

{ PURI }

Jagannath international airport gets final green clearance from Centre

Debabrata Mohanty

letters@hindustantimes.com

BHUBANESWAR: The proposed Shree Jagannath International Airport in Puri in Odisha has received final environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, clearing a major hurdle for the greenfield project despite wildlife experts raising concerns over its potential impact on migratory birds and endangered marine species, officials aware of the matter said on Wednesday.

The airport, proposed in the Sipasarubali area of Puri district and just about 5 km from the Jagannath temple, will come up on 471.348 hectares, including 27.887 hectares of forest land, they said. It is planned to handle 4.6 million passengers annually in Phase-I, with an international facility proposed in the first phase itself, subject to regulatory approvals. Its capacity is envisaged to rise to 10.18 million passengers per annum in Phase-II and 16.69 million passengers per annum in Phase-III.

Puri collector Dibya Jyoti Parida said the project had received both environmental clearance and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance from the ministry. "Forest-related issues were also cleared. We are now await-



The airport, proposed in the Sipasarubali area of Puri district and just about 5 km from the Jagannath temple.

FILE PHOTO

ing the final approval from the ministry to proceed with the project," Parida said.

Officials aware of the development said the state government is now awaiting a formal no-objection certificate from the ministry and will approach the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for approval to prepare the detailed project report (DPR).

Parida said the construction process will be taken up in coordination with the AAI and the state Transport department.

Forest clearance and conditions

The ministry had earlier granted Stage-I, or in-principle, approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for diversion of 27.887 hectares of forest land in the Puri Wildlife Division for the airport.

The approval, based on recommendations of ministry's Advisory Committee, came with 33 conditions, including compensatory afforestation over 29.939 hectares of non-forest land.

The committee, at its meeting on February 27, directed state government to ensure implementation of mitigation measures and recommendations emerging from impact assessment studies and a site-specific wildlife management plan prepared on the recommendations of Wildlife Institute of India and Zoological Survey of India.

Bird strike, wildlife risks

The project, however, has faced strong environmental concerns. The WII in October 2025 recommended rejecting the airport proposal, citing its proximity to the existing Bhubaneswar air-

port, the Balukhanda-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary and the Chilika Ramsar site.

According to the WII assessment, because the project boundary is about 16 km from Chilika Lake, a wetland of international importance, the airport could pose a "catastrophic" risk to migratory bird populations and affect critical habitats of endangered marine species, including Olive Ridley turtles.

It also flagged, in its report seen by HT, the site's location along migratory bird corridors forming part of the Central Asian Flyway, saying the proximity could increase the risk of bird strikes, posing a threat both to aviation safety and wildlife.

The WII cited international incidents to underline the danger. At Muan International Airport in South Korea, a bird strike involving migratory Baikal teals in December 2024 killed 179 people. At Bahir Dar International Airport in Ethiopia, a bird strike near Lake Tana in 1988 claimed 35 lives. Despite the concerns, the project is being pushed as a major infrastructure and tourism initiative for Puri, as the current international airport in Bhubaneswar has reached its maximum potential and can't be expanded horizontally any further due to human habitations around it.

Second round of hydrological study to be done for elevated corridor in Chennai airport

Anna University will undertake the study to ensure the Adyar river's flow remains unaffected by pillar construction. AAI will also need another approval from the Water Resources Department

PORT CALL

Sunitha Sekar
CHENNAI

A second round of hydrological study will be prepared in order to check the feasibility to build an elevated corridor and T5 Terminal for Chennai airport.

The move to build a T5 Terminal and a connecting elevated corridor for passenger access was mooted by the Tamil Nadu government a few months ago in order to enhance the capacity of the airport.

T5 Terminal

With the proposed T5 Terminal located near the remote bays, an elevator corridor for vehicular movement has to be constructed for air passengers



Moving ahead: The next round of discussions between AAI and the State government will be held in a few days to hire a consultant for planning the project. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

to enter and exit this building.

Officials of Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Tamil Nadu government, along with a few other stakeholders, recently held a meeting in which discussions were held on the alignment of the elevated corridor.

While AAI had a tentative alignment planned, the State Highways Department communicated the exact alignment linking the T5 Terminal with the NH32 (near Madha Engineering College).

"When we initially planned the T5 Terminal, a hydrological study was

done. It had to be done to know whether the flow of water in the Adyar River will be affected if pillars are built near the bund. At that time, the study indicated that there will not be any impact on the water flow. Now, since the alignment has been finalised, Anna University will begin another detailed hydrological study," an official said.

Based on the report, AAI will also need another approval from the Water Resources Department.

The next round of discussions between AAI and the State government will be held within a few days to decide and hire a consultant for planning the terminal and the elevated corridor. The firm will require a minimum of 6-8 months to submit the detailed project report regarding this project.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

8 OCTOBER 2026

Police ban laser lights around city airport during Durga Puja

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Siliguri, 7 October

The Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate, whose jurisdiction includes localities around the city airport, on Wednesday, banned the use of laser lights at Durga Puja pandals in the areas under its control.

The ban follows on past incidents in which beams disrupted pilots during aircraft landing approaches.

The ban was announced at the Durga Puja co-ordination meeting held at the New Town Convention Centre that was attended by organisers of about 1,001 pujas under the commissionerate. Police also said drones could not be flown without permission and DJs would not be allowed at pandals or processions.

The laser restriction is particularly significant in the airport belt, where the commissionerate has previously prohibited sky-pointing laser beams in the free-flight zone around Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport

(NSCBI) after pilots and the airport authorities reported beams directed towards aircraft on approach.

The issue shot into prominence in 2021 when Sreebhumi Sporting Club's Durga Puja pandal's laser show was stopped after pilots of at least three flights reportedly told air traffic controllers that the beams were making it difficult to land. Airport authorities subsequently asked the Bidhannagar Commissionerate to ensure that the lasers were switched off.

Bidhannagar police have also previously acted against another aviation hazard - sky lanterns. In 2021, the commissionerate prohibited their release within a 10-km radius of Kolkata airport after airport authorities warned that lanterns could rise to about 3,000 feet and pose a risk to aircraft, particularly around the approach paths over Lake Town, Salt Lake and New Town. It said the wire frames could also cause serious engine damage if ingested.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से एयर टैक्सी सेवा शुरू करने की तैयारी

उबिफ्लाई टेक्नोलॉजी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड और यापल के बीच हुआ करार

यमुना सिटी। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से एयर टैक्सी सेवा शुरू करने की तैयारी की जा रही है। आने वाले समय में नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से दूसरे एयरपोर्ट के बीच यात्रा के साथ शहर में छोटी दूरी की यात्रा और आपातकालीन एयर एंबुलेंस सेवा भी शुरू की जाएगी। इसके लिए यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (यापल) और उबिफ्लाई टेक्नोलॉजी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (द ईप्लेन कंपनी) के बीच एमओयू किया गया है।

उबिफ्लाई टेक्नोलॉजी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (द ईप्लेन कंपनी) ने बृहस्पतिवार को नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के साथ समझौता किया। यह कंपनी एयर टैक्सी के संचालन के लिए बुनियादी ढांचा, सुरक्षा नियम और संचालन व्यवस्था तैयार करेगी। कंपनी अपने ई200एक्स इलेक्ट्रिक विमान का इस्तेमाल करेगी। यह विमान हेलीकॉप्टर की तरह सीधे ऊपर उड़ान भरने और उतरने में सक्षम है। एमओयू के तहत नोएडा एयरपोर्ट परिसर में परीक्षण के लिए जगह, एयर टैक्सी के उतरने-उड़ने के लिए वर्टिपोर्ट और चार्जिंग स्टेशन विकसित किए जाएंगे। इसके लिए नोएडा एयरपोर्ट स्टैंडर्ड ऑपरेटिंग प्रोसीजर (एसओपी) में आवश्यक बदलाव करेगा।

साथ ही कंपनी विमान के परीक्षण और जरूरी मंजूरीयां हासिल करने पर काम करेगी। इसके लिए नागरिक उड़्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) और अन्य संबंधित एजेंसियों से अनुमति ली जाएगी। कंपनी के मुताबिक, पहले ड्रोन के जरिए परिचालन व्यवस्था का परीक्षण किया जाएगा। इसके बाद पायलट वाले ई-200एक्स विमान की उड़ानों की योजना है। हाल ही में

उदयपुर के लिए उड़ान शुरू होगी

इंडिगो एयरलाइंस नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से उदयपुर के लिए उड़ानें शुरू करेगी। एयरलाइंस ने बृहस्पतिवार को बताया कि नोएडा से उदयपुर की उड़ान 25 अक्टूबर से शुरू होगी। वहीं, एयरलाइंस ने नवी मुंबई से भी उदयपुर की 15 नवंबर से उड़ान शुरू करने की घोषणा की है। दोनों जगह से दैनिक उड़ानें होंगी। एयरलाइंस की ओर से बताया गया है कि झीलों के शहर उदयपुर में साल 2025 में 20 लाख घरेलू और 1.6 लाख विदेशी पर्यटक आए थे। नोएडा से उदयपुर की उड़ान दिन में 1.30 बजे और उदयपुर से नोएडा की शाम 6.20 बजे रवाना होगी। वहीं, नवी मुंबई से उदयपुर की उड़ान सुबह 10.05 बजे और उदयपुर से नवी मुंबई के लिए 11.50 बजे रवाना होगी।

ई200एक्स इलेक्ट्रिक विमान के पूर्ण आकार वाले पीटी-01 प्रोटोटाइप को सार्वजनिक रूप से प्रदर्शित किया गया था।

फिलहाल इसके जमीनी स्तर पर प्रशिक्षण कार्य चल रहे हैं। कंपनी के संस्थापक और निदेशक डॉ. सत्यनारायण चक्रवर्ती ने कहा कि इलेक्ट्रिक एयर टैक्सी को जमीन पर उतारने के लिए केवल विमान बनाना पर्याप्त नहीं है। इसके लिए ग्राउंड इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर, नियामकीय ढांचे और परिचालन प्रक्रियाओं का समानांतर विकास भी जरूरी है। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के साथ यह समझौता ड्रोन ट्रायल के जरिए परिचालन मॉडल को व्यवस्थित तरीके से परखने और इसके बाद पायलट वाले विमानों की उड़ानों की दिशा में आगे बढ़ने में मदद करेगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से उदयपुर के लिए रोजाना उड़ान 25 से

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 8 अक्टूबर (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से देश के प्रमुख पर्यटन स्थलों के लिए हवाई कनेक्टिविटी का विस्तार जारी है। इसी क्रम में इंडिगो 25 अक्टूबर से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से उदयपुर के लिए दैनिक सीधी उड़ान शुरू करने जा रही है। इससे दिल्ली-एनसीआर और पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के यात्रियों को राजस्थान के प्रमुख पर्यटन एवं विरासत शहर तक पहुंचने के लिए सीधी हवाई सेवा मिल सकेगी।

इंडिगो के शेड्यूल के मुताबिक नोएडा से उदयपुर के लिए उड़ान दोपहर 1:30 बजे रवाना होगी और 3:10 बजे उदयपुर पहुंचेगी। वापसी की उड़ान शाम 6:20 बजे उदयपुर से चलेगी और रात 8 बजे नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पहुंचेगी। इस तरह यात्री दिन के समय दोनों शहरों के बीच सीधे हवाई सफर कर सकेंगे।

उदयपुर देश के प्रमुख पर्यटन केंद्रों में शामिल है। यहां बड़ी संख्या में देश-विदेश से पर्यटक पहुंचते हैं। नई उड़ान सेवा शुरू होने से पर्यटन के साथ कारोबार और पारिवारिक



आयोजनों के लिए राजस्थान जाने वाले यात्रियों को भी सुविधा मिलेगी। इससे दिल्ली-एनसीआर और पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश से उदयपुर की यात्रा का समय भी कम होगा।

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से 13 शहरों तक पहुंच रही इंडिगो

इंडिगो वर्तमान में नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से 13 शहरों के लिए उड़ानों का संचालन कर रही है। उदयपुर के जुड़ने के बाद एयरलाइन के घरेलू नेटवर्क का और विस्तार होगा। एयरलाइन के मुताबिक उदयपुर को बंगलुरु, दिल्ली, हैदराबाद, जयपुर, मुंबई, नोएडा और नवी मुंबई से जोड़ा जाएगा। इससे

- इंडिगो की नई सेवा से पर्यटन और कारोबार को मिलेगा बढ़ावा
- दोपहर में नोएडा से और शाम को उदयपुर से होगी वापसी उड़ान

यात्रियों को देश के अलग-अलग हिस्सों से उदयपुर पहुंचने के लिए अतिरिक्त विकल्प मिलेंगे। यात्री नई उड़ान के लिए टिकट की बुकिंग इंडिगो की वेबसाइट, मोबाइल ऐप और अधिकृत ट्रेवल एजेंटों के माध्यम से कर सकेंगे।

नवी मुंबई से भी 15 नवंबर से सेवा

इंडिगो ने नवी मुंबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से उदयपुर के लिए भी सीधी उड़ान शुरू करने की घोषणा की है। यह सेवा 15 नवंबर से शुरू होगी। नोएडा और नवी मुंबई दोनों एयरपोर्ट के उदयपुर से जुड़ने से देश के प्रमुख शहरों के बीच हवाई संपर्क और मजबूत होने की उम्मीद है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

8 OCTOBER 2026

Uran Phata, Gavhan Phata, Kalamboli, Palm Beach Rd could face more pressure More flights, more traffic? Navi Mumbai braces for airport impact

Raina Assainar

NAVI MUMBAI

Navi Mumbai's busy roads could face additional pressure if a substantial number of international flights are eventually shifted from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport to Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), with residents fearing airport-bound traffic could add to daily commuting woes.

Residents who travel extensively within the city for work fear taxis, private cars, buses could spill beyond the airport and affect arterial roads across Navi Mumbai and Panvel.

