

19 bomb hoaxes in Bengaluru till February 27 this year — a look at first line of action in such cases, challenges in probe and what drives these empty threats

DIRTY TRICKS

Many threats traced to individuals acting out of personal motives, mental distress

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Karnataka has received 468 bomb threat calls and emails targeting various public and sensitive locations such as schools, colleges, courts, hotels, temples, airports, railway stations, and embassies since 2020. Bengaluru accounted for the highest number, reporting 318 such incidents. Police officials said that in several cases, the threats were traced to individuals acting out of personal motives or due to mental distress.

According to data presented in the Karnataka Legislative Council, Bengaluru recorded 19 hoax bomb threats between January and February 27. The number is likely to rise after a fresh incident on Wednesday, when multiple hoax threats targeted high-profile international and government establishments in the city.

The consulates of Japan, Israel, and the Netherlands received emails simultaneously claiming that RDX or other explosives had been planted on their premises. However, no suspicious objects were found, and the threats were later confirmed to be hoaxes.

In all seriousness

According to City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh every bomb threat is treated with the utmost seriousness, regardless of its credibility. As soon as a threat is reported, police officials initiate standard emergency protocols to ensure public safety.



“In long-term investigations, we are able to trace the person who sent the threatening message or email. But, identifying the suspect in the short term is very difficult

—Seemant Kumar Singh, City Police Commissioner

hoax, our immediate priority is to secure the area,” the Commissioner said. Following this, the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS), along with Vandalism Investigation Teams and local police units, are immediately deployed to the location to conduct thorough

inspections.

“The first challenge lies in securing the premises and confirming that there is no real threat. Only after that do we move forward with the investigation. In long-term investigations, we are able to trace the person who sent the threatening

message or email. However, identifying the suspect in the short term is very difficult,” the Commissioner added.

According to official records, during this period, the accused have been identified and arrested in only 14 cases related to

Complex tools, encrypted emails hinder probe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

threatening messages or calls reported from Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, KGE, Ballari, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, and Kalaburagi districts. However, punishment has been awarded only in the case reported in Dakshina Kannada district in 2020. State Home Minister Dr. G Parameshwar informed that the remaining cases are still under investigation.

The Commissioner further added that a major challenge in solving such cases is that the senders often rely on sophisticated tools such as Virtual Private Networks (VPNs), encrypted email services hosted abroad, and other channels to hide their digital footprint.

He pointed out that many hoax threats are sent through fake email accounts, internet-based calling services, or untraceable numbers leading to different countries and different states, making it difficult for police to immediately identify those responsible.

The Commissioner said that issuing a bomb threat, even as a prank, is a serious criminal offence and can attract strict legal action. He noted that in several cases in

Latest cases

- On **January 29**, the Italian and Japanese Consulates received emails claiming that “5 RDX” had been planted to cause explosions. The threats, sent from the mail triggered immediate security checks before being declared hoaxes, following which the Vidhana Soudha police registered cases. On the same day, the Netherlands Consulate also received a similar threat.
- On **January 14**, an email warning of a suicide blast at Kempegowda International Airport was sent to the Airports Authority of India, and a criminal case was registered on January 16 after searches confirmed the alert was fake.
- On **February 16**, panic spread at the Bengaluru South District Court complex on the city’s outskirts after a message claimed that 12 RDX bombs had been planted, which was later found to be a hoax.
- A threat was also sent to the Passport Office on Lalbagh Road in early January, prompting a large-scale security response.



the past, police have successfully traced the source of the threats and apprehended the accused. He also pointed out that many hoax threats arise from personal motives such as revenge, or mental distress. Investigations have revealed that such false alerts are often used by individuals to settle personal scores.

