी। प्राधिकरण ने स्पष्ट किया है कि इस कटौती से जो राजस्व की कमी होगी, उसे अगले टैरिफ निर्धारण के समय समायोजित किया जाएगा।

लैंडिंग और पार्किंग शुल्क में कटौती का कदम जनहित में उठाया गया है, जिससे मौजूदा अंतरराष्ट्रीय परिस्थितियों के बीच विमानन क्षेत्र को सहारा मिल सके। ध्यान रहे कि पश्चिमी एशिया में जारी तनाव के बीच



एटीएफ में 115 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी की गई थी

कुछ ही दिन पहले अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) में करीब 115 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी की गई थी, जिसका असर हवाई किराए में बढ़ोतरी के रूप में देखने को मिला। जहां घरेलू किराए में 50-70 फीसदी तक की बढ़ोतरी देखी गई है तो वहीं अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों पर युद्ध से पहले की स्थिति के मुकाबले ऑन स्पॉट किराए में 150 फीसदी तक की बढ़ोतरी देखी गई। अब विमान कंपनियों का बोझ कम करने के उद्देश्य से लैंडिंग और पार्किंग शुल्क में कटौती की गई है, जिससे विमान कंपनियों को घरेलू उड़ान का किराया एक स्तर पर स्थिर रखने में मदद मिल सके।

कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में भारी उछाल देखने को मिला है। खासकर विमान ईंधन की कीमतों में काफी बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

उर्वरकों पर सब्सिडी से किसानों को लाभ

कैबिनेट फैसले

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने आगामी खरीफ सत्र के लिए बुधवार को फॉस्फैटिक एवं पोटाश (पीएंडके) उर्वरकों पर 41,534 करोड़ की सब्सिडी को मंजूरी दी है। यह पिछले साल की तुलना में करीब 12 प्रतिशत अधिक है। इस फैसले से किसानों को लाभ मिलेगा।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में हुई आर्थिक मामलों की मंत्रिमंडलीय समिति की बैठक में यह फैसला लिया गया। यह सब्सिडी एक अप्रैल से 30 सितंबर, 2026 तक की अवधि के लिए लागू रहेगी। रेल, सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने पत्रकारों को बताया कि खरीफ सत्र 2025 की तुलना में आगामी फसल सत्र के लिए देय सब्सिडी में 4,317 करोड़ की बढ़ोतरी की गई है।

जलविद्युत परियोजना में निवेश को मंजूरी : देश में स्वच्छ ऊर्जा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कैबिनेट ने अरुणाचल प्रदेश में दो प्रमुख जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं में निवेश को



सरकार किसान भाई-बहनों के हित को हमेशा प्राथमिकता देती है। वैश्विक चुनौतियों के बीच भी किसानों के हित सदैव हमारी प्राथमिकता में



रही। जयपुर मेट्रो प्रोजेक्ट पर कहा कि एक बड़ा इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर अपग्रेड होने के लिए तैयार है।

-नरेंद्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

28 किस्मों को मिल रही सब्सिडी: वैष्णव



वैष्णव ने बताया, पिछले रबी सत्र की तुलना में नाइट्रोजन, फॉस्फेट और सल्फर पर सब्सिडी दर

बढ़ाई गई है। पोटाश के लिए तय दर में कोई बदलाव नहीं किया गया है। पीएंडके उर्वरकों की 28 किस्मों के लिए सब्सिडी दी जाती है।

मंजूरी दी है। कैबिनेट बैठक में इन परियोजनाओं में 40,150 करोड़ रुपये के निवेश के प्रस्ताव पर मुहर लगाई।

राजस्थान रिफाइनरी की लागत बढ़ाने पर मुहर: सरकार ने राजस्थान तेल रिफाइनरी की लागत बढ़ाकर 79,459 करोड़ करने को मंजूरी दी है। हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड राजस्थान रिफाइनरी लिमिटेड परियोजना की लागत पहले 43,129 करोड़ थी। कैबिनेट बैठक में एचपीसीएल की ओर से अतिरिक्त