The proposed shift of more than a third of Mumbai airport's international departures

Vijay Gohil



Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik on Wednesday flagged off the daily MSRTC E-Shivaji services to Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) from Dadar. The services will connect NMIA with Dadar, Borivali and Pune through three routes, offering passengers a public transport alternative to private vehicles and taxis.

to NMIA has been put on hold following a stakeholder meeting in Delhi on Tuesday. The Centre has asked Adani Airport Holdings Ltd to work on a fresh roadmap for redevelopment of Mumbai airport's Terminal I. However, flight movement at NMIA could affect Navi Mumbai's road traffic.

Traffic police are yet to get clarity on the number of flights NMIA could handle daily or weekly.

DCP Traffic Rahul Khade said, "We are yet to get clarity on how many flights will be landing at Navi Mumbai airport on a daily or weekly basis, as there has been no official communication so far. Once we receive the details, proper and required arrangements will be made."

Residents fear airport traffic will merge with existing commuter movement, worsening congestion. Uran Phata and T-Point are pressure points, with roads carrying local, industrial and goods traffic. Gavhan Phata could add pressure to Palm Beach Road.

"Traffic is already a concern during peak hours. My job involves a lot of travelling within the city and if the airport brings a substantial increase in traffic, it might become difficult to reach different parts of Navi Mumbai on time," said Om Prakash, a Nerul resident. Kalamboli could become a bottleneck as traffic towards Navi Mumbai and Panvel converges there. Palspe Phata will be critical for vehicles approaching.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

8 OCTOBER 2026

KOLKATA

Govt opposes prayers at Kol airport masjid

The Centre on Wednesday opposed a petition before the Calcutta High Court seeking resumption of prayers at Bankra Mosque on the Kolkata Airport premises, asserting that national security is paramount and overrides "permissible public interest". Justice Krishna Rao adjourned hearing of the matter till October 9 on a prayer by the petitioners' lawyer to make submissions in reply to the contentions of the authorities. Additional Solicitor General Dhiraj Trivedi stated before the court that national security is paramount.

1 yr since take-off, NMIA still fails to connect with Mumbai flyers

A shiny new airport is yet to become the preferred choice for flyers for want of smooth connectivity

G Mohiuddin Joddy, **Vogesh Naik** and **Alney Shalish**
@hindustantimes.com

NAVI MUMBAI: Interior designer Mitthun Roy is not likely to fly out of Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) any time soon. On the evening of June 5, he landed at the airport from Bengaluru "just to experience the new airport," but it took him two-and-a-half hours to reach his home in Andher West. On the other hand, it would have taken him 30-35 minutes from the Mumbai International airport.

Roy is not the only one—many critics like him are underwhelmed by the prospect of flying out of NMIA as they view the airport as an island devoid of smooth last-mile connectivity.

As Roy said, "The struggle began from booking a cab due to high cancellations. Once I boarded a cab, it looked like a never-ending journey, as my commute home was during the evening rush hours. The flight, which was an hour-and-a-half long, took off minutes after 7 pm, and by the time I reached home, it was midnight." "I wanted to see how the airport was constructed and the interiors. But given the travel time, traffic and inadequate transport facilities, I won't opt for NMIA in the near future."

NMIA was inaugurated on October 8, 2025, providing the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) with its highly anticipated second aviation hub. The airport launched domestic flights on December 25, 2025, and expanded to scheduled international operations on July 15, 2026.

In this duration, there have been 3 million passenger footfalls and 22,500 flights. While the airport's daily passenger traffic is around 20,000, it is expected to reach around 50,000 by December 2026, along with 200 aircraft movements a day.

The crowning achievement is, however, undermined by many critical flaws such as connectivity by road and the absence of rail and metro services, especially for those travelling from Mumbai. While the eastern access links are nearing completion, major road, metro, rail and water projects are at various stages of development.

In fact, the anxiety of frequent flyers peaked early this week, resulting in a furore on social media after Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL) directed some airlines operating from Mumbai airport to move to NMIA for the phased redevelopment of T1. The decision was deferred following a meeting with the ministry of civil aviation. However, on October 5, the airport operator announced a slew of new road transportation initiatives for the winter schedule from October 25 to March 27, 2027.

The plan and execution
NMIA was conceived to ease capacity constraints at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMA), which is controlled by AAI, which took management control of the project in 2021. Spread over around 1,360 hectares, NMIA is being developed under a public-private partnership. The plan is for a capacity of 90 million passengers annually.

Today, IndiGo, Air India Express, Akasa Air and Flydubai are among the carriers operating scheduled passenger services from NMIA, connecting it to major metropolitan and tier-2 cities. International operations began on July 15 with an Air India Express service to Abu Dhabi. More international services are expected as airlines add routes and frequencies.

Benjamin, who has been involved with the project since its inception, acknowledged that NMIA's poor connectivity remains a major flaw. He noted that while CSMA had initially planned metro lines linking NMIA to Mumbai and Belapur, a lack of coordination between MMRDA and CIDCO stalled the plans.

The government must now complete the Metro from Mumbai airport to NMIA, on priority to make the maximum travel time between Sion and Navi Mumbai 20 minutes," he said.

The present road journey between the two airports takes around 75-120 minutes, and can exceed two hours during heavy traffic. The proposed Metro Line 8 will cover the 34.9-km CSMA-NMIA airport-to-airport corridor.

The project is expected to be completed around 2028. Connecting on the present connectivity, Benjamin added, "Introducing buses is not enough, as travel time is vulnerable due to congestion which often leads to travellers missing their flights."

Connectivity at a glance

To help flyers who wish to travel to the Navi Mumbai airport by public transport, the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation started e-Shivali electric bus operations on Wednesday.



Electric bus service for e-Shivali

MSRTC e-Shivali: • Pune ₹250
• Borivali ₹210 • Dadar East ₹120
• 2 daily Pune services; Thane & Nashik from mid-November

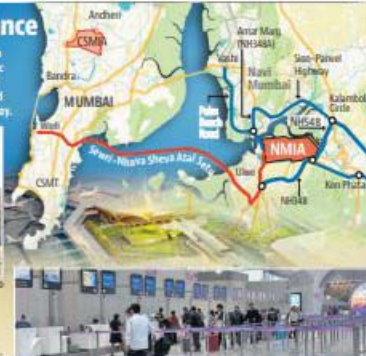


Chalo: 21 daily services to Marol, Bandra, Dadar and Colaba

NMRT: 7 dedicated routes (A1-A7) linking Terminal 1 with Kharkapur, Targhar, Belapur, Nerul, Panvel & Khandeshwar

Taxis & Autos: App cabs, prepaid taxis, autos and rickshaws available; Bharat Taxi to deploy up to 40 vehicles

Airport Shuttle: Hourly free NMIA-CSMA transfers



RAIL: Panvel, Targhar & Bamandongri stations

ROAD: • Atal Setu
• Sion-Panvel Highway
• NH-54B

Expected traffic congestions

• Changes in vehicular movement being examined at Goshan Phata, Palm Beach Road near Killa Junction and Sector 15, Karamjoda, Ulwe, and Kon Phata near Palapshe and Kalamkoli Circle.

• Panvel is particularly sensitive because of traffic from the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, Sion-Panvel Highway, JNPA, Uran. Airport-bound vehicles, especially during evenings and nights, could also overlap with heavy vehicular movement to and from JNPA.

• The Thane-Belapur Road corridor is another focus area, as passengers from Thane and northern Navi Mumbai are expected to approach the airport through Alandi, Rahale, Ghansoli, Mahape, Kopar Khairane, Turbha and Belapur.

Operations

9 months: Duration of commercial operations.	46 Present network of destinations.
3 million Passenger footfall in this duration.	19,000-20,000 Passenger footfall each day.
22,500 Commercial flights.	50,000 Estimated daily passenger traffic by Dec 2026.
	200 (which could go up to 350) Estimated aircraft movements each day during the winter schedule beginning October 25.

ABHISHEK KIRAN GUPTA
Realty startup founder, Sion-based resident
Once, my office booked a ticket from NMIA as it suited our budget. But when I realised the flight was not from Mumbai, I had to rebook as I live in Santacruz and travelling over 2 hours from NMIA was not less than 2 hours didn't make sense.

SHIVANAND AMARKHED
Chartered accountant, Chembur resident
CSMA is about 10 km from my home and the journey takes 25-30 minutes. In comparison, the NMIA is about 27 km from my home. When the airport opened, getting an app cab was frustrating. But the situation has since improved and the journey home takes 45-60 minutes.

SUDHIR MEHTA
Industrialist, Pune resident
I will continue to prefer Pune airport but can see NMIA becoming a viable alternative once it offers a wider range of international destinations. The improved connectivity could make travelling to Navi Mumbai more practical.

drivers who wish to avoid paying the ₹250 toll at Atal Setu get stuck here for 30 minutes.

"Connecting is a challenge for both passengers and the staff, especially the latter who reside in the western suburbs since accommodation has become expensive in Navi Mumbai," said Rao. "Additionally, there is a need to increase illumination around the airport and on roads. This level plan also increased police presence on long stretches which are isolated and deserted."

Key (missing) links

While NMIA has been operational for a year, road, rail, metro and water links planned to make it a fully connected airport are active in phases, with several key projects either nearing completion or years away from becoming operational. The connectivity gap assumes greater significance with Mumbai airport's T1 redevelopment. While the proposed 265 weekly international flight cancellations have been temporarily deferred, the core demolition and redevelopment plans remain on track.

The first major improvement is now weeks away – still bridge (SBR-9) and the separate bridges (BR-4 and BR-5) will pave an eastern approach to NMIA,

improving connectivity from the Sion-Panvel Highway side towards the airport.

CSMA managing director Ashwin Madgal said the three projects are almost complete. "Once the project is completed, security clearance, road and traffic markings, signage, etc. will follow. It will happen in around 10 days," he said.

Another major missing link is the Uwe Coastal Road and 12 km Airport Link, comprising a 5.8 km six-lane road and an elevated link providing a direct connection from the Atal Setu side to NMIA. The present Atal Setu-to-airport journey through Chirle and Anura Marg takes around 30-40 minutes, while the completed direct connection is expected to reduce it to less than five minutes.

Madgal attributed the project delays to four key factors: pending railway permissions, environmental approvals for mangroves, utility shifting for a gas pipeline and contractor liquidity constraints. "We are expecting it to be completed by December 31," he said.

The ₹580 crore Kharghar-Turbha Link Road will connect the airport region and northern Navi Mumbai, while the proposed six-lane 25-26 km Thane-NMIA Elevated Corridor will reduce the present journey of about 90 minutes to around 30 minutes.

uses to around 30 minutes. The project has received in-principle approval, said Madgal.

Traffic preparedness
Navi Mumbai is stepping up traffic and public transport preparations for a likely winter increase in airport-bound movement during the winter schedule. The traffic police are reviewing key routes while transport agencies are expanding bus, taxi and shuttle services to NMIA.

Although the October 25 shift of international flights from Mumbai airport to NMIA is deferred, when it does take place, traffic police estimate around 50,000-53,000 light vehicles added to Navi Mumbai roads every day.

On Monday, Navi Mumbai police commissioner Milind Bharambe held a review meeting on traffic management measures. "The routes to the airport, the ongoing infrastructure works, their timelines and vehicle movement arrangements will be reviewed," Bharambe said.

Additionally, NMIA is also expanding its ground transport network with more bus and shuttle options for the winter schedule (see box). "These services will strengthen NMIA's links with MMR and neighbouring cities," said Subhash Marfatkar, Navi Mumbai airport officer of NMIA.

The current chaos is leading to disrepute of our city and its airport, globally. Navi Mumbai is an additional airport, not a makeshift airport!

AADITYA THACKERAY, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

Customs dept busts gold syndicate at IGIA

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi Customs has busted a gold smuggling syndicate at Indira Gandhi International Airport and seized 6.5kg of gold, worth around ₹9.9 crore, from eight passengers who arrived from Dubai last month, an official said on Thursday.

Following the bust, several Customs officers posted at the airport were shifted to non-sensitive back-office postings or repatriated, while one officer was suspended. "A vigilance inquiry has also been ordered to examine allegations of collusion and supervisory lapses, includ-

THE SMUGGLERS WERE INTERCEPTED ON SEPT 21 BASED ON SPECIFIC INTEL SHARED BY THE OFFICE OF CHIEF COMMISSIONER MANISH KUMAR

ing whether negligence or a possible nexus allowed the same smuggling route to be repeatedly used," an official, who did not wish to be named, said.

The smugglers were intercepted on September 21 based on

specific intelligence shared by the office of chief commissioner Manish Kumar, the official said. The gold was concealed in the form of metallic chains, coated in black and silver.

Investigators found that the syndicate allegedly undertook an operation every three to four months. "The latest seizure has exposed the pattern and led to the network being disrupted," the official said.

Customs has reported a sharp increase in recoveries this financial year, seizing 42.91kg of gold so far, whereas the total seizure in the 2025-26 fiscal was 47.15kg, the official said.

Narcotics and psychotropic

substances weighing 737kg have been seized in the first six months of this fiscal, compared to 786.84kg in 2025-26, the official said.

The official said the action followed continuous surveillance, data analysis and intelligence inputs aimed at identifying smuggling patterns. The Delhi Customs Zone recorded 279 seizures in 2025-26 and has registered 203 cases in the first six months of the current financial year.

The chief commissioner said the department would maintain strict vigilance at IGIA and follow a zero-tolerance approach towards corruption.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

8 OCTOBER 2026



IATA urges for alternatives to flight cuts at Mumbai airport

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), the global airline industry body, has called for a consultative approach between Adani-owned Mumbai International Airport Ltd. (MIAL) and airlines to ensure that the redevelopment of Terminal 1 does not undermine international connectivity to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). IATA also urged stakeholders to explore alternatives to flight cuts and other capacity reductions.



Corporate Communications Directorate

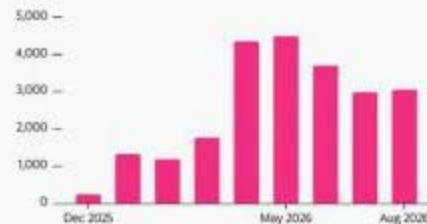
MINT

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

TERMINAL TROUBLE

Total aircraft movements* at Navi Mumbai airport



*refers to the total number of aircraft arrivals and departures.