For instance, in 2025, a techie was arrested for sending multiple hoax bomb threat emails to schools in Bengaluru and other states using a colleague’s identity to take revenge over unrequited love. In another case, a person threatened to bomb an airport in an attempt to implicate his brother-in-law during a divorce dispute.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGLORE

14 MARCH 2026

Ballari airport: MBP to soon arrange MLA, MPs meet with CM

Proposes airport viable to Ballari, Vijayanagara, Koppal

BENGALURU, DHNS

Heavy and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil on Friday told the Legislative Assembly that he would facilitate a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, where MLAs and MPs of Vijayanagara, Ballari and Koppal can discuss the proposed airport for the region.

"I will call all MLAs and MPs from these districts and conduct a meeting with the chief minister. First, we can hand it over to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and get an airport built. There, 50% will benefit us and

50% will help Andhra Pradesh. The other option is to have this airport in common for Ballari, Vijayanagara and Koppal." The meeting is expected to happen before the end of the legislature session (March 27).

Patil was responding to a question by mining baron and Gangavathi MLA Gali Janardhan Reddy about the airport. "Why is it getting delayed? If we hand over this land to the government of India and ask them to build the airport, they are ready to release Rs 750 crore and build the airport," the Gangavathi MLA asked.

In response, the minister explained that careful consideration was required before proceeding, as many local airports had failed within a few years.

"The Udaan Scheme of the central government will be valid for three years. After that, the airport will be closed. Not just in our state, it's the same across

the country. We don't know the future of district airports. Thus, I went with the CM and proposed to the aviation minister to extend Udaan to 5 years. After that, there should be a 50:50 Centre-state sharing for the next 5 years. After 10 years, it comes to a position."

Patil told Reddy that they had identified two locations around Ballari as potential destinations for the airport. He felt it was interesting since it would be reachable for Ballari, Vijayanagara and Raichur. "The newly identified site is located about 33 km from Hosapete, 26 km from Hampi, 33 km from Sandur, 75 km from Koppal, 14 km from Kurugodu, 13 km from Toranagallu and 43 km from Siruguppa. However, the suitability of this location for establishing an airport will have to be determined by the Airports Authority of India," Patil explained.

एयरपोर्ट के चलते यमुना सिटी में बढ़ा निवेश का आकर्षण

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 14 मार्च (देशबन्धु)। जेवर में बन रहे नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट के निर्माण के बाद यमुना सिटी निवेशकों की पहली पसंद बनती जा रही है। बढ़ते औद्योगिक निवेश और प्रस्तावित बड़ी परियोजनाओं को देखते हुए यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण ने जमीन खरीद की रफ्तार तेज करने का फैसला किया है। प्राधिकरण आगामी वित्तीय वर्ष में जमीन खरीद पर करीब 7500 करोड़ रुपए खर्च करने की योजना बना रहा है। यमुना सिटी में कई बड़ी कंपनियां पहले ही निवेश कर चुकी हैं, जबकि दर्जनों देशी-विदेशी कंपनियों ने यहां औद्योगिक इकाइयां स्थापित करने के लिए जमीन के लिए आवेदन किया है। नोएडा और ग्रेटर नोएडा की कई कंपनियां भी अपने विस्तार के लिए इस क्षेत्र को प्राथमिकता दे रही हैं। इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्राधिकरण ने बड़े प्रोजेक्ट्स के लिए जमीन खरीद का विस्तृत रोडमैप तैयार किया है।

प्राधिकरण के अनुसार आगामी वित्तीय वर्ष में विभिन्न सेक्टरों में बड़े पैमाने पर जमीन खरीदी जाएगी। इनमें सबसे अधिक जमीन जापानी सिटी और सेक्टर-8डी में खरीदने की योजना है। योजना के तहत सेक्टर-5 में 200 एकड़, सेक्टर-8 में 280 एकड़, सेक्टर-8डी में 400 एकड़, जापानी सिटी के लिए 500 एकड़, सेक्टर-9 में 125 एकड़ और राया अर्बन सेंटर के लिए 100 एकड़ जमीन खरीदी जाएगी। फरवरी माह में ही करीब 200 एकड़ जमीन खरीदी जा चुकी है और आने वाले समय में इस प्रक्रिया को और तेज