इंक्विटी निवेश को भी मंजूरी दी गई है।

जयपुर मेट्रो के दूसरे चरण को कैबिनेट की मंजूरी: केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने जयपुर मेट्रो परियोजना के दूसरे चरण को भी मंजूरी दे दी। इस परियोजना में 41 किलोमीटर लंबा मेट्रो मार्ग होगा, जिसमें 36 स्टेशन शामिल होंगे। इसकी कुल लागत 13 हजार करोड़ रुपये से अधिक होगी। शहर में सार्वजनिक परिवहन को मजबूत करने की दिशा में इस परियोजना को एक बड़ा कदम माना जा रहा है।

DGCA orders 5G-safe upgrades for jets

Jatin Grover & Abhishek Law

jatin.grover@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: Ever found your mobile phone's signal to be patchy while waiting for a flight? That's because telecom operators can't provide stronger signals near airports, as these can interfere with a small cockpit tool—a radio altimeter.

The electronic gauge, which measures the altitude of an airborne plane, feeds data to multiple automated systems on board. A wrong reading can be a safety risk, especially during poor visibility. But the restrictions have sparked concerns as telecom operators expand 5G coverage and prepare for even stronger 6G networks.

Now, the civil aviation regulator has asked all airlines to modify the altimeters so that they are tolerant to 3300-3670 megahertz (MHz) C-band—a key range of spectrum to provide 5G services, according to the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) order dated 19 November 2025.



The US earlier addressed concerns by requiring upgrades to aircraft radio altimeters.

HT

Mint has reviewed a copy of the order.

The required modification or retrofitting must be completed by 31 December 2027, the order said.

India is not alone in facing this challenge. Countries such as the US and those in Europe have faced similar challenges, with regulators proposing deadlines extending to 2029-2032 for full fleet retrofits. But that has also

caused a spike in demand. According to estimates by the American regulator Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), upgrades will cost around \$4.5 billion for the US fleet alone.

To be sure, the US had earlier addressed 5G interference concerns by requiring upgrades to aircraft radio altimeters, setting a February 2024 deadline. It later said the entire airline fleet had completed these upgrades by

September 2023, mitigating immediate risks. However, the country now has plans to expand 5G into a higher spectrum band.

Since the 2022 rollout of 5G in India, telecom operators have had to limit signal strength near airports and follow strict exclusion zones to avoid interference with aircraft systems. According to the November order, the DGCA has also prohibited pilots from conducting automatic landings and from using enhanced flight vision systems for touchdown in aircraft with radio altimeters that are not tolerant of 5G airwaves.

"There are airplanes with an old generation of altimeters, which can cause interference with 5G currently and 6G in the upper C-band in future such as 4.4-4.8GHz," said Bharat Bhatia, president of ITU-APT Foundation of India, which works with industry and government on telecom policy. "The altimeter replacement is the only solution, which could take time owing to a similar demand from other developing countries."

LOKSATYA

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

असर

एअर इंडिया ने घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए फ्यूल सरचार्ज बढ़ा

एअर इंडिया की घरेलू उड़ानें 899 तक महंगी

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्य

बड़ी खबर एअर इंडिया से जुड़ी रही। एयरलाइन ने घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए फ्यूल सरचार्ज बढ़ा दिया है। इससे हवाई सफर महंगा हो जाएगा। ग्लोबल मार्केट में विमान ईंधन (ATF) की कीमतों में आई तेजी के बाद एयरलाइन ने यह फैसला लिया है।

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Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

DGCA orders upgrades by 2027 to make jets 5G safe

Jatin Grover & Abhishek Law
NEW DELHI

Ever found your mobile phone's signal to be patchy while waiting for a flight? That's because telecom operators can't provide stronger signals near airports, as these can interfere with a small cockpit tool—a radio altimeter.