Source: Airports Authority of India

mint

THE GOVERNMENT has asked Adani Airport Holdings to put on hold its plan to shift some international flights from Mumbai airport to Navi Mumbai airport, temporarily easing a standoff with airlines. Adani operates both airports. Navi Mumbai airport started operations in December, after which Adani lined up renovation of Terminal 1 at Mumbai airport.

As part of the plan, it asked airlines to shift one-third of their overseas flights from Mumbai's Terminal 2 to Navi Mumbai. Airlines pushed back, saying they were not consulted. Navi Mumbai airport saw 3,047 aircraft movements in August versus 26,017 at the Mumbai one, and has declined since the April-May highs.

पक्षियों को रोकने के लिए IGI एयरपोर्ट पर लगाए जाएंगे नेट

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर बर्ड स्ट्राइक का खतरा कम करने के लिए दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (DIAL) अब एयरपोर्ट में स्पैरो नेट सिस्टम लगाने जा रहा है। इसके लिए स्पैरो नेट मेश और उससे जुड़े उपकरणों की सप्लाई व इंस्टॉलेशन का टेंडर जारी करने की प्रक्रिया शुरू की गई है। रनवे पर पक्षियों को रोकने के लिए 'बर्ड-स्केयरर' यानी पटाखों के इस्तेमाल की योजना भी थी। अब स्पैरो नेट के जरिए भी पक्षियों की आवाजाही नियंत्रित करने की तैयारी है।

हालांकि एयरपोर्ट के आसपास कूड़ा, मीट वेस्ट, जलभराव और पक्षियों को दाना खिलाने जैसी गतिविधियों पर प्रभावी रोक नहीं लग पाने से चुनौती बनी हुई है। आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, IGI एयरपोर्ट पर बर्ड स्ट्राइक के मामले पिछले 2 साल में कुछ कम हुए हैं लेकिन पिछले 5 साल में दूसरे एयरपोर्ट

नेट और इससे जुड़े उपकरणों के लिए टेंडर की प्रक्रिया शुरू



AI Image

की तुलना में यहां संख्या काफी ज्यादा रही है।

आंकड़ों के मुताबिक 2020 से जून 2025 तक बर्ड हिट के कुल 695 मामले दर्ज किए गए। करीब

70 फीसदी बर्ड स्ट्राइक 500 फीट से कम ऊंचाई पर टेकऑफ और लैंडिंग के दौरान होती है। ऐसे में चारदीवारी के बाहर पक्षियों को आकर्षित करने वाली गतिविधियां भी प्लेन की सुरक्षा के लिए चुनौती बनती है।

वायुयान अधिनियम, 1937 की धारा 91 के तहत एयरपोर्ट के आसपास खुले

में कूड़ा फेंकने, जलभराव और मांस के अवशेष डालने जैसी गतिविधियों पर रोक है। इसके बावजूद कई जगह नियमों का पालन नहीं हो रहा। द्वारका और दिल्ली कैट के आसपास पशुपालन से जुड़ी गतिविधियां भी होती हैं। गोबर के ढेर और खुले में उपले सुखाने से कीड़े-मकौड़े पनपते हैं, जिससे छोटे और उन्हें खाने वाले बड़े पक्षी वहां आते हैं।

द्वारका सेक्टर-8 और सेक्टर-22 में पहले लगाए गए कूड़ा न फेंकने के चेतावनी बोर्ड कई जगह हटा दिए गए हैं। द्वारका में रनवे 9, 10 और 11 के एप्रोच एरिया के पास मलबा डाले जाने की बात भी सामने आई है। शमशान घाट के पीछे मलबा जमा होने से पक्षियों की गतिविधियां बढ़ने और चूहों के ठिकाने बनने की बात कही गई है। एक्सपर्ट्स के मुताबिक, एयरपोर्ट परिसर में सुरक्षा उपायों के साथ आसपास कचरा प्रबंधन, मीट वेस्ट निपटारे, जलभराव खत्म करने और पक्षियों को दाना खिलाने पर प्रभावी रोक जरूरी है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

मिनटों में पूरा होगा दिल्ली-NCR का सफर

दिल्ली-NCR के लिए नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से उड़ेगी एयर टैक्सी

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, ग्रेटर नोएडा

नोएडा इंटरनैशनल एयरपोर्ट से आने वाले समय में इलेक्ट्रिक एयर टैक्सी सेवा की शुरुआत होने जा रही है। इससे दिल्ली-एनसीआर के इलाकों में लगने वाले घंटों के जाम से राहत मिलेगी और एयरपोर्ट-टू-एयरपोर्ट कनेक्टिविटी के साथ-साथ आपातकालीन एयर एम्बुलेंस सेवा भी शुरू की जा सकेगी। इस महत्वाकांक्षी परियोजना के लिए आईआईटी मद्रास की इनक्यूबेटेड डीप-टेक स्टार्टअप कंपनी 'द ईग्लेन कंपनी' (उबिफ्लाई टेक्नोलॉजीज) और नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के बीच एक MoU पर हस्ताक्षर हुए हैं।

करार के तहत नोएडा एयरपोर्ट परिसर में एयर टैक्सी के उड़ने-उतरने के लिए वॉटिंग, चार्जिंग स्टेशन और टेस्टिंग स्पेस विकसित किया जाएगा, जिसके लिए एयरपोर्ट अपने स्टैंडर्ड ऑपरेंटिंग प्रोसीजर में भी बदलाव करेगा। वहीं, कंपनी संचालन के लिए नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय



कंपनी बुनियादी ढांचा, सुरक्षा नियम और संचालन की व्यवस्था तैयार करेगी

(DGCA) व अन्य रेगुलेटरी एजेंसियों से जरूरी मंजूरीयां हासिल करेगी। शुरुआत में ड्रोन के जरिए परिचालन व्यवस्था का परीक्षण होगा और इसके सफल होने पर पायलट वाले विमान की उड़ानें शुरू की जाएंगी।

इस सेवा में कंपनी अपने स्वदेशी e200X इलेक्ट्रिक विमान का इस्तेमाल करेगी। इस सेवा से दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट या एनसीआर के किसी भी हिस्से के बीच कनेक्टिविटी बेहद तेज हो जाएगी। साथ ही, शून्य कार्बन उत्सर्जन के साथ यह पर्यावरण अनुकूल विकल्प होगा और गंभीर मरीजों के लिए आपातकालीन मेडिकल ट्रांसपोर्ट में भी मददगार साबित होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

Air India flight returns to Delhi after Houthi attacks on Saudi airports

ASHOKE RAJ ■ New Delhi

An Air India flight from Delhi to Riyadh is returning to the national Capital amid heightened security concerns following a series of Houthi attacks targeting airports in Saudi Arabia that have left at least three people dead and 36 injured, according to Saudi authorities.

Air India flight AI2243 departed from Delhi and was flying south over Gujarat before proceeding over the Arabian Sea.

The aircraft subsequently turned around and is now flying back towards Delhi. The turnaround comes amid growing concerns over aviation safety in Saudi airspace following attacks on airports, including King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh. Air India and Air



India Express have suspended their operations to and from Riyadh until October 10, 2026.

According to Saudi authorities attacks targeting Abha International Airport and King Khalid International Airport on October 6 and 7 killed three people and injured 36 others. Two people were killed and 28 others injured in an

attack on Abha International Airport, while one person was killed and eight others injured in the attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh. The Houthi group has claimed responsibility for the attacks. Its military spokesperson, Yahya Saree, said the group targeted Saudi airports using ballistic missiles and drones. Saree claimed that a ballistic missile targeting King Khalid International Airport "struck its target with precision" and disrupted airport operations.

India on Thursday condemned the attacks on Abha International Airport and King Khalid International Airport, describing the targeting of civilian infrastructure as "completely unacceptable". "India condemns the attacks over the past few days targeting

Abha International Airport and King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, which have resulted in civilian deaths and injuries," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

"The targeting of civilian infrastructure is completely unacceptable. We express our deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost their loved ones. We wish speedy recovery for those injured. We express solidarity and stand with the people and Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," it added. The latest attacks come amid renewed fighting between Saudi-backed government forces and the Iran-aligned Houthi group in Yemen.

Saree said the attacks were carried out in response to what he described as Saudi "aggression" against Yemen. He claimed that Saudi Arabia had

conducted "60 airstrikes and missile attacks in the past 24 hours". The Houthi group also issued what it called a "last warning" to global airlines operating flights through Saudi airspace, saying the area had become a "theater for our military operations". Saree urged international airlines to stop operating flights through Saudi airspace, warning of the consequences of continuing to do so.

He said airspace over the "sacred areas" of Mecca and Medina was exempt from the warning. The US Mission in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday also urged American citizens to exercise heightened vigilance amid the Houthi threats. It warned that the situation could lead to flight cancellations, airspace closures and other travel disruptions.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

8 OCTOBER 2026

Bomb hoaxes may be cover for airport smuggling

Threat Alerts Used To Divert Security: Report

Ashish Chauhan
@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: Bomb-threat hoaxes may be used by smuggling networks to disrupt airport security responses, delay flights, conceal contraband and exploit gaps in Customs surveillance, a report mapping 104 aviation threat incidents between 2010 and 2026 has found.

The Aviation Bomb Threat & Customs Interdiction Report examined 85 core cases between Oct 2024 and April 2025 and identified seven incidents, or 8.2%, with a confirmed, probable, or suspected link between a bomb threat and a Customs interdiction. These cases involved

BOMB HOAX TRAIL

- 104 aviation threat incidents mapped (2010-26)
- 85 cases analysed from Oct 2024-Apr 2025
- 7 cases linked to Customs interdictions
- 4 links confirmed; 3 under probe
- 5.9kg gold worth ₹4.5 crore seized
- 3.2kg methaqualone recovered at Kochi
- Delhi case involved vapes, foreign currency
- Chennai case led to gold, cigarette seizure
- 4 tactics identified: concealment, grounding, exposure, diversion
- Hoax threats rose from 2 (2021) to 71 (2023)
- Report seeks CISF-Customs-police coordination



gold, psychotropic drugs, foreign currency, vapes and cigarettes.

Of the seven cases, four had confirmed links, while three were deemed probable or remained under investigation. The report puts seizures in connec-

ted cases at about 5.9kg of gold valued at over Rs 4.5 crore, 3.2kg of methaqualone valued at Rs 3.2 crore, along with foreign currency, commercial vapes, and cigarettes.

The report identifies four methods through which a bomb

hoax could be used to facilitate or protect a smuggling operation.

The first involves placing a threat note near concealed contraband, such as in an aircraft lavatory or another compartment. By warning of a bomb in that location, smugglers may discourage passengers or crew from accessing the area, allowing the contraband to remain undisturbed until an accomplice can retrieve it.

One confirmed case using this modus operandi involved Air India flight AI-349 from Dubai to Mumbai on October 18, 2024. Cabin crew found a handwritten note claiming that a bomb had been placed in the rear lavatory.

► Continued on P 2

Report calls for joint airport protocols

► Continued from P1

The second is a hoax call intended to stop or delay departure after Customs detain a carrier or an accomplice. The third involves forced deboarding and baggage screening, which can lead carriers to abandon bags containing contraband. The fourth involves multiple threat emails or messages aimed at drawing CISF, police, bomb-disposal teams and Customs personnel towards isolation bays, leaving other airport areas under pressure.

The study places the cases against a rise in reported hoax threats. It cites Ministry of Civil Aviation data showing four nationwide incidents in 2020, two in 2021, 13 in 2022 and 71 in 2023.

It warns that the reported connections do not stake-

lish that every bomb hoax is linked to smuggling. Most threats were found to be hoaxes.

It calls for joint protocols involving CISF, airport police, Customs Air Intelligence Units and bomb-disposal teams during aircraft isolation, baggage screening and evacuation.

"Between October 2024 and April 2025, Indian aviation experienced an unprecedented surge in bomb threat hoaxes, impacting over 80 flights across domestic and international sectors. While the overwhelming majority of these threats were malicious hoaxes aimed at causing operational disruption, rigorous multi-agency analysis reveals a critical operational intersection between aviation bomb threat protocols and Customs Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) interdictions," the report states.

HOAXES AS SMOKESCREENS

2020, Hyderabad airport terminal case: Seizure of 1.5kg gold bars worth Rs 1.1 crore [Confirmed link](#)

Oct 18, 2024, Mumbai (Air India AI-349): Recovery of 1.85kg gold paste worth Rs 1.42 crore [Confirmed link](#)

Nov 2, 2024, Delhi (IndiGo 6E-2114): 120 vape sticks, \$18,000 and ₹5,000 in undeclared currency seized. Total value of the haul was Rs 28 lakh [Confirmed link](#)

Dec 12, 2024, Kochi (Air India Express IX-412): 3.2kg methaqualone worth Rs 3.2 crore recovered [Probable link](#)



Jan 24, 2025, Chennai (SpiceJet SG-88): Customs officials seized 40,000 cigarettes, 650g gold bangles valued at Rs 52 lakh [Confirmed link](#)

Feb 22, 2025, Kozhikode (Air India Express IX-354): Rs 74 lakh worth of gold compounds detected [Suspected link](#)

Image: AI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

8 OCTOBER 2026

Navi Mumbai airport adds MSRTC buses, transit hotel

Mumbai: Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) and MSRTC on Wednesday inaugurated bus services to the airport from Dadar, CSMT, Borivli and Pune. The first phase will operate 16 daily services on the NMIA-Dadar/CSMT corridors, 8 to Borivli and 2 to Pune using key routes, including Atal Setu, said the airport in a press statement. The bus facility is not restricted to passengers holding an NMIA flight ticket. People not flying from Navi Mumbai airport can also use these services, making them a broader public transport link between the airport and Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

The Dadar/CSMT service will travel via Ulwe, Nava Sheva/Chirle, Atal Setu, Sewri, Eastern Freeway, Byculla, Parel and Lalbaug. The Borivli service will run via Atal Setu, Eastern Freeway, Eastern Express Highway/Sion, Mumbai Airport Terminal 1, JVL, Andheri and Western Express Highway. The bus fare applicable for the NMIA-Borivli route is Rs 210, the NMIA-Dadar route Rs 170 and to Pune Rs 455 to Swargate. MSRTC said services to Thane, Nashik and other towns are planned.