- जमीन खरीद पर 7500 करोड़ खर्च करेगा प्राधिकरण
- जापानी सिटी, सेक्टर-8डी समेत कई क्षेत्रों में बड़े पैमाने पर भूमि अधिग्रहण की तैयारी

किया जाएगा। जमीन उपलब्ध होने के चलते कई बड़ी औद्योगिक इकाइयों को यहां पहले ही भूखंड आवंटित किए जा चुके हैं। सेमीकंडक्टर यूनिट के लिए भी जमीन उपलब्ध कराई गई है। इसके अलावा एस्कार्ट कोबोटा और सीएनजी इंडस्ट्रीयल जैसी कंपनियों को भी यहां जमीन देने की प्रक्रिया जारी है। प्राधिकरण के सीईओ राकेश कुमार सिंह ने बताया कि विकास परियोजनाओं को मूर्त रूप देने के लिए सबसे पहले जमीन की आवश्यकता होती है। इसलिए जमीन खरीद को प्राथमिकता दी जा रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि अगले वित्तीय वर्ष की विस्तृत योजना तैयार कर ली गई है और बजट में इसके लिए पर्याप्त धनराशि का प्रावधान किया जाएगा, ताकि जमीन खरीद की प्रक्रिया में किसी प्रकार की बाधा न आए।



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AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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DESHBANDHU

DELHI

15 MARCH 2026

जेवर में ऐतिहासिक पल करीब

28 या 29 मार्च को हो सकता है नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का लोकार्पण

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 14 मार्च (देशबन्धु)। देश की बहुप्रतीक्षित नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के लोकार्पण का ऐतिहासिक क्षण अब बेहद करीब आ गया है। प्राप्त जानकारी के अनुसार इस महत्वपूर्ण अवसर पर नरेन्द्र मोदी और योगी आदित्यनाथ के कार्यक्रम को अंतिम रूप दिया जा रहा है। संभावना जताई जा रही है कि 28 या 29 मार्च को एयरपोर्ट का लोकार्पण हो सकता है, जिससे क्षेत्रवासियों में उत्साह का माहौल है।

इसी क्रम में शनिवार धीरेन्द्र सिंह ने प्रस्तावित सभा स्थल तथा वहां तक पहुंचने वाले प्रमुख मार्गों का निरीक्षण किया। निरीक्षण के दौरान उन्होंने संबंधित अधिकारियों को निर्देश देते हुए कहा कि कार्यक्रम के दौरान आने वाले अतिथियों और आमजन को किसी प्रकार की असुविधा न हो, इसके लिए सभी तैयारियां समय रहते पूरी कर ली जाएं। विधायक ने सभा स्थल की व्यवस्थाओं, पार्किंग, सुरक्षा प्रबंधन और यातायात व्यवस्था का भी जायजा लिया। उन्होंने कहा कि जेवर एयरपोर्ट का लोकार्पण केवल एक परियोजना का उद्घाटन नहीं, बल्कि पूरे क्षेत्र के आर्थिक और सामाजिक परिवर्तन की शुरुआत है। इससे रोजगार, उद्योग,



- प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी और मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ के संभावित कार्यक्रम को लेकर तैयारियां तेज
- विधायक धीरेन्द्र सिंह ने सभा स्थल और व्यवस्थाओं का किया निरीक्षण

पर्यटन और क्षेत्रीय विकास को नई गति मिलेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि जेवर तेजी से एक वैश्विक आर्थिक केंद्र के रूप में उभर रहा है और एयरपोर्ट के शुरू होने से उत्तर प्रदेश ही नहीं, बल्कि पूरे उत्तर भारत के विकास को नई दिशा मिलेगी। क्षेत्र के लोगों में इस ऐतिहासिक अवसर को लेकर खासा उत्साह है और सभी की निगाहें अब उस दिन पर टिकी हैं, जब प्रधानमंत्री और मुख्यमंत्री की उपस्थिति में जेवर एयरपोर्ट का औपचारिक लोकार्पण होगा।