The electronic gauge, which measures the altitude of an airborne plane, feeds data to multiple automated systems on board. A wrong reading can be a safety risk, especially during poor visibility. But the restrictions have sparked concerns as telecom operators expand 5G coverage and prepare for even stronger 6G networks.

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The required modification or retrofitting must be completed by 31 December 2027, the order said.

India is not alone in facing this challenge. Countries such as the US and those in Europe have faced similar challenges, with regulators proposing deadlines extending to 2029-2032 for full fleet retrofits. But that has also caused a

spike in demand. According to estimates by the American regulator Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), upgrades will cost around \$4.5 billion for the US fleet alone.

To be sure, the US had earlier addressed 5G interference concerns by requiring upgrades to aircraft radio altimeters, setting a February 2024 deadline. It later said the entire airline fleet had completed these upgrades by September 2023, mitigating immediate risks. However, the country now has plans to expand 5G into a higher spectrum band.

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TURN TO PAGE 9

DGCA orders upgrades by 2027 to make planes 5G safe

FROM PAGE 1

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According to Bhatia, current rules restrict 5G operations within 2.1 km of the runway ends and within 910 metres of the runway centreline—zones that cover terminal areas at most Indian airports. It effectively limits 5G deployment within airport premises, he said.

The extended band, such as 3.7-4.2GHz, allowed to support 5G services in other countries, is restricted in India, he said.

In response to *Mint*'s emailed queries, Boeing said, "We'll defer to the airline operators for any comments". Honeywell Aerospace, a key manufacturer of radio altimeters used in



The retrofitting must be done by 31 December 2027. REUTERS

planes, said, "We are currently in direct engagement with the concerned authorities, including civil aviation ministry and DGCA and are responding to the query."

Queries emailed to the department of telecommunications (DoT), the civil aviation ministry, IndiGo, Akasa, SpiceJet, the Cellular Operators Association of India (Coai) on the matter did not elicit any response until press time.

"Regarding the 5G rollout, as part of a wider industry coalition, we continue to work with the FAA and other involved agencies to study the issue further and work toward solutions," Airbus said in a statement.

An Air India official said that

work on retrofit or upgrade of altimeters started "long time back". "The airline will be fully compliant before the said deadline," the official said. "Some of the narrow-body Airbus aircraft we have are already updated and work is ongoing in some," the official said, without giving a breakup.

To be sure, telecom operators are also relying on in-building solutions inside airports and 4G spectrum bands such as 2,100MHz and 2,300MHz for mobile services.

There are concerns regarding 5G/6G services, but 6G is expected only by 2030, said a government official, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "The expectation is that the altimeters can be modified before that."

There is a global demand for replacing such altimeters, which is delaying the replacement process in India, said an executive with an aircraft maker. Airline operators have been working with aircraft and equipment manufacturers to fix altimeters for the past couple of years, the executive said.

According to FlightGlobal, a London-based aerospace publisher, airlines in the US say they can speed up altimeter upgrades for 5G but want compensation for the costs involved.

jatin.grover@luemint.com



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

एयरलाइंस को लैंडिंग-पार्किंग में 25% की राहत

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली: पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संकट के कारण ग्लोबल एविएशन ऑपरेशन में आ रही चुनौतियों को देखते हुए भारत सरकार ने भारतीय एयरलाइंस को बड़ी राहत देने की घोषणा की है। इसके तहत नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों के लिए देश

के टोटली अगले तीन महीनों के लिए लागू रहेगी, 400 करोड़ की राहत मिलेगी

के तमाम हवाई अड्डों पर लैंडिंग और पार्किंग शुल्क में 25 फीसदी की कटौती करने का फैसला लिया है।

यह कटौती अगले तीन महीनों के लिए लागू रहेगी। इससे घरेलू एयरलाइंस को करीब 400 करोड़ रुपए की राहत मिलने की उम्मीद है। एयरलाइंस को राहत देने की यह घोषणा नागर विमानन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने की। कहा कि यह जरूरी हो रहा है कि भारतीय एविएशन इंडस्ट्री भी स्थिर रहे और यात्रियों को भी महंगा एयर टिकट ना मिले।