Meanwhile, Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) launched an 80-room Swirl Transit Hotel at NMIA's T1. Located on the arrivals level, it offers four-hour and overnight stays for passengers with long layovers, early departures and late arrivals. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

Bird hits see rising trend at IGI

New Delhi: IGI Airport has witnessed a rising trend in bird hits in recent times due to poor civic conditions outside the premises of India's biggest aviation hub. According to airport sources, the number of bird-hit cases outside IGIA affecting aircraft taking off or landing was 90 in 2024 and 460 in 2025. This year till Sept, that number stood at 209. Similarly, the number of bird hits reported inside the airport was 89 in 2024, 117 in 2025, and 63 till this Sept.

While Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) can take care of the surroundings inside IGIA, the conditions outside the premises fall within the jurisdiction of various agencies. On Aug 24, Airfield Environment Management Committee, which comprises members from all stakeholders, held a meeting on the issue.

Its minutes showed the "DIAL representative presented issues related to waste disposal and unauthorised meat vending along aircraft approach paths". The minutes stated, "The DIAL representative informed that many peafowl, monkeys and dogs are observed around IGIA. This gives a safety threat to VVIPs, foreign delegates and passengers... Any strike involving these species could result into substantial aircraft damage and passenger safety due to their mass."

Other areas that need attention, as per the minutes, include Rangpuri Pahadi for sewage accumulation, illegal chicken market in RK Puram, waste dumping in Dwarka and Jai Hind Colony in Vasant Kunj, and improper garbage disposal at dhalaos. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

एअर इंडिया, एक्सप्रेस व अकासा एयर ने बढ़ाया फ्यूल सरचार्ज

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। त्योहारी सीजन और यात्रा के व्यस्त समय के बीच हवाई सफर करने वाले यात्रियों की जेब पर अतिरिक्त बोझ पड़ने वाला है। विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में लगातार हो रही बढ़ोतरी के चलते एअर इंडिया, एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और अकासा एयर ने फ्यूल सरचार्ज में इजाफा करने का फैसला किया है। नई दरें 9 अक्टूबर (8 अक्टूबर रात 12.01 बजे) से होने वाली सभी नई टिकट बुकिंग पर प्रभावी होंगी। इससे पहले इंडिगो भी अपने किराए में यह बढ़ोतरी कर चुकी है।

एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए 0-500 किमी की दूरी वाले रूट के लिए

400 रुपये, 501-1,000 किमी के लिए 600 रुपये, 1,001-1,500 किमी के लिए 850 रुपये और 1,501-2,000 किमी और उससे ज्यादा दूरी वाले रूट के लिए 1,200 रुपये का फ्यूल सरचार्ज लगाएंगी। अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए, नया सरचार्ज नॉर्थ अमेरिका के लिए 215 डॉलर, ऑस्ट्रेलिया के लिए 210 डॉलर, ब्रिटेन समेत यूरोप के लिए 135 डॉलर और पश्चिम एशिया के लिए 55 डॉलर होगा।

अकासा एयर ने भी घरेलू उड़ानों पर दूरी अनुसार 375 रुपये से लेकर 1,150 रुपये तक का सरचार्ज लगाया है। वहीं कुवैत, कतर, सऊदी अरब, यूएई, थाईलैंड और वियतनाम जैसे चुनिंदा अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्गों पर 2,500 रुपये अतिरिक्त देने होंगे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

विदेश यात्रा के लिए ट्रैवल सिम कार्ड ईजीरोम देगी एअर इंडिया

नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया विदेश यात्रा पर जाने वाले यात्रियों को ट्रैवल सिम कार्ड



'ईजीरोम' देगी।
शुरुआत में
सिम कार्ड
मुफ्त दिया
जाएगा, जबकि
रोमिंग पैक के

लिए शुल्क देना होगा। यह नार्थ अमेरिका,
यूरोप, एशिया-प्रशांत, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और पश्चिम
एशिया के 30 देशों में मिलेगा। एजेसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

Fuel surcharges to pinch festival season flyers as ATF costs rise

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Festive season airfares are expected to pinch passengers as airlines across the board introduce or revise fuel surcharges amid rising aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices. On Thursday, Air India Group as well as Akasa Air announced changes to fuel surcharges amid a sustained increase in ATF prices, days after IndiGo revised its levies.

While Air India and Air India Express revised surcharges across domestic and select international routes,

Akasa Air introduced a domestic fuel surcharge and revised its existing international levy.

The revised charges will apply to new bookings made from October 9, from midnight for Air India Express, 12.01 am for Akasa Air and 11 am for Air India. As per the airlines, the changes were intended to partially offset the pressure on operating costs arising from higher fuel prices.

FUEL SURCHARGE

On domestic routes, Air India and Air India Express will levy a one-way fuel surcharge ranging from ₹400 to ₹1,200,

depending on the distance travelled.

In terms of select international routes, the revised one-way surcharge will be \$215 for North America, \$210 for Australia, \$135 for Europe, including the UK, and \$55 for West Asia.

On its part, Akasa Air will levy a domestic fuel surcharge of ₹375 for flights covering up to 500 km and ₹600 for distances of 501-1,000 km.

On international routes connecting India with Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Thailand and Vietnam, Akasa Air will levy a fuel surcharge of ₹2,500.

At that time, IndiGo said the latest month-on-month increase in ATF prices exceeded 14 per cent, taking fuel costs to among their highest levels in the last decade.

Meanwhile, the Centre is considering reviving its ATF Price Stabilisation Fund scheme amid rising jet fuel costs and their impact on air-

fares, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu had told reporters on Tuesday.

In July, *businessline* had reported that the Centre's ₹10,000-crore ATF PSF scheme had lapsed after no domestic airline signed the mandatory memorandum of understanding with State-owned OMCs within the prescribed timeframe.

एयर इंडिया ने ईंधन अधिभार में की बढ़ोतरी

दीपक पटेल

नई दिल्ली, 8 अक्टूबर

एयर इंडिया, एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और अकासा एयर ने भी गुरुवार को घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों पर ईंधन सरचार्ज बढ़ा दिया है। एविएशन टरबाइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में तेज वृद्धि के असर को कम करने की कोशिश के तहत इन एयरलाइंस ने यह कदम उठाया है। उनका यह कदम भारत की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो दूसरी बार ईंधन अधिभार में वृद्धि की घोषणा के तीन दिन बाद आया है। मार्च में इंडिगो ने इसमें इजाफा किया

था। एटीएफ आम तौर पर किसी भारतीय विमानन कंपनी की परिचालन लागत का लगभग 40 प्रतिशत होता है। दिल्ली में एटीएफ की कीमतें लगभग 110 रुपये प्रति लीटर से बढ़कर करीब 137 रुपये प्रति लीटर हो गई हैं। इसमें अकेले अक्टूबर में 13 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि शामिल है। इंडिगो के सोमवार को घोषित संशोधित ईंधन अधिभार मंगलवार से नई बुकिंग के लिए लागू हुए। एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस अपने संशोधित अधिभार 9 अक्टूबर से लागू करेंगी, जबकि अकासा एयर का नया अधिभार भी 9 अक्टूबर से प्रभावी होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

Indian airlines cancel flights after Riyadh airport attack

Indian airlines have cancelled and diverted flights to Riyadh following disruption at the Saudi capital's King Khalid International Airport on Thursday, with Air India and Air India Express suspending services until October 10 and IndiGo cancelling several flights and diverting another to Dammam. Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi movement claimed on Thursday that it had launched a ballistic missile at King Khalid

International Airport in Riyadh. Several explosions were heard in the Saudi capital, while Saudi authorities said missiles targeting Riyadh had been intercepted. Air India flight AI2243 operating from Delhi to Riyadh returned to Delhi on Thursday in the interest of passenger and crew safety. The flight was subsequently cancelled and passengers were offered full refunds, the airline said.

OUR BUREAU



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

A-I to offer travel SIM cards for overseas trips

Air India will offer travel SIM cards to passengers for their overseas trips. EasyRoam, an Air India-branded travel SIM card that offers international roaming services, has been developed in partnership with Tata Communications. The product will be available for purchase as a physical SIM card as well as eSIM on a dedicated Air India-branded webpage, the airline said on Thursday. Initially, the SIM card will be provided free of cost while roaming pack charges will apply. It will be available for 30 countries.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

A-I, Air India Express, Akasa follow IndiGo in raising fuel surcharges

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 8 October

Air India, Air India Express and Akasa Air on Thursday raised or introduced fuel surcharges on domestic and international flights as airlines seek to offset the impact of sharply higher aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices. The move comes three days after India's largest airline IndiGo announced its second increase in fuel surcharges since March.

ATF normally accounts for about 40 per cent of an Indian carrier's operating costs. The ongoing West Asia conflict, which started in late February when Israel and the US attacked Iran, has significantly affected global crude oil supplies. ATF prices in Delhi have risen from around ₹110 per litre to around ₹137 per litre, including a 13 per cent increase in October alone.

IndiGo's revised fuel surcharges, announced on Monday, came into effect for new bookings from Tuesday. Air India and Air India Express will apply their revised surcharges from October 9, while Akasa Air's new surcharge will also come into effect from October 9.

The Air India group, just like IndiGo, has now revised its domestic fuel surcharge twice since introducing it in March. The group initially imposed a flat ₹399 surcharge on domestic flights in March and subsequently moved to a distance-based structure.

More on business-standard.com



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

आज से लागू: इंडिगो पहले ही बढ़ा चुकी चार्ज सफर महंगा... एअर इंडिया, अकासा ने ₹1,200 तक बढ़ाया ईंधन शुल्क

भास्कर न्यूज़ | मुंबई

एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने घरेलू और चुनिंदा अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों पर ईंधन शुल्क बढ़ा दिया है। घरेलू उड़ानों में दूरी के हिसाब से 400 से 1,200 रुपये शुल्क लगेगा। एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस में नई दूरें 9 अक्टूबर की रात 12 बजे से और एअर इंडिया में सुबह 11 बजे से होने वाली नई बुकिंग पर लागू होंगी। दोनों कंपनियों ने इसकी खजह विमान ईंधन की बढ़ती कीमतों को बताया है। अकासा एयर ने घरेलू उड़ानों पर ईंधन शुल्क अब उड़ान की अवधि के बजाय दूरी के आधार पर तय किया है। 500 किमी तक 375, 501-1,000 किमी पर 600, 1,001-1,500 किमी पर 900 और 1,501 से अधिक पर 1,150 लगेगा।

घरेलू उड़ानें: किस दूरी पर अब कितना ईंधन शुल्क

दूरी (किमी)	एअर इंडिया	इंडिगो
500 तक	400	375
501-1,000	600	600
1,001-1,500	850	900
1,501-2,000	1,200	1,150
2,000 से अधिक	1,200	1,300

राशि एकतरफा यात्रा का ईंधन शुल्क है, कुल किराया नहीं।

■ अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूट: एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने चुनिंदा अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्गों पर भी शुल्क बढ़ाए हैं। उत्तरी अमेरिका के लिए 215 डॉलर, ऑस्ट्रेलिया के लिए 210, ब्रिटेन सहित यूरोप के लिए 135 और पश्चिम एशिया के लिए 55 डॉलर शुल्क तय किया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

भास्कर नॉलेज

एयरलाइन तय टिकट पर बोर्डिंग से रोके तो आपके क्या अधिकार?

नई दिल्ली | केरल में कन्फर्म टिकट और जरूरी दस्तावेज होने के बावजूद महिला और उसके बच्चे को विमान में नहीं चढ़ने दिया तो उपभोक्ता आयोग ने एयरलाइन को ₹70,287 लौटाने व मुआवजा देने का आदेश दिया है। जानिए, ऐसी स्थिति में यात्रियों के क्या अधिकार हैं।

• एयरलाइन यात्री को कब रोक सकती है?

डीजीसीए के मुताबिक स्वास्थ्य, सुरक्षा या जरूरी यात्रा दस्तावेज पूरे नहीं होने पर एयरलाइन यात्री को रोक सकती है। ओवरबुकिंग पर भी बोर्डिंग रोकी जाती है। ऐसे में पहले उन यात्रियों से सीट छोड़ने की अपील करनी होगी जो अपनी मर्जी से दूसरी फ्लाइट लेना चाहते हैं। समय पर पहुंचे बाकी यात्रियों को रोकने पर मुआवजे के नियम लागू होते हैं।

• एयरलाइन की गलती पर कितना मुआवजा?

ओवरबुकिंग पर 1 घंटे में दूसरी फ्लाइट मिले तो मुआवजा नहीं। फ्लाइट 24 घंटे के भीतर मिले तो किराया+फ्यूल चार्ज का दोगुना, अधिकतम 10 हजार। इससे ज्यादा देर पर चार गुना, अधिकतम 20 हजार। दूसरी फ्लाइट न लें तो पूरा रिफंड+अधिकतम 20 हजार मुआवजा मिलेगा।

• किन स्थितियों में मुआवजा नहीं मिलता?

जब फ्लाइट रद्द होने या देरी की वजह एयरलाइन के नियंत्रण से बाहर हो, तब मुआवजा देना जरूरी नहीं है। जैसे प्राकृतिक आपदा, बाढ़, दंगे, गृहयुद्ध, राजनीतिक अस्थिरता, बिस्फोट, सरकारी आदेश या हड़ताल।

• एयरलाइन शिकायत न सुने तो कहां जाएं?