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DECCAN HERALD

BANGLORE

14 MARCH 2026

Bomb remark lands IndiGo passenger in trouble at KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS: A casual mention of the word “bomb” during an argument with airline staff has landed a passenger in serious legal trouble at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

The incident occurred at Terminal 1 on Wednesday, when an IndiGo flight was scheduled to depart from Bengaluru to Raipur.

According to the FIR, the passenger, Rajatesh Bera, 40, arrived late at Gate 16, after the boarding process had already closed.

When airline staff refused to allow him to board due to the delay, Bera allegedly questioned them, asking whether the flight would only be delayed if there was a “bomb in the aircraft” and whether that was why the flight had not been grounded.

Airport authorities treat-

Even a casual reference to a bomb inside an airport or aircraft is treated as a potential threat to aviation safety and can trigger security protocols.

ed the remark as a serious security concern.

A senior police officer said that following the incident, a complaint was lodged by airline staff and Bera was taken into custody for interrogation. He was later released on station bail.

Bera, a native of West Bengal and a musician, told police during interrogation he had no intention of threatening the staff and had only made the remark casually while asking them about not allowing him to board the flight.



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

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DIAL selects GMR Airports to manage cargo terminal

GMR Airports Ltd has won the bid to manage the cargo terminal at the Delhi airport, nearly ten months after airport operator DIAL terminated its contract with Celebi. Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), which operates the national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), comes under GMR Airports. DIAL is a consortium led by the GMR Group. In a regulatory filing on Friday, GMR Airports Ltd (GAL) said it has received a Letter of Award from DIAL for being the selected bidder to upgrade, modernise, finance, operate, manage and maintain the Cargo Terminal 1 at the airport.



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HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

14 MARCH 2026

DRI BUSTS ₹3-CR SMUGGLING BID AT MUM AIRPORT

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MUMBAI: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized foreign currency and diamonds worth about ₹3 crore on Friday from passengers at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and arrested six persons, including carriers and a hawala operator.

Officials said they intercepted four passengers attempting to board international flights following specific intelligence inputs. A search of their baggage led to the recovery of US dollars and pound sterling worth ₹1.93 crore, concealed in false cavities of handbags. DRI officers also found 53 small pouches containing diamonds worth about ₹1.10 crore in the luggage. The passengers had not declared the currency or diamonds to Customs and failed to produce valid documents permitting export, officials said. DRI officials also apprehended the hawala operator who arranged the foreign currency and the person who delivered it to the passengers. All six accused have been arrested under relevant provisions of the Customs Act, 1962.



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HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

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Ops at 4 key IAF-run airports to be curbed for repairs, upgrades

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NEW DELHI: Civil flight operations at four Indian Air Force (IAF)-controlled airports — Jodhpur, Srinagar, Pune and Adampur — are set to face temporary shutdowns or operational restrictions this year as authorities undertake planned runway maintenance and infrastructure upgrades, officials said.

All four airports are joint-user facilities where civil flights operate from air force bases. Runway surfaces at such bases must meet the operational requirements of fighter jets and other military aircraft, making periodic maintenance essential.

"Authorities have already issued Notams (Notice to Air Missions) for some of the closures, while airlines were informed months in advance through the government's slot coordination process," an official said.

Among the four airports, the most immediate flight disruption is expected at Jodhpur, where runway re-carpeting work will be carried out in phases from the month-end. "The first phase of work was initially planned to begin from March 1 but is yet to commence. However, it will be ensured that its

AUTHORITIES PLAN TO UNDERTAKE RUNWAY UPKEEP, MAINTENANCE AT JODHPUR, SRINAGAR, PUNE AND ADAMPUR

third phase will wrap up by May," another official said.