West Asia crisis disrupts Indian aviation, 10,000 flights cancelled

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

The ongoing conflict in West Asia has severely disrupted India's aviation sector, leading to the cancellation of more than 10,000 flights since late February, a senior Government official said on Tuesday. Escalating tensions and widespread airspace restrictions across the region have significantly impacted international flight operations, particularly long-haul routes to Europe and North America.

According to Asangba Chuba Ao, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Indian carriers that previously operated 300-350 daily flights to the Middle East have seen that number drop sharply to around 80-90. The decline follows the closure or restriction of airspace in several West Asian countries, including Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and the UAE.

The conflict, triggered by



military action involving the United States, Israel, and Iran, has caused what officials describe as "unprecedented disruption in global aviation networks." Airlines have been forced to reroute flights, increasing travel time and operational costs.

To mitigate the impact, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has temporarily relaxed Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL), allowing pilots to

operate longer hours. This includes extending permissible flight time to approximately 11.5 hours to accommodate extended flight paths. The relaxation is currently valid until April 30 and may be reviewed depending on how the situation evolves.

Officials also highlighted rising aviation turbine fuel (ATF) costs as a major challenge, noting that fuel accounts for nearly 40 per cent of airline operating

expenses. While global fuel prices have surged, the Government has moderated domestic price increases to prevent a steep rise in airfares.

Additional measures include allowing foreign airlines such as Emirates, Kuwait Airways, and Jazeera Airways to operate passenger aircraft for cargo services, ensuring continuity in critical supply chains.

Despite the Government's efforts, the crisis has placed financial strain on airlines. Around 50 per cent of Indian carriers' international operations are linked to West Asia, making the disruption particularly significant. Airlines have begun introducing distance-based surcharges to offset rising fuel costs.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation stated it is working closely with stakeholders to support the sector and maintain stability. "Passenger safety, cargo continuity, and sectoral resilience remain our top priorities," the official said.

Aviation stocks fly high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Aviation stocks zoomed on Wednesday morning trade following a sharp decline in crude oil prices after the US and Iran announced a two-week ceasefire.

Easing of geopolitical stress led to a sharp fall in Brent crude oil prices, which tumbled 13 per cent to \$94.94 per barrel.

InterGlobe Aviation, the parent firm of IndiGo,



zoomed 10.98 per cent to ₹4,737.40 on the BSE.

The stock of SpiceJet also jumped 4.99 per cent to reach its upper circuit limit of ₹11.14.

Stock markets also turned buoyant following the ceasefire announcement. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 2,839.53 points or 3.80 per cent to 77,456.11 in morning trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 837.6 points or 3.62 per cent to 23,961.25.



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

8 APRIL 2026

एअर इंडिया की घरेलू उड़ानें 899 तक महंगी

नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया ने घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए फ्यूएल सरचार्ज बढ़ा दिया है। इससे हवाई सफर महंगा हो जाएगा। ग्लोबल मार्केट में विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में आई

- नया किराया आज से होगा लागू
- जेट फ्यूएल के दाम बढ़ना वजह

तेजी के बाद एयरलाइन ने यह फैसला लिया है। नई दरें कल यानी 8 अप्रैल 2026 से प्रभावी होंगी। एयरलाइन के मुताबिक, जेट फ्यूएल की कीमतें लगभग दोगुनी होने से लागत बढ़ गई है। विमान ईंधन की

औसत कीमत 195.19 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पहुंच गई है, जो फरवरी के अंत में 99.40 डॉलर थी। इससे पहले इंडियो ने भी फ्यूएल सरचार्ज बढ़ाया था। एयरलाइंस का फ्यूएल सरचार्ज टिकट पर लगने वाली वह एक्स्ट्रा फीस है, जो तेल की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी के कारण वसूली जाती है। यह चार्ज एयरलाइंस को ईंधन के बढ़ते खर्चों से निपटने में मदद करता है। इसे कंपनियां टिकट के साथ जोड़ देती हैं।