पहले एयरलाइन की वेबसाइट या एप पर शिकायत करें। समाधान न मिले तो सरकारी पोर्टल airsewa.gov.in पर शिकायत दर्ज करें। रिफंड या मुआवजे के लिए e-jagriti.gov.in पर उपभोक्ता आयोग में केस कर सकते हैं। मदद के लिए हेल्पलाइन 1915 पर कॉल करें।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

एयर इंडिया ने पेश किया 'ईजीरोम', 190 देशों में मिलेगी रोमिंग सेवा

नई दिल्ली। टाटा समूह की विमान सेवा कंपनी एयर इंडिया और संचार प्रौद्योगिकी कंपनी टाटा कम्युनिकेशंस ने गुरुवार को एयर इंडिया ब्रिडज ट्रैवल सिम 'ईजीरोम' पेश करने की घोषणा की जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय रोमिंग सेवा देता है। एयर इंडिया ने इसे टाटा कम्युनिकेशंस के साथ मिलकर बनाया गया है। इसे एयर इंडिया के खास वेबपेज पर फिजिकल सिम और ई सिम दोनों के तौर पर खरीदा जा सकता है। यह एयर इंडिया के यात्रियों को विदेश यात्रा के दौरान रोमिंग पर वॉयस और डेटा सर्विस इस्तेमाल करने की सुविधा देता है। दोनों कंपनियों की साझा प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में बताया गया है कि शुरुआती दौर में 'ईजीरोम' सिम निःशुल्क मिल रहा है, लेकिन रोमिंग पैक के लिए पैसे देने होंगे। रोमिंग पैक उत्तरी अमेरिका, यूरोप (ब्रिटेन सहित), ऑस्ट्रेलिया, एशिया प्रशांत और पश्चिम एशिया के 30 देशों के लिए उपलब्ध हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

8 OCTOBER 2026

INDIGO FLIGHT HIT BY LIGHTNING, LANDS SAFELY

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 7

An IndiGo flight from Patna to Lucknow was struck by lightning while flying at an altitude of around 17,000 feet on Wednesday, damaging the aircraft's nose but leaving all passengers and crew members safe. The aircraft, operating flight 6E925, was carrying 104 passengers and six crew members when it encountered the lightning strike while approaching Lucknow amid bad weather.

Despite the damage to the front portion of the aircraft, the pilots brought the plane down safely at Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow. No injuries were reported.

एअर इंडिया, एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और अकासा एयर ने भी बढ़ाया फ्यूल सरचार्ज

महंगी होगी हवाई यात्रा, इससे पहले इंडिगो बढ़ा चुकी है घरेलू व अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों पर सरचार्ज

17 हजार फीट पर ओलावृष्टि में फंसा था इंडिगो का विमान, नोज क्षतिग्रस्त

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस: इंडिगो के बाद एअर इंडिया, एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और अकासा एयर ने भी ईंधन की बढ़ती लागत के बीच फ्यूल सरचार्ज बढ़ाने की घोषणा की है। नई दरें नौ अक्टूबर से लागू होंगी। इससे घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के टिकट महंगे हो सकते हैं। एयरलाइनों का कहना है कि सरचार्ज बढ़ाने का उद्देश्य विमान ईंधन की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी से परिचालन लागत पर पड़ रहे असर को भरपाई करना है।

एअर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए फ्यूल सरचार्ज में 101 रुपये से 301 रुपये तक की बढ़ोतरी की है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए यह वृद्धि पांच से 15 अमेरिकी डालर तक है। दोनों एयरलाइनों ने इससे पहले अप्रैल में भी सरचार्ज में संशोधन किया था। एअर इंडिया के अनुसार, घरेलू उड़ानों में दूरी के आधार पर नया सरचार्ज 400 रुपये से 1,200 रुपये तक होगा। 0-500 किलोमीटर की उड़ान के लिए 400 रुपये, 501-1,000 किलोमीटर के लिए 600 रुपये, 1,001-1,500

किलोमीटर के लिए 850 रुपये और 1,501 किलोमीटर या उससे अधिक दूरी के लिए 1,200 रुपये सरचार्ज लागेगा।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्गों पर पश्चिम एशिया, मध्य पूर्व के लिए 55 डालर, यूरोप और ब्रिटेन के लिए 135 डालर, आस्ट्रेलिया के लिए 210 डालर तथा उत्तर अमेरिका के लिए 215 डालर सरचार्ज निर्धारित किया गया है। एयरलाइन ने कहा कि



हाल के महीनों में भू-राजनीतिक घटनाक्रम और वैश्विक ऊर्जा बाजारों के दबाव के कारण एविएशन टर्बाइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

अकासा एयर ने भी घरेलू उड़ानों पर फ्यूल सरचार्ज दोबारा लागू कर दिया है। घरेलू मार्गों पर यह 375 रुपये से 1,150 रुपये तक होगा। 0-500 किलोमीटर के लिए 375 रुपये, 501-1,000 किलोमीटर के लिए 600 रुपये, 1,001-1,500 किलोमीटर के लिए 900 रुपये और 1,501 किलोमीटर या अधिक दूरी के लिए 1,150 रुपये सरचार्ज लिया जाएगा। अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों पर 2,500 रुपये का सरचार्ज होगा।

बता दें कि इससे पहले इंडिगो ने छह अक्टूबर से घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों पर सरचार्ज बढ़ाया था। घरेलू उड़ानों में दूरी के अनुसार 100 से 350 रुपये तक की वृद्धि की गई थी। एक अक्टूबर को घरेलू एयरलाइनों के लिए एटीएफ की कीमत 121 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 137 रुपये प्रति लीटर कर दी गई थी। इससे पहले सितंबर में जेट फ्यूल की कीमत 6.28 रुपये और अगस्त में पांच रुपये प्रति लीटर बढ़ी थी।

जागरण संवाददाता, लखनऊ : पटना से 104 यात्रियों को लेकर लखनऊ आ रहा इंडिगो का विमान बुधवार को करीब 17 हजार फीट की ऊंचाई पर ओलावृष्टि में फंसा गया था। खराब मौसम के बीच हुई ओलावृष्टि से विमान के आगे का नुकीला हिस्सा (नोज) क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया था। विमान शाम 4-12 बजे चौधरी चरण सिंह अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षित उतरा, लेकिन लैंडिंग के बाद पायलट ने नोज को क्षतिग्रस्त पाया। इसके बाद विमान को तत्काल ग्राउंडेड कर दिया और उसकी आगे की सेवा निरस्त कर दी गई। एयरलाइन की तकनीकी टीम ने गुरुवार को विस्तृत जांच रिपोर्ट नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) को सौंप दी।

इंडिगो का विमान 6ई-925 बुधवार दोपहर पटना से लखनऊ के लिए रवाना हुआ था। उड़ान के दौरान मौसम अचानक खराब हो गया। पायलट के अनुसार, इस दौरान बिजली चमकने के साथ तेज हवाएं चलीं और विमान को

ओलावृष्टि का सामना करना पड़ा। विमान के लखनऊ पहुंचने के बाद तकनीकी टीम ने इसकी जांच की। प्रारंभिक जांच में नोज को नुकसान पहुंचने की पुष्टि हुई। इंजीनियरों ने क्षतिग्रस्त नोज को बदल दिया है। हालांकि मरम्मत के बाद विमान को तुरंत सेवा में नहीं लिया जाएगा। डीजीसीए की सुरक्षा टीम विमान का निरीक्षण और ऑडिट करेगी। सुरक्षा मानकों पर खरा उतरने के बाद ही

- पटना से 104 यात्रियों को लेकर लखनऊ पहुंचा था विमान
- तकनीकी टीम ने डीजीसीए को सौंपी जांच रिपोर्ट

खराब मौसम में पायलट का कौशल ही बचाता है उड़ान आसमान में खराब मौसम विमान और पायलट दोनों के लिए चुनौती बन जाता है। उड़ान से पहले पायलट को पूरे मार्ग के मौसम की जानकारी उपलब्ध होती है। यात्रा के दौरान तेज हवा, गरज वाले बादल, आकाशीय बिजली, ओलावृष्टि या टर्बुलेंस सामने आने पर पायलट एयर ट्रेफिक कंट्रोल (एटीसी) से समन्वय कर निर्णय लेते हैं। खतरे वाले क्षेत्र से बचने के लिए विमान का मार्ग बदला जा सकता है। परिस्थितियों के अनुसार, ऊंचाई में बदलाव भी किया जाता है। मौसम अधिक खराब होने पर नजदीकी एयरपोर्ट पर विमान उतराने का विकल्प भी रहता है। मानसून के दौरान उष्ण मैदानी क्षेत्रों में गरज वाले बादल और तेज हवाएं उड़ानों के लिए चुनौती पैदा कर सकती हैं। आकाशीय बिजली की स्थिति में विमान के उपकरण प्रभावित होने की आशंका रहती है। ऐसे में पायलट की त्वरित निर्णय क्षमता व पौरुष यात्रियों की सुरक्षा के लिए अहम होता है।

इसके दौरान संचालन की अनुमति दी जाएगी। इंडिगो ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में विमान के नोज को नुकसान का कारण खराब मौसम और ओलावृष्टि को बताया है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

एअर इंडिया, एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस व अकासा एयर ने बढ़ाया फ्यूल सरचार्ज, महंगी होगी हवाई यात्रा

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस : एअर इंडिया, एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और अकासा एयर ने ईंधन की बढ़ती लागत के बीच फ्यूल सरचार्ज बढ़ाने की घोषणा की है। नई दरें नौ अक्टूबर से लागू होंगी। इससे घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के टिकट महंगे हो सकते हैं। एयरलाइनों का कहना है कि इसका उद्देश्य विमान ईंधन की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी से परिचालन लागत पर पड़ रहे असर को भरपाई करना है।

एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए फ्यूल सरचार्ज में 101 रुपये से 301 रुपये तक की बढ़ोतरी की है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए यह वृद्धि पांच से 15 अमेरिकी डालर तक है। दोनों एयरलाइनों ने इससे पहले अप्रैल में भी सरचार्ज में संशोधन किया था। एअर इंडिया के अनुसार,



घरेलू उड़ानों में दूरी के आधार पर नया सरचार्ज 400 रुपये से 1,200 रुपये तक होगा। 0-500 किमी की उड़ान के लिए 400 रुपये, 501-1,000 किमी के लिए 600 रुपये, 1,001-1,500 किमी के लिए 850 रुपये और 1,501 किमी या उससे अधिक दूरी के लिए 1,200 रुपये सरचार्ज लगेगा। अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्गों पर पश्चिम एशिया, मध्य पूर्व के लिए 55 डालर, यूरोप और ब्रिटेन के लिए 135 डालर, आस्ट्रेलिया के लिए 210 डालर तथा उत्तर अमेरिका के लिए 215 डालर

सरचार्ज निर्धारित किया गया है। एयरलाइन ने कहा कि हाल के महीनों में धू-राजनीतिक घटनाक्रम और वैश्विक ऊर्जा बाजारों के दबाव के कारण एविएशन टर्बाइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी हुई है। अकासा एयर ने भी घरेलू उड़ानों पर फ्यूल सरचार्ज दोबारा लागू कर दिया है। घरेलू मार्गों पर यह 375 रुपये से 1,150 रुपये तक होगा। 0-500 किमी के लिए 375 रुपये, 501-1,000 किमी के लिए 600 रुपये, 1,001-1,500 किमी के लिए 900 रुपये और 1,501 किमी या अधिक दूरी के लिए 1,150 रुपये सरचार्ज लिया जाएगा। अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों पर 2,500 रुपये का सरचार्ज होगा। इससे पहले इंडिगो ने छह अक्टूबर से घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों पर सरचार्ज बढ़ाया था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

7 OCTOBER 2026

भारत में दो साल के भीतर उड़ेंगे स्वदेशी यात्री विमान

नरेन्द्र मोदी सरकार के मेड इन इंडिया सिविलियन प्लेन को लेकर बड़ा एलान

नई दिल्ली। मोदी सरकार ने भारत के पहले स्वदेशी यात्री हवाई जहाज को लेकर बहुत बड़ी बात कही है। सिविल एविएशन मिनिस्टर के राममोहन नायडू ने मंगलवार को उम्मीद जताई कि आने वाले दो वर्षों में देश में बने स्वदेशी यात्री विमान उड़ान बनने लगेंगे। सिविल एविएशन मिनिस्टर के राममोहन नायडू के अनुसार स्वदेशी यात्री विमानों को निर्माण ज्वाइंट वेंचर में होगा। उन्होंने दिल्ली में इंडियन फाउंडेशन फॉर क्वालिटी मैनेजमेंट के सिंपोजियम में यह बातें कही हैं।

एविएशन सेक्टर में तेज विकास का



दावा: राममोहन नायडू के अनुसार स्वदेशी यात्रीविमान ज्वाइंट वेंचर में संभव होगा और उनका दावा कि देश में यह पूरा इकोसिस्टम तेजी से बढ़ता जा रहा है। हालांकि, उन्होंने इससे ज्यादा कुछ भी खुलासा नहीं किया है। नायडू के मुताबिक

एयरलाइंस कंपनियों के 1,600 से ज्यादा विमानों के ऑर्डर हैं, जिसकी कीमत 100 बिलियन डॉलर अनुमानित है। उन्होंने एविएशन सेक्टर में मैनुफैक्चरिंग के लिए बेहतरीन मटेरियल के इस्तेमाल और सक्षम लोगों को शामिल करने पर जोर दिया और कहा कि इसके लिए हम बेहतरीन नीति बना सकते हैं।

भारत में 100 से ज्यादा नए एयरपोर्ट बनेंगे: केंद्रीय मंत्री के मुताबिक आने वाले 10 वर्षों में 100 से ज्यादा नए एयरपोर्ट बनने की संभावना है। इस समय देश में 164 एयरपोर्ट हैं और

घरेलू एयरलाइंस कंपनियों के पास करीब 850 विमानों का बेड़ा है। केंद्रीय मंत्री के अनुसार इस समय बॉइंग और एयरबस जैसी एयरक्राफ्ट बनाने वाले कंपनियां अपने कंपोनेंट और सर्विस भारत भेजती हैं, जिसकी कीमत करीब 4 बिलियन डॉलर है। इस दशक में यह रकम बढ़कर 10 बिलियन डॉलर तक पहुंचने की संभावना है। नायडू का कहना है कि भारत वैश्विक शांति का केंद्र भारत दुनिया के सबसे तेजी से बढ़ते डोमेस्टिक एविएशन मार्केट में से एक है और डिफेंस प्रोजेक्ट के हब के रूप में भी उभर रहा है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

ATTACK ON SAUDI ARABIA AIRPORTS

Airlines Suspend, Cut Riyadh Flights Amid Security Concerns

Our Bureau

Mumbai | New Delhi: Airlines across Asia and Europe are cancelling or suspending flights to Riyadh as attacks on Saudi Arabia's airports disrupt operations and raise concerns over the safety of civilian air travel, with Air India Express, IndiGo, Akasa Air, Philippine Airlines, KLM, Air France and Cathay Pacific among carriers cutting services or extending existing suspensions.