As of March 1, Jodhpur sees 28 daily flight operations with around 4,000 to 4,300 passenger movements a day.

Under the plan, the runway work in Jodhpur will be carried out in three phases to minimise disruption. In the first phase, roughly one-third of the runway will be closed, allowing aircraft such as the Airbus A320 to continue operating, though larger aircraft like the Airbus A321 may not be able to use the shortened runway. The second phase will require a complete shutdown of the runway when work moves to the central section.

Jodhpur airport is proposed to remain fully closed for civil operations for about 30 days between March 29 and April 29. "Once this portion is completed, work will move to the final section of the runway, allowing partial

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AIRPORTS TO BE SHUT

operations again," the official said.

Airlines have been asked to adjust schedules accordingly, allowing options of travelling to the nearest airports or providing a full refund in case of flight cancellations. One airline official told HT that schedules had already been adjusted. "Passengers booked to Jodhpur were given the option to either fly to the nearest airport or change their travel date. They were even provided a full refund wherever needed," this person said, asking not to be identified.

The closures will still be disruptive. "Such long airport closures especially impact passengers during the summer travel season when domestic travel in India peaks due to school vacations," another airline official said on condition of anonymity. "For airlines, it means tweaking their summer travel schedules, incurring some revenue loss and adjusting aircraft schedules, which may also impact other destinations."

Srinagar airport is also expected to undergo runway maintenance this year, leading to staggered restrictions on civil flight operations. The airport has been through similar cycles before — as recently as early 2022, runway work was spread across weekends over February and March, followed months later by a disruption to evening flights while the IAF installed a new instrument landing system.

"Srinagar airport will remain closed for flights on weekends for around 11 weeks starting August 1 until October 15. This will be followed by a 21-day complete airport closure from October 16 to November 5," a third official said.

During this period, airlines may be given the option to temporarily operate from the nearby Awantipur airbase, located around 25 km from Srinagar, people aware of the matter said. Awantipur is a co-located airfield that has handled civil operations in the past when required.

At Pune airport, authorities are also planning runway upgrades that could lead to a closure of around eight days, though the timeline has not yet been finalised. The maintenance work was earlier expected to take place in April but the schedule is currently under review. Pune last underwent a complete runway shutdown in October 2021 — a 14-day closure for resurfacing work, which was at the time described as the second such closure in 13 years. "The authorities and stakeholders concerned will be informed about the

closure well in advance," the official added.

While Adampur airport in Punjab is scheduled to undergo infrastructure upgrades, it is unlikely to see immediate disruption. Runway maintenance is planned only after November, when the airport could face restrictions for several months. "The airport is expected to be shut for eight months. This will, however, take place in either of the last two months," the official said.

"A slot committee meeting is typically held about six months before the maintenance period, involving representatives from the ministry of civil aviation, the IAF, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and airlines operating at the airport. During these meetings, airlines are informed of the proposed closure periods and advised not to schedule new flights or open bookings during those dates," a former bureaucrat said. "Once the maintenance schedule is finalised, Notams are issued to formally notify airlines and pilots of the operational restrictions."



Corporate Communications Directorate

ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

14 MARCH 2026

Amazon Air expands to Northeast India

GUWAHATI, March 13: Amazon today announced the expansion of Amazon Air to the Northeast with new air cargo routes connecting Kolkata and Guwahati, further strengthening its logistics infrastructure and connectivity across the region. The addition of dedicated air capacity, according to a press release, will significantly improve delivery speed and reliability, enabling customers across the Northeast to access Amazon's vast selection of products with faster and more consistent delivery. The service will support deliveries across all seven sister States – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura – through Amazon's integrated air and surface transportation network.