एयर इंडिया ने घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए एक फ्लैट सरचार्ज व्यवस्था को खत्म कर दिया है। अब यात्रियों को दूरी के आधार पर पैसे देने होंगे। सरचार्ज 299 रुपए से शुरू होकर 899 रुपए तक जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

8 APRIL 2026

एयर इंडिया में उच्च स्तर पर बड़ा फेरबदल

मुंबई। एयर इंडिया के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) और प्रबंध निदेशक (एमडी) कैपबेल विल्सन ने अपने इस्तीफे की पुष्टि करते हुए कहा है कि एयरलाइन के अगले चरण में प्रवेश करने के साथ ही नेतृत्व परिवर्तन का यह सही समय है। एयरलाइन ने बताया कि विल्सन ने 2026 में पद छोड़ने की अपनी योजना के बारे में चेयरमैन एन चंद्रशेखरन को 2024 में ही सूचित कर दिया था और तब से वे संगठन को सुचारू परिवर्तन के लिए तैयार कर रहे थे। उत्तराधिकारी की नियुक्ति होने तक वे इस पद पर बने रहेंगे। अपने निर्णय के बारे में बताते हुए विल्सन ने कहा कि पिछले चार वर्षों में टाटा समूह को एयर इंडिया की वापसी के बाद उसके पुनर्निर्माण पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

IndiGo soars 8 pc on crude crash, US-Iran ceasefire

AGENCIES

New Delhi, 8 April

Shares of InterGlobe Aviation surged sharply on Wednesday, closing over 8 per cent higher, as a steep fall in global crude oil prices and easing geopolitical tensions in the West Asia triggered a strong rally in aviation stocks.

At 3.30 p.m., the InterGlobe Aviation stock was at Rs 4,614, up Rs 345.20 or 8.09 per cent, after touching an intra-day high of Rs 4,744, reflecting robust investor confidence in the airline's cost outlook.

The rally comes amid signs of de-escalation in tensions involving the United States and Iran, which have helped calm fears of prolonged disruption in global energy supplies.

The biggest trigger behind the surge was the sharp correction in global oil prices.

Benchmark Brent Crude Oil plunged nearly USD 14 per cent to around USD 93.80 per barrel, marking one of the

steepest single-day declines in recent months. The fall follows a period when crude had surged past USD 100 amid heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

For airlines, fuel costs form a significant portion of operating expenses, and any decline in oil prices directly boosts profitability. The sharp drop in crude is expected to reduce aviation turbine fuel (ATF) costs, thereby improving margins for carriers like IndiGo. The broader market sentiment remained upbeat, with investors turning risk-positive as geopolitical concerns softened and commodity prices cooled.

Aviation stocks, which had been under pressure due to elevated oil prices and uncertainty, witnessed renewed buying interest. In the near term, the twin tailwinds of falling crude prices and easing tensions have positioned IndiGo as a key beneficiary, supporting a sharp re-rating of the stock and strengthening investor confidence in the aviation sector.



Carrier is grappling with losses and heightened scrutiny following last year's crash

Wilson quits Air India

AMIYA KUMAR
KUSHWAHA

New Delhi: Air India said on Tuesday that chief executive officer Campbell Wilson had resigned after nearly four years in the role, as the carrier grapples with persistent losses and heightened regulatory scrutiny following a crash last year that killed 260 people.

Wilson's resignation comes just days after its bigger domestic rival, IndiGo, tapped aviation veteran Willie Walsh as its next CEO.

The country's two largest carriers are under pressure from an industry crisis stemming from the West Asia conflict, compounded by domestic operational challenges.