Air India Express has cancelled

flights to and from Riyadh until October 10, while IndiGo has cancelled its Delhi-Riyadh service on Thursday and Friday, and Mumbai-Riyadh and Hyderabad-Riyadh flights on Friday. Akasa Air has cancelled its Kochi-Riyadh and Riyadh-Kochi flights on Thursday, citing the evolving security situation in Riyadh. Philippine Airlines has also cancelled its Manila-Riyadh service on October 8 and the return flight on October 10, citing the "developing situation in the region".

"In view of the evolving situa-

tion in the region, we have cancelled flights to and from Riyadh until 10 October. Affected guests are being offered complimentary rescheduling or a full refund on cancellation. We continue to monitor the situation closely," an Air India Express spokesperson said.

Akasa Air said it was monitoring and assessing the situation "on a

real-time basis" and that passengers affected by the cancellations could opt for a full refund or reschedule their travel at no additional cost.

Riyadh is a major international hub and an important link for Indian carriers, serving a large Indian expatriate population as well as business and religious traffic.

India's Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday condemned the attacks on Abha and King Khalid airports, saying targeting civilian infrastruc-

ture was "completely unacceptable" and expressing solidarity with Saudi Arabia.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

FESTIVE RUSH Airlines Hike Fuel Surcharge as ATF Prices Soar

Our Bureau

Mumbai | Delhi: Airlines are raising fuel surcharges on domestic and international flights ahead of the festive travel season as a sharp rise in av-

iation turbine fuel (ATF) prices adds to operating costs. Air India, Air India Express and Akasa Air on Thursday announced higher fuel charges, following IndiGo's increase earlier this week. The moves come as airlines face higher fuel costs amid geopo-

litical tensions and elevated global energy prices, just as demand typically strengthens around Diwali and the year-end holiday period.

ATF prices rose by about ₹16 a litre from October 1, adding to the cost burden for carriers. Fuel is 30-40% variable costs for an airline, and sustained increases can squeeze margins unless part of the increase is passed on to passengers. Air India and Air India Express will impose a domestic surcharge of ₹400 on flights up to 500 km, rising to ₹1,200 on flights above 1,500 km, on new bookings from October 9. International surcharges range from \$55 for West Asia and the Middle East to \$215 for North America.

Akasa Air is introducing a domestic surcharge of ₹375 for flights up to 500 km and ₹1,150 for flights above 1,500 km. It will also levy ₹2,500 on flights to Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Thailand and Vietnam.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

More airlines resort to hike in fuel surcharge as ATF costs bite

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, October 8

AIR INDIA, AIR India Express and Akasa Air have revised the fuel surcharge on domestic and international flights due to sustained increases in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices.

The revisions, effective October 9, come as airlines seek to partially offset higher fuel expenses without making across-the-board changes to base fares. Fuel remains one of the largest components of airline operating costs.

Air India and Air India Express will levy a domestic fuel surcharge of ₹400 on flights up to 500 km, ₹600 for 501-1,000 km, ₹850 for 1,001-1,500 km and ₹1,200 for sectors beyond 1,500 km. The surcharge will apply one-way to itineraries originating from or arriving in India.

For international flights, the revised surcharge for North America is \$215 one-way, while Australia will attract a \$210 surcharge. Flights to Europe, including the UK, will carry a \$135 surcharge, while West Asia routes will attract a \$55 surcharge.

For Air India Express, the revised surcharge will apply to new bookings made from mid-

AIR TRAVEL GETS COSTLIER

■ **AI & AI Express** will levy a fuel surcharge of ₹400 on flights up to 500 km, ₹600 for 501-1,000 km, ₹850 for 1,001-1,500 km & ₹1,200 for sectors beyond 1,500 km

■ **Air India's revised** surcharge for North America is **\$215** one-way, while Australia will attract a **\$210** surcharge



■ **Akasa Air** will charge ₹375 on domestic sectors up to 500 km, ₹600 for 501-1,000 km, ₹900 for 1,001-1,500 km & ₹1,150 for over 1,500 km

night on October 9, while Air India will implement the changes for bookings made from 11 am the same day. The two airlines said the surcharge would be reviewed periodically and adjusted depending on the fuel price environment.

Akasa Air, meanwhile, has introduced a fuel surcharge on its domestic network and revised the existing surcharge on international routes. The changes will apply to new bookings from 12:01 am on October 9.

The airline will charge ₹375 on domestic sectors up to 500 km, ₹600 for 501-1,000 km, ₹900 for 1,001-

1,500 km and ₹1,150 on sectors of 1,501 km and above.

On international routes, Akasa will levy a ₹2,500 one-way surcharge on flights between India and Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Thailand and Vietnam.

The announcements follow IndiGo, which on Monday raised fuel surcharges on domestic and international flights from October 6, citing a sustained increase in jet fuel prices. The move is expected to push up ticket prices, with the increase on domestic routes ranging from ₹100 to ₹350, depending on distance.

Lufthansa & AI suspend flights to Riyadh after Houthi attack

GIANLUCA LO NOSTRO
October 8

LUFTHANSA GROUP AIRLINES and Air India will suspend flights to Riyadh, they said on Thursday, as Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis renewed threats against airlines after claiming an attack on the Saudi capital's airport.

A Lufthansa spokesperson told *Reuters* the German group's airlines would suspend flights to Riyadh through October 16 due to 'current developments in the Middle East'. Air India said it had cancelled all flights to the Saudi capital until October 10.

Smoke was seen rising from a stationary aircraft at Riyadh airport earlier on Thursday, according to a witness and three people briefed on the matter.

The Houthis said they had struck King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh with a ballistic missile.

Several dozen international flights bound for Riyadh on Thursday evening have been cancelled, data from global flight tracker FlightRadar24 showed.

— REUTERS



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

Air India launches global roaming SIM

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, October 8

AIR INDIA ON Thursday launched EasyRoam, an airline-branded travel SIM that will allow passengers to access mobile data and voice services while travelling abroad, without having to arrange for a local SIM after arrival.

The service, developed in partnership with Tata Communications, is initially available across 30 countries in North America, Europe, Asia Pacific and West Asia. EasyRoam plans start at ₹241, excluding taxes, with prices varying depending on the destination and plan

CALL LINES OPEN

■ EasyRoam plans start at ₹241, excluding taxes, with prices varying depending on destination & plan selected

■ The passengers opting for the SIM can retain their number for up to one year for a nominal charge

■ The EasyRoam SIM is being offered free of cost during the initial phase

selected.

The passengers opting for the SIM can retain their number for up to one year for a



■ Tata Communications, which provides the connectivity infra for EasyRoam, has partnerships with more than 600 mobile network operators globally

nominal charge.

The EasyRoam SIM is being offered free of cost during the initial phase, although

customers will have to pay for the roaming packs. Customers purchasing a data plan will also get up to 1GB of additional complimentary data, except when travelling to Maldives and Mauritius.

Tata Communications, which provides the connectivity infrastructure for EasyRoam, has partnerships with more than 600 mobile network operators globally, allowing the service to provide connectivity across international destinations. EasyRoam is currently available for purchase through the Air India website and will subsequently be made available through the airline's mobile app.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

8 OCTOBER 2026

CBI NABS DGCA OFFICIAL

Somendra Sharma

MUMBAI

Those entrusted with keeping India's skies safe are now under the CBI scanner. The agency will conduct searches in Mumbai, Salem and Chennai in connection with a bribery case linked to Ekvi Air Training Organisation Pvt Ltd, a Kalyan-based firm that operates seven aircraft from its training base at Salem Airport.

The CBI has arrested Sushil Kumar Garg, Deputy Director (Airworthiness) at DGCA, and SK Bhane, director of the company. It is the third case CBI is

SAFETY BRIBE

probing against DGCA officials this year.

In the FIR registered on October 3, the CBI said it received reliable information that Garg was seeking illegal gratification

from Bhane for issuing airworthiness certificates without ensuring full compliance with safety requirements. Garg had conducted an airworthiness audit of the company's aircraft on July 31.

According to the FIR, Garg sought a bribe in exchange for a favourable audit report, without a proper inspection and while overlooking deficiencies observed in the fleet.

CONTINUED ON NATION

CBI nabs DGCA official

After negotiations with Bhane on October 2, it was agreed that Bhane would pay Rs 50,000 per audit transaction. Garg allegedly accepted Rs 2.5 lakh as part of the bribe, following which both men were arrested.

"Searches will be conducted in the said case," a CBI official said.

The DGCA is India's apex regulator for civil aviation safety, airworthiness and air transport standards. Its Certificate of Airworthiness certifies that an aircraft conforms to its approved design and is safe to fly.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

विमानन कंपनियों ने शुल्क बढ़ाया

असर

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता।
इंडिगो के बाद एयर इंडिया समूह और
आकासा एयरलाइन्स ने भी विमान
ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी
का हवाला देकर ईंधन शुल्क बढ़ाने का
फैसला किया है। एयर इंडिया समूह ने
घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए 400 से लेकर
1200 रुपये तक की बढ़ोतरी की है।

वहीं, अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए
20900 (215 डॉलर) तक की
बढ़ोतरी की गई है। ऐसे में त्योहारी
सीजन में हवाई जहाज से आना-जाना
महंगा हो गया है। बढ़ाई गई दरें एयर
इंडिया एक्सप्रेस में नौ अक्टूबर की रात
12 बजे से और एयर इंडिया में नौ

नया घरेलू ईंधन शुल्क

दूरी किलोमीटर में	शुल्क रुपये में
0 - 500	400
501 - 1,000	600
1,001 - 1,500	850
1,501 - 2,000	1200
2,000 से अधिक	1200

अक्टूबर सुबह 11 बजे से होने वाली
नई बुकिंग पर लागू होगी। शुल्क उड़ान
की दूरी और मार्ग के आधार पर अलग-
अलग होगा। एयर इंडिया समूह ने कहा
कि हाल के महीनों में एटीएफ की
कीमतों में काफी उतार-चढ़ाव रहा है।
भू-राजनीतिक घटनाक्रम और वैश्विक
ऊर्जा बाजारों पर दबाव के कारण ईंधन
की कीमतें बढ़ी हैं। इससे विमानन
कंपनियों की परिचालन लागत पर भी

अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों पर भी बढ़ा शुल्क

उत्तरी अमेरिका: 215 डॉलर
ऑस्ट्रेलिया: 210 डॉलर
यूरोप और ब्रिटेन: 135 डॉलर
पश्चिम एशिया/मध्य पूर्व: 55 डॉलर

दबाव बढ़ा है।

वहीं, अकासा एयर नौ अक्टूबर से
घरेलू उड़ानों पर ईंधन अधिभार फिर से
लागू करेगी और अंतरराष्ट्रीय सेवाओं
के लिए अधिभार बढ़ाएगी। दूरी के
आधार पर घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए ईंधन
अधिभार 375 रुपये से 1,150 रुपये के
बीच होगा, जबकि अंतरराष्ट्रीय
सेवाओं के लिए संशोधित अधिभार
2,500 रुपये होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

एयर इंडिया यात्रा के लिए देगी सिम कार्ड

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। एयर इंडिया विदेश यात्रा पर जाने वाले यात्रियों को 'ट्रैवल सिम कार्ड' देगी। एयर इंडिया के ब्रांड वाला ट्रैवल सिम कार्ड 'ईजीरोम' टाटा कम्युनिकेशंस के साथ साझेदारी में विकसित किया गया है। इस पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय रोमिंग सेवाएं उपलब्ध होंगी।

यह अतिरिक्त उत्पाद एयर इंडिया के ब्रांड वाले एक समर्पित वेबपेज पर भौतिक सिम कार्ड के साथ-साथ ई-सिम के रूप में खरीद के लिए उपलब्ध होगा। इस सिम कार्ड के जरिये यात्री अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रा के दौरान मौखिक एवं डेटा सेवाओं का इस्तेमाल कर सकेंगे। एयर इंडिया और टाटा कम्युनिकेशंस दोनों टाटा समूह का हिस्सा हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

इंडिगो नोएडा से उदयपुर की उड़ान शुरू करेगी

नई दिल्ली। देश की प्रमुख विमान सेवा कंपनी इंडिगो नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे और नवी मुंबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से उदयपुर के लिए उड़ानें शुरू करेगी। एयरलाइंस ने गुरुवार को बताया कि नोएडा से उदयपुर की उड़ान 25 अक्टूबर से और नवी मुंबई से उदयपुर की उड़ान 15 नवंबर से शुरू होगी। दोनों दैनिक उड़ानें होंगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

Ai, Ai Express, Akasa hike fuel surcharges



Air India and Air India Express on Thursday announced hiking fuel surcharges for domestic and international flights, while Akasa Air raised the surcharge for overseas flights due to soaring jet fuel costs. The hike in fuel surcharges from October 9 will push airfares higher as airlines look at ways to partially offset the rising operational costs. For domestic Air India flights, the revised fuel surcharges range from ₹400 to ₹1,200, depending on distance. Fuel surcharges for international flights vary from \$55 to \$215. Akasa Air has re-introduced the fuel surcharge for domestic services and increased it for international flights.