The Amazon Air flight to Guwahati was flagged off from the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi by Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, alongside Abhinav Singh, Vice President – Operations, India and Australia, Amazon and Chetan Krishnaswamy, VP Public Policy, Amazon India.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

15 MARCH 2026

Akasa Air to levy fuel charge of ₹199 to ₹1,300 on local, global routes

Our Bureau

Mumbai

Akasa Air will introduce a fuel surcharge ranging from ₹199 to ₹1,300 on domestic and international routes in view of the spike in fuel prices triggered by the West Asia crisis, the airline said on Saturday.

The surcharge will be applicable on all bookings from Saturday midnight and will vary based on flight duration.

“There has been a significant increase in the price of aviation turbine fuel, driven by evolving geopolitical developments in the Middle East. As fuel represents a significant portion of the airline operating costs, this impacts the cost of operations across the aviation industry,” Akasa Air said.



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DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

15 MARCH 2026

अकासा भी आज से 1300 रुपए तक फ्यूल चार्ज लेगी

नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया, इंडिगो के बाद अकासा एयर ने भी घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूट पर फ्यूल सरचार्ज लगाया है। यह 15 मार्च को 00:01 बजे से की गई बुकिंग पर लागू होगा और 199 से लेकर 1300 रुपए तक होगा। कंपनी के मुताबिक, फ्यूल सरचार्ज प्रति सेक्टर लगाया जाएगा और उड़ान की अवधि के आधार पर अलग-अलग होगा।



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DESHBANDHU

DELHI

15 MARCH 2026

पश्चिम एशिया में 80 उड़ानें संचालित करेगा एयर इंडिया

नई दिल्ली। अमेरिका, इजरायल और ईरान के बीच चल रहे संघर्ष के बीच एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस शनिवार को पश्चिम एशिया क्षेत्र से आने-जाने वाली कुल 80 निर्धारित और गैर निर्धारित उड़ानें संचालित करने वाली हैं। दोनों एयरलाइंस 14 मार्च को जेद्दा और मस्कट के लिए अपनी-अपनी निर्धारित उड़ानें जारी रखेंगी। एयरलाइन ने एक बयान में कहा कि एयर इंडिया जेद्दा के लिए कुल 10 उड़ानें संचालित करेगी, जबकि एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस मस्कट के लिए 8 निर्धारित उड़ानें संचालित करेगी। इसके अलावा, एयर इंडिया दिल्ली से जेद्दा के लिए एक राउंड-ट्रिप और मुंबई से जेद्दा के लिए दो राउंड-ट्रिप संचालित करेगी, जबकि एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस कोझिकोड और मंगलुरु से जेद्दा के लिए एक-एक उड़ान संचालित करेगी। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस मस्कट के लिए भी अपनी निर्धारित उड़ानें संचालित करेगी, जिसमें दिल्ली, कोच्चि, कोझिकोड और मुंबई से एक-एक राउंड-ट्रिप शामिल है।

Air freight rates soar as conflict blocks trade routes

REUTERS

Air freight rates have risen by as much as 70% on some routes since the start of the US-Israeli war on Iran, data shows, as the conflict limits flights, blocks some ocean shipments and pushes up jet fuel costs.

Rates on routes between South Asia and Europe have been the most-affected by West Asian airspace closures and security issues, experts said, after the conflict has stranded more than 100 container ships in the area around the Strait of Hormuz.

Products like inexpensive generic medicines from India destined for the EU, Africa and the Gulf countries typically move on container ships through the strait, said pharmaceutical supply chain expert Prashant Yadav.

"The main shift I've heard about involves companies moving generic medicines from ocean freight to air cargo," said Yadav, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

The shift to air cargo is significant because air freight handles about one-third of global trade by value, making rate spikes a potential inflationary pressure on goods ranging from fresh food to pharmaceuticals and electronics.

"Customers are shifting freight from ocean to air, however it is extremely expensive — typically 5x to 10x higher



IndiGo to levy fuel charge for flights

NEW DELHI, PTI: IndiGo will start levying fuel charges ranging from Rs 425 to Rs 2,300 on domestic and international flight tickets from March 14, amid the steep surge in jet fuel prices due to the ongoing war between the United States, Israel and Iran.