Wilson, a former Singa-



Campbell Wilson

pore Airlines executive, was brought in to steer the carrier's turnaround in 2022 after years of decline under government ownership.

Wilson had conveyed to Air India chairman N. Chandrasekaran in 2024 his intention to step down this year; the airline said in a statement, adding that the New Zealander will remain

in the role until his successor is in place. Air India's board has constituted a committee that will find Wilson's successor in the coming months.

Since taking the helm at India's No. 2 carrier, Wilson oversaw an overhaul of the engineering department and the refurbishment of planes amid supply chain disruptions.

"Over the last four years, Campbell did a good job in very tough circumstances," Brendan Sobie, a Singapore-based independent aviation analyst, told Reuters.

"Finding the right candidate to complete (Air India's) transformation will not be easy and Tata will particularly feel the pressure to get this right following IndiGo's recent appointment of Willie Walsh," he said.

In an internal mail to employees, Wilson said, "I am incredibly proud of what you have achieved, especially in the face of unprecedented headwinds in the form of aircraft delivery and supply chain challenges, two wars, crippling airspace closures and fuel prices and, most acutely, tragedy."

"...The time is right for me to hand over the reins for the next phase of Air India's rise," Wilson added.

"Campbell and his team have demonstrated tenacity and resolve and have aligned an organisation drawn from many backgrounds behind the shared goal of building the new Air India that is now emerging," Chandrasekaran said.

10K Indian flights cancelled

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi: Indian carriers have cancelled over 10,000 flights since the onset of the West Asia conflict, as escalating tensions and airspace restrictions disrupted international operations, a senior government official said.

The widespread closures of key transit corridors forced airlines to suspend or reroute services, particularly on long-haul routes to Europe and North America.

"On an average, Indian carriers used to fly about 300 to 350 flights daily to West Asia (both ways put together). Today, that number has come down to 80-90. That takes the

total (flights cancelled) since the beginning of the situation, that is from February 28, to over 10,000," Asangba Chuba Ao, joint secretary in the ministry of civil aviation, said.

Air India surcharge

Air India has announced revised fuel surcharges ranging from ₹299 to ₹899 for domestic flights and ₹24 to ₹300 for international flights after a surge in global jet fuel prices amid the ongoing conflict.

The revised fuel surcharge will be effective from April 8 for domestic routes as well as SAARC countries, West Asia, Southeast Asia, China, Singapore and Africa. While for Europe, North America and Australia, it will come into force from April 10.

Revisions to fuel surcharge on flights to and from Bangladesh and destinations such as Japan, Hong Kong and South Korea, will be advised in due course, the carrier said. **PII**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

8 APRIL 2026

IndiGo aircraft damaged

OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

Calcutta: An IndiGo aircraft was damaged after an unmanned vehicle hit the plane which was standing at the parking bay on Tuesday evening.

Airport officials said the Airbus A320 aircraft was scheduled to fly to Guwahati and was waiting for passengers to board when the accident happened around 9 pm.

A flight catering vehicle hit the aircraft.

Airport sources said the driver had forgotten to apply the hand brake and got down. The vehicle rolled on and hit the engine of the aircraft.

A probe has been ordered.

"A third-party unmanned vehicle on the apron moved and came in contact with a parked IndiGo aircraft," said an IndiGo spokesperson.

The aircraft is undergoing thorough inspections for being cleared for operations.

"The aircraft was scheduled to operate flight 6E 6663 from Calcutta to Guwahati. An alternate aircraft has been arranged to operate the flight," said the spokesperson.

On Monday night, an Air India Express aircraft was hit by a stepladder during the rain and storm, said an official.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

9 APRIL 2026

Airline landing, parking charges slashed by 25%

Govt on Wednesday announced a 25% cut in landing and parking charges for domestic airlines at all 34 airports in the country for three months in a bid to provide reprieve to airlines, reeling under higher fuel prices and longer routes due to the US-Iran war. Operators of airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and others have been directed to do so with immediate effect. **FLAP OPP**