HTC



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

Airlines cancel and divert Riyadh flights

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India Group and IndiGo on Thursday cancelled and diverted several services to Riyadh as carriers monitored an evolving regional situation, disrupting travel between India and the Saudi capital.

The disruption came after Houthi rebels attacked Saudi Arabia, with a missile fired towards Riyadh International Airport.

Air India said its flight

AI2243, operating from Delhi to Riyadh, returned to Delhi on Thursday in the interest of passenger and crew safety. The service was subsequently cancelled, with full refunds offered to passengers.

The airline also announced that it was cancelling all flights to and from Riyadh until October 10, citing the developing situation in the region.

An IndiGo flight from Hyderabad to Riyadh was also diverted to Dammam.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

Air India, Akasa hike fuel surcharge

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

With sustained ATF prices adding to operating costs, Air India and Air India Express have revised domestic fuel surcharges to ₹400-₹1,200 and introduced surcharges of \$55 for West Asia, \$135 for Europe, \$210 for Australia and \$215 for North America.

Akasa Air has also introduced a domestic fuel surcharge ranging from ₹375 to ₹1,150 based on sector length, while a ₹2,500 surcharge will apply on specified international routes.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

India condemns Saudi airport attacks

Shubhajit Roy & Divya A
New Delhi, October 8

CONDEMNING THE attacks by the Houthis on two airports in Saudi Arabia, India on Thursday said targeting civilian infrastructure is completely "unacceptable". The Indian Embassy in Riyadh issued an advisory to the Indians in Saudi Arabia to remain alert and vigilant.

The Indian community in the Saudi Kingdom numbers approximately 2.74 million, including skilled and semi-skilled professionals.

This is not the first time in the last seven months, since war in West Asia began, that Delhi issued condemnatory statements and security advisories to warn its citizens to stay safe. Since March this year, at least three such occasions have warranted such statements. The latest statement came amid reports that Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis escalated their campaign of strikes against Saudi Arabia, trying to shut down the kingdom's airspace and oil facilities with missile fire that has killed three people this week.

The Ministry of External Affairs issued a statement: "India condemns the attacks over the past few days targeting Abha International Airport and King Khalid International Airport in

Riyadh, which have resulted in civilian deaths and injuries."

"The targeting of civilian infrastructure is completely unacceptable. We express our deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost their loved ones... We express solidarity and stand with the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

Two people were killed and 28 wounded in an attack at the Abha airport, said Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation. It said one person was killed and eight others injured in attack on King Khalid airport.

The Indian embassy in Riyadh advised, "In view of the current situation, all Indian nationals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are advised to remain alert and vigilant, stay indoors as necessary, and follow the instructions issued by local authorities through official channels," the Mission said.

It advised Indian nationals against circulating or reposting videos or news related to the ongoing events. The 24x7 helpline of Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra remains available at toll-free number 8002471234, it said.

The security situation has affected air services between India and Saudi Arabia.

(WITH AGENCY INPUTS FROM RIYADH)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

Air India, AI Express hike fuel surcharges

New Delhi: Air India and Air India Express on Thursday announced a hike in fuel surcharges for domestic and international flights with effect from October 9 amid soaring jet fuel prices. In a statement, Air India said aviation turbine fuel prices have witnessed significant volatility in recent months, driven by geopolitical developments and sustained pressure on global energy markets. For domestic flights, the revised fuel surcharges range from Rs 400 to Rs 1,200, depending on the distance. Meanwhile, Akasa Air has re-introduced fuel surcharge for domestic flights, and has increased surcharges for international services from October 9. PTI

MINT

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026



If a pilot goes rogue, can software grab control?

The recent FlyDubai cockpit scare may make fly-by-wire tech seem like an aviation security solution. The hitch has been that remote aircraft control technology is not free of risk either

The cockpit clash aboard a FlyDubai flight late last month that nearly cost the crew and passengers their lives exposed a worrisome vulnerability in civil aviation. Flying from Dubai to Tel Aviv, the aircraft plunged after its co-pilot attacked the captain, who, despite being injured, managed to unlock the heavily secured cockpit door, enabling passengers to storm in and subdue the attacker. The plane landed safely but highlighted a paradox in aviation security. Reinforced cockpit doors, mandated globally after 9/11, were designed to keep hijackers out—and unable to grab flight controls. Ironically, the high-security door was the obstacle to a rescue in this case as the threat came from within the cockpit. But the big question raised by the episode is this: In this era of drones and self-driving cars, why can't we count on remote intervention if a pilot goes rogue?

Technology to give computers greater control exists. Fly-by-wire (FBW), in development since the 1930s, replaced mechanical links with electronic signals. In 1972, the US space agency Nasa modified an F-8 Crusader to fly with a fully digital FBW system. Modern FBW systems process pilot commands digitally through onboard tech. In military aviation, fighters like the F-16 can prevent ground collisions with systems that override pilot inputs. India's Tejas has automated stabilizers in case a pilot blacks out or suffers severe spatial disorientation. National Aerospace Laboratories under India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is working on 'command-by-wire' flight control. Civil aviation has also been giving computers greater authority. Airbus aircraft use digital flight-envelope protections that can reject commands

that defy safety limits, while Boeing typically prefers more empowered pilots, with systems resisting risky inputs rather than imposing danger lines. Neither approach, however, crosses the red line of letting software or a remote operator snatch away control. FBW stops short of that because a tech system powerful enough to neutralize a rogue pilot's actions would also create risks of its own. A ground link or onboard algorithm that can fly the plane pilotless could also be hacked, compromised or triggered by a software failure. Boeing's 2006 'uninterruptible autopilot' patent illustrates the dilemma. It envisages detecting a security breach, isolating pilots and turning control over to a certified pilot on the ground through an encrypted satellite link. Hack-proof or not, it has not been implemented.

Machine authority is advancing in various ways. MIT's Air-Guardian uses eye-tracking to monitor where pilots are looking and spot divergences in human and machine attention. Garmin's Emergency Autoland goes further, taking complete control if a pilot is unable to operate; it is designed to pick an airport, contact air-traffic controllers and land the plane on its own. Certified by the US Federal Aviation Administration, it has been installed in over 2,000 aircraft so far. Although regulators may be ready to let software take control when a pilot is incapacitated, a rogue pilot who is conscious and capable of flying poses an entirely different threat. The Dubai-Tel Aviv flight was saved by a captain who fought back, passengers who helped and crew who restored control. But relying on human bravery is dicey. Flight safety may need better tech support. The judgement calls that confront us are when to let software overrule a human and who takes that decision.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

Air India, Air India Express, Akasa cancel Riyadh flights

Air India Express, Air India and Akasa Air have cancelled flights to Riyadh till 10 October amid disruptions due to attacks at the airport. IndiGo has cancelled its Riyadh flights till Friday.

Saudi Arabia's two airports in Riyadh and Abha came under attack, reportedly by Houthi militants.

Air India Express and Air India flights en route to Riyadh returned on Thursday, sources said.

"In view of the evolving situation in the region, we have cancelled flights to and from Riyadh until 10 October. Affected guests are being offered complimentary rescheduling or a full refund on cancellation. We continue to monitor the situation closely," Air India Express said in a statement on Thursday. **PTI**

AI Express, AI, Akasa Air hike fuel surcharges amid rising ATF costs

OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, October 8

Air India and Air India Express on Thursday announced hiking fuel surcharges for domestic and international flights, while Akasa Air raised the surcharge for overseas flights due to soaring jet fuel costs.

The hike in fuel surcharges from October 9 will push airfares higher as airlines look at ways to partially offset the rising operational costs.

Air India and Air India Express, which previously revised fuel surcharges in April, have increased them by Rs 101 to Rs 301 for domestic flights. For international services, the hike ranges from \$5 to \$15.

Akasa Air has re-introduced the fuel surcharge for domestic services and increased it for international flights. The airline, which introduced the surcharges in March, later withdrew them for domestic flights.

In a statement on Thursday, Air India said Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices have witnessed significant volatility in recent months, driven largely by geopolitical developments and sustained pressure on global energy markets.

"The latest increase in fuel prices has further elevated operating costs for airlines, with fuel continuing to account for a substantial proportion of overall airline expenditure," the



statement said.

For domestic flights, Air India and Air India Express have revised fuel surcharges ranging from Rs 400 to Rs 1,200, depending on the distance.

Fuel surcharges for international flights vary from \$55 to \$215, depending on the region and country.

According to the statement, the two airlines will levy Rs 400 and Rs 600 as fuel surcharges for distances of 0-500 kilometre and 501-1,000 km, respectively. The amount will be Rs 850 for 1,001-1,500 km and Rs 1,200 for 1,501 km and above.

With respect to international routes, the fuel surcharge will be \$55 for West Asia/ Middle East and \$135 for Europe, including the UK. The fuel surcharge will be \$210 for Australia and \$215 for North America.

Akasa Air said in a statement that sustained increases in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices, driven by ongoing geopolitical developments in the Middle East, have led to higher fuel surcharges.

Depending on distance, the surcharges will vary from Rs 375 to Rs 1,150 for domestic flights and in the case of overseas services, the revised surcharge is Rs 2,500.

For 0-500 km, Akasa Air will levy a fuel surcharge of Rs 375 and Rs 600 for the distance of 501 - 1,000 km. The fuel surcharge will be Rs 900 and Rs 1,150 for the distance of 1,001-1,500 km and 1,501 km and above, respectively.

For international routes, Akasa Air has revised the fuel surcharge to Rs 2,500.

In March, Akasa Air introduced fuel surcharges ranging from Rs 199 to Rs 1,300 for domestic and international flights.

"ATF constitutes a significant component of airline operating costs, and the continued increase in fuel prices has placed sustained pressure on airline operating costs across the industry." In view of the prevailing fuel price environment, Akasa Air has taken a measured approach to partially offset the impact," Akasa Air said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

Gold, silver imports by nominated agencies, banks to attract 3% IGST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, October 8

Gold, silver & platinum imports by banks and nominated agencies attract 3 per cent IGST effective April 1, 2026, Revenue Secretary Arvind Shrivastava said on Thursday.

The Government notified the GST Council on Thursday that the list of designated banks and agencies that attract IGST exemptions on gold and precious metal imports has not been extended beyond March 31, 2026, Shrivastava said. This is done to ensure parity of taxes imposed on gold and other precious metal imports through other routes, including bullion.

Gold, silver & platinum imports attract a 3 per cent IGST, but before April 1, 2026, the tax was exempt when the precious metals

were imported by banks & nominated agencies - a list of which is notified by the Government periodically.

That list was not notified on April 1 this year as gold, silver and precious metal imports, which led to forex outgo, became a concern for the Government. India is the world's second-biggest gold consumer after China and gold imports are driven by the jewellery industry demand.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

Air India tickets to get dearer due to fuel surcharge

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

Air India and Air India Express have revised their fuel surcharge across domestic and select international routes. The revised fuel surcharge, ranging between ₹400 and ₹20,855 in current rupee value will be reflected in the fare applicable to new bookings made from 0000 Hrs IST on October 9 for Air India Express, and from 1100 hrs IST on October 9 for Air India.

Air India attributed the move to a sharp surge in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices, triggered by geopolitical developments in the Middle East/West Asia. The fresh move comes days after IndiGo reintroduced fuel surcharge on domestic and overseas flights from October 6, 2026. IndiGo's surcharge ranges from ₹375 to ₹10,000, depending on route and sector.

Joining the two major airlines, Akasa Air also introduces fuel surcharge on domestic routes and revised existing fuel surcharge on international routes, effective 00:01 hrs on October 9, 2026 onwards. Akasa's fuel surcharge ranges from ₹375 to ₹2,500.

For domestic flights, Air India and Air India Express will charge a fuel surcharge of ₹400 for routes less than 500 km, ₹600 for routes between 501 and 1,000 km, ₹850 for routes between 1,001 and 1,500 km, ₹1,200 for routes between 1,501 and 2,000 km and ₹1,200 for routes above 2,000 km. For overseas flights, Air India and Air India Express will charge a fuel surcharge of \$55 for West Asia/Middle East, \$135 for Europe including the UK, \$210 for Australia and \$215 for North America.

Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

एयर इंडिया, एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, अकासा एयर की उड़ानें भी महंगी

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

इंडिगो के बाद एयर इंडिया, एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और अकासा ने भी डोमेस्टिक और इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइटों के लिए फ्यूल सरचार्ज में बढ़ोतरी कर दी। यह बढ़ोतरी 9 अक्टूबर से लागू मानी जाएगी। तीनों ही एयरलाइंस ने इसके पीछे महंगे ATF का तर्क दिया है।

टाटा ग्रुप की एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि संशोधित फ्यूल सरचार्ज नई टिकट बुकिंग के किराये में जोड़ दिया जाएगा। इसमें एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के लिए यह फ्यूल सरचार्ज 8-9 अक्टूबर की आधी रात 12 बजे से लागू माना जाएगा।

एयर इंडिया के लिए यह 9 अक्टूबर की सुबह 11 बजे से लागू हो जाएगा। डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइटों के लिए बढ़ोतरी 400 रुपये से 1200 रुपये तक की गई है। इसमें 500 किमी तक दूरी वाली फ्लाइट के लिए 400 रुपये, 501 से एक हजार किमी के लिए 600 रुपये,



- यह बढ़ोतरी 9 अक्टूबर से लागू मानी जाएगी।
- तीनों एयरलाइंस ने इसके पीछे महंगे ATF का तर्क दिया है।

'रियाद की सभी फ्लाइटें 10 अक्टूबर तक रह'

अकासा एयर ने भी 8-9 अक्टूबर की आधी रात 12:01 बजे से फ्यूल सरचार्ज में बढ़ोतरी कर दी। बढ़ोतरी घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए 375 रुपये से 1150 रुपये की गई है। कुवैत, कतर, सउदी अरब, यूएई, थाईलैंड और वियतनाम जाने वाली फ्लाइटों के लिए प्रति यात्री यह बढ़ोतरी 2500 रुपये की गई है। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने कहा है कि उसने रियाद आने-जाने वाली सभी फ्लाइटें 10 अक्टूबर तक रह कर दी। प्रभावित यात्री टिकट की तारीख बदल सकते हैं या पूरा रिफंड ले सकते हैं।

1500 किमी के लिए 850 रुपये और दो हजार या इससे अधिक किलोमीटर की दूरी वाली घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए 1200 रुपये प्रति यात्री है।

वेस्ट एशिया-मिडिल ईस्ट जाने वाली फ्लाइटों के लिए 55 अमेरिकी डॉलर,

नॉर्थ अमेरिका जाने वाली फ्लाइटों के लिए 215 अमेरिकी डॉलर, ऑस्ट्रेलिया के लिए 210 और ब्रिटेन समेत तमाम यूरोप जाने वाली इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइटों के लिए बढ़ोतरी प्रति यात्री 135 अमेरिकी डॉलर की गई है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

इंडिगो के बाद एयर इंडिया ने भी बढ़ाया फ्यूल सरचार्ज

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): इंडिगो के बाद अब एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने गुरुवार को घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए फ्यूल सरचार्ज में वृद्धि का ऐलान किया। इसका कारण मध्य पूर्व में तनाव से एविएशन टरबाइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में वृद्धि होना है।

टाटा ग्रुप की एयरलाइन ने कहा, हाल के महीनों में भू-राजनीतिक घटनाक्रम और ग्लोबल एनर्जी मार्केट पर लगातार दबाव के कारण एटीएफ की कीमतें उतार-चढ़ाव वाली रही हैं। कीमतों में हालिया बढ़ोतरी से एयरलाइन की ऑपरेटिंग कॉस्ट बढ़ गई है, जिसमें कुल खर्च का एक बड़ा हिस्सा फ्यूल का है।

एयर इंडिया के एक बयान में कहा गया है कि एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के लिए, बदला हुआ सरचार्ज 9 अक्टूबर को आईएसटी के अनुसार

- कीमतों में हालिया बढ़ोतरी से एयरलाइन की ऑपरेटिंग कॉस्ट बढ़ने का हवाला दिया
- विमान से सफर करना होगा महंगा

रात 12:00 बजे से की गई नई बुकिंग पर लागू होगा, जबकि एयर इंडिया के लिए यह 9 अक्टूबर को आईएसटी के अनुसार सुबह 11:00 बजे से की गई बुकिंग पर लागू होगा। सरचार्ज सेक्टर और रूट कैटेगरी के आधार पर अलग-अलग होगा। एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने अपने वन-वे घरेलू फ्यूल सरचार्ज में बदलाव किया है, जिसमें फ्लाइट की दूरी के आधार पर यह चार्ज 400 रुपये से 1,200 रुपये के बीच होगा।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

8 OCTOBER 2026

A'bad-bound IndiGo flight hit by lightning

Lucknow: An IndiGo flight from Patna to Ahmedabad via Lucknow was struck by lightning while approaching Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport on Wednesday, damaging the aircraft's nose.

The pilots landed the plane safely in Lucknow, and all 104 passengers and six crew members escaped unhurt, reports Arvind Chauhan.

The IndiGo flight 6E925 landed at Lucknow at 4.04 pm, around eight minutes ahead of its scheduled arrival time of 4.12 pm.

Airport sources said the damage was detected only after the Airbus A320-251N (VT-IQZ) had vacated the runway



Lightning damaged the flight's nose; all 104 passengers and 6 crew members were safe

and parked at its designated bay.

► Continued on P 10

'Passengers disembarked normally'

► Continued from P1

As per preliminary information, the pilots were unaware of the extent of the damage caused by the lightning strike.

They reported the incident to Air Traffic Control (ATC) as a precaution, as it was not immediately clear whether the aircraft had sustained any significant damage during the flight," a source familiar with the matter said.

The visible damage was limited to the aircraft's nose radome, which houses the weather radar.

Officials said commercial aircraft are designed to withstand lightning strikes safely, but every such in-

cident is followed by a detailed technical inspection.

Following post-flight checks, the aircraft was grounded and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) was informed in accordance with standard operating procedures. It will remain in Lucknow until repairs are completed and the mandatory DGCA clearance is obtained before being cleared to resume operations.

Passengers travelling onwards to Ahmedabad were accommodated on an alternative flight arranged by the airline.

Officials said passengers disembarked normally after the aircraft reached its designated bay.

This Diwali, flying from Hyd costs more than going abroad

Sunny.Baski@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Flying home this Diwali could cost Hyderabad passengers more than flying abroad. With domestic airfares surging nearly a month ahead of the festival, tickets to Singapore, Malaysia and Bangkok are now cheaper than fares to several Indian cities.

A one-way ticket from Hyderabad to Chandigarh or Patna is touching ₹22,000 for the Diwali period, against the regular fare of around ₹9,000. Fares to Jaipur have climbed to nearly ₹21,000 from about ₹8,000.

In comparison, international flights to Singapore, Malaysia and Bangkok are available for around ₹15,000-₹18,000, making them up to ₹7,000 cheaper than several domestic destinations.

The spike has been reported on several other domestic routes, including Kolkata, Guwahati, Lucknow, Bhopal and Indore, with fares on some sectors nearly doubling from normal levels.

With Diwali still weeks away, travel agents expect fares to rise further as demand

AIRFARES DURING DIWALI FROM HYD

Destination	Regular fare	During Diwali
Jaipur	₹8,000	₹21,000
Patna	₹7,500	₹22,000
Chandigarh	₹8,500	₹22,000
Kolkata	₹7,500	₹19,000
Lucknow	₹8,500	₹16,000



picks up. A similar trend was witnessed during Dasara, when domestic airfares from Hyderabad remained unusually high.

Travel agents attributed the surge to limited flight availability amid uncertainty in the Middle East.

"With airlines operating fewer flights on several sectors, available seats are unab-

It is shocking to see domestic tickets costing over ₹15,000-17,000 for a one-way journey to Lucknow... families who have to travel during Diwali have little choice but to pay the inflated fares
—Saurav Sinha | IT PROFESSIONAL, MADHAPUR

600 special trains for festive season

With the festive travel season approaching, South Central Railway (SCR) has deployed several special trains connecting Telangana with destinations across north, south, east and west India. Around 600 special trains are being operated for the festive season, SCR said. The Charlapalli-Hazrat Nizamuddin special (07021) had 608 vacant berths on Oct 19 and 632 on Oct 26. The Charlapalli-Tiruvannamalai special had 257 vacant berths on Oct 13, with availability rising to 656 on Oct 20 and 701 on Oct 27. **TNN**

Passengers said the fares had become unaffordable. "It is shocking to see domestic tickets costing over ₹15,000-₹17,000 for a one-way journey to Lucknow. At these prices, travelling abroad is actually cheaper. Families who have to travel during Diwali have little choice but to pay the inflated fares," said Saurav Sinha, a techie from Madhapur.

le to keep pace with the surge in demand. There is a clear mismatch between supply and demand. Most people travel to their hometowns during the festival, and flights are filling up rapidly. With limited seats, fares are naturally shooting up," said Abdul Majeed Faheem of the Travel Agents Federation of India (Telangana and AP Chapter).

Booms, flight disruptions in Riyadh as Saudi-Houthi war escalates

Witnesses Report Smoke From Plane; Kindergarten, Med Complex Hit: Saudi

Riyadh: Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis escalated their campaign of strikes against Saudi Arabia Thursday, trying to shut down the kingdom's airspace and oil facilities with missile fire that has killed three people this week.

The group said it had struck Riyadh airport, where witnesses saw smoke billowing from a plane, and it warned workers to stay away from energy plants. Saudi officials said debris from an intercepted missile had hit a kindergarten and medical complex. Lufthansa and Air India said they were suspending flights to Riyadh after attacks.

The Houthis say they are targeting the kingdom over its support for govt forces in Yemen's reignited civil war. Saudi Arabia says it is backing an offensive by Yemen's UN-recognised govt to take back territory from the Houthis.

The kingdom has pushed for support from allied nations, including Türkiye and Pakistan, even if only in a logistical or defensive capacity. Those requests have taken on more urgency since Saudi authorities said Wednesday that three people had been killed this week in strikes on Riyadh airport and Abha airport in southwest.

The Houthis have made Saudi airports a focus of their strikes, and the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen said it



A videograb shows a Houthi fighter firing at Yemeni govt troops in Taiz

Syria mulls helping Saudis in Yemen war

Syria may deploy troops to help Saudi Arabia fight Yemen's Houthis, a US official and a Syrian defence official said. The possible entry of Syrian forces into the battle, an overspill of the US-Iran conflict, shows how Yemen's reignited civil war has added new chaos to a region already aflame, and risks drawing regional states into gruelling mountain fighting. The officials said Syria was carefully considering military support, including the option of defensive aid to protect Saudi Arabia from attacks or deployment in an offensive capacity to help Saudi-backed Yemeni troops take the fight to the Houthis. REUTERS

had destroyed two ballistic missiles launched by the group towards Riyadh and another towards Khamis Mushayt, home to a major airbase.

A thick black column of smoke and flames were shown rising from Riyadh airport in video verified by Reuters. A witness and three people briefed on the matter said a commercial plane had caught fire and was the cause of the smoke.

According to data compiled by aviation analytics company Cirium, almost 50% of departures from Riyadh airport had been cancelled by 1500 GMT, with 31 more cancellations expected for Friday in all Saudi airports. There was no immediate confirmation from Saudi

authorities on the Houthi claims of ballistic missile attacks on Riyadh airport.

Saudi authorities said debris from an intercepted Houthi missile had landed in Riyadh, causing damage to a kindergarten and a medical clinic complex, state media reported. Several multinational firms based in Riyadh's King Abdullah Financial District told staff to work from home after loud booms were heard Thursday morning, five people familiar with the matter said. Some diplomats said they had received warnings, and some schools in Riyadh told parents there were orders to shelter in place, though authorities did not issue a public alert. REUTERS

AI Express, IndiGo cancel Riyadh flights; India issues advisory

Air India Express has cancelled its Riyadh flights scheduled till Oct 10, while IndiGo has cancelled flights to and from the Saudi capital till Oct 9, amid Houthi attacks on Riyadh and Abha airports Wednesday and Thursday.

On Thursday afternoon, an Air India flight from Delhi and an IndiGo flight from Hyderabad bound for Riyadh were diverted. Air India flight AI2243, which departed at 2.40pm, turned back over the Arabian Sea and returned to Delhi. IndiGo flight 6E93, which departed at 1.40pm, was diverted to Dammam.

Air India Express cancelled 10 flights to Riyadh from Bengaluru, Cochin, Kannur and Kozhikode scheduled over the next 48 hours. "Affected guests are being offered complimentary rescheduling or a full refund on cancellation," an Air India Express spokesperson said. IndiGo said it had cancelled all flights to and from Riyadh till Oct 9 and was contacting affected passengers to offer complimentary rescheduling or a full refund via IndiGo Plan B. It advised passengers to check their flight status before leaving for the airport.

Meanwhile, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh advised Indians in Saudi to remain vigilant and follow instructions issued by local authorities. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

Air India group and Akasa hike fuel surcharge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: After IndiGo, Air India, Air India Express and Akasa have also hiked fuel surcharge due to spiralling price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF/jet fuel) and falling rupee, which is acting as a double whammy at a time when air traffic is also beginning to decline as higher fares are seeing price-sensitive domestic travellers shift to other modes of transport. Flying will get even more expensive this festive season. Air India group's new distance-based surcharge for domestic flights now ranges between Rs 400 (upto 500 km) and Rs 1,200 (over 2,000 km). The surcharge on international flights now ranges between \$55 (West Asia) and \$215 (North America).

"The latest increase in fuel prices has further elevated operating costs for airlines, with fuel continuing to account for a substantial proportion of overall airline expenditure," Air India said in a statement. Akasa's earlier fuel surcharge was in the range of Rs 199 and Rs 1,300. This range will now be between Rs 375 and Rs 2,500.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

9 OCTOBER 2026

After IndiGo, Air India & Akasa raise fuel surcharge ahead of festive rush

SHEKHAR SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

Air travellers are set to pay more for flights just as the festive travel season gets under way, with Air India, Air India Express and Akasa Air joining IndiGo in raising or introducing fuel surcharges amid a sustained rise in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices and continuing geopolitical tensions in the Gulf region.

With the festive season round the corner and demand for air travel expected to pick up, the higher fuel component could add to passengers' travel bills, particularly on longer domestic and international sectors.

Air India and Air India Express on Thursday announced revised fuel surcharges on domestic and select international routes, while



Akasa Air introduced a surcharge on domestic flights and revised its existing charges on international routes. The new charges will apply to bookings made from October 9.

For Air India and Air India Express, the revised domestic surcharge will range from Rs 400 on flights covering up to 500 km to Rs 1,200 on sectors

above 1,500 km. Flights covering 1,001-1,500 km will attract a Rs 850 surcharge, while the charge for 1,501-2,000 km will be Rs 1,200.

On international routes, the revised surcharge will be \$215 for North America, \$210 for Australia, \$135 for Europe, including the UK, and \$55 for West Asia, applicable one-way.

Flights to Riyadh cancelled till Oct 10 amid Houthi attacks

Air India Express, Air India and Akasa Air have cancelled flights to Riyadh till October 10 amid disruptions due to attacks at the airport.

IndiGo has cancelled its Riyadh flights till October 9.

Saudi's two airports in Riyadh and Abha came under attack, reportedly by Houthi militants. Air India Express and Air India flights en route to Riyadh returned on Thursday, sources said. Air India Express operates 16 weekly flights to Riyadh from four Indian cities — Bengaluru, Kochi, Kannur and Kozhikode.