The move will increase airfares across routes. For

domestic flights and those within the Indian subcontinent, the fuel charge will be Rs 425, while it will be Rs 900 for West Asia services, the airline said in a statement on Friday.

The fuel charge will be Rs 1,800 for Southeast Asia and China, Africa and West Asia flights, and Rs 2,300 for Europe flights.

— and those costs are climbing as capacity tightens," said Steve Blough, Chief Supply Chain Strategist at logistics software firm Infios. "More often, shippers are moving a limited quantity by air to bridge a gap."

The jet fuel price has doubled since the start of the conflict, and Danish container shipping giant Maersk said this week that its own air cargo service is now applying fuel surcharges and war risk levies.

The airspace closures

have also cut cargo capacity in freighters and passenger planes, as airlines take longer routes to avoid the conflict zone, further pressuring rates.

Ronald Lam, the CEO of Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways, said many of its freighter flights to Europe normally stop in Dubai to refuel and pick up more cargo.

Dubai and Doha are normally among the world's busiest air cargo hubs, but operations at those airports have been severely limited by the West Asia conflict.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGLORE

14 MARCH 2026

Akasa Air plans first MRO facility at Noida Int'l Airport

BENGALURU, DHNS: Akasa Air plans to set up its first Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility at the upcoming Noida International Airport (NIA) in Uttar Pradesh, the low-cost airline announced on Friday.

The move, which aims to boost India's aviation sector, follows a strategic partnership between the two entities. "The collaboration reflects a shared commitment

to strengthening India's aviation infrastructure and positioning NIA as one of the country's leading MRO hubs," Akasa Air said in a statement.

Under the agreement, the airline will operate a state-of-the-art MRO facility within the airport premises, offering advanced services, supporting a broad spectrum of aircraft maintenance activities and ensuring high standards of operational efficiency and

safety. The MRO facility also aims to generate local employment opportunities, and foster skill development in the region.

"As India's aviation market continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, developing strong domestic MRO capabilities will be critical for airlines to operate efficiently and reliably at scale," Akasa Air Founder and CEO Vinay Dube said.



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DELHI

15 MARCH 2026

एअर इंडिया, इंडिगो के बाद अकासा एयर ने भी बढ़ाया फ्यूल सरचार्ज

15 मार्च से हवाई टिकटों पर लागू होगा अतिरिक्त शुल्क

जगरण न्यूज नेटवर्क, नई दिल्ली : पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संघर्ष के बीच विमान ईंधन की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी के कारण अकासा एयर 15 मार्च से घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान टिकटों पर 199 रुपये से 1,300 रुपये तक फ्यूल सरचार्ज (ईंधन अधिभार) लगाएगी। एअर इंडिया, एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और इंडिगो ने भी घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान टिकटों पर यह सरचार्ज लगाना शुरू कर दिया है।

प्रेट के अनुसार, अकासा एयर ने शनिवार को बयान में कहा कि वह प्रत्येक उड़ान के लिए ईंधन अधिभार लगाएगी और यह राशि उड़ान की अवधि के आधार पर अलग-अलग होगी। कंपनी ने कहा- 'अकासा एयर अपनी सभी घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों पर 199 रुपये से लेकर 1,300 रुपये तक का ईंधन शुल्क लागू करेगी। यह नियम 15 मार्च की रात 12 बजे से होने वाली सभी टिकट बुकिंग पर लागू होगा।'

एयरलाइन के अनुसार, पश्चिम एशिया में उभरते भू-राजनीतिक हालात के कारण विमान ईंधन की कीमत में काफी वृद्धि हुई है। बयान में कहा गया- 'ईंधन एयरलाइन की संचालन लागत का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है, इसलिए इसकी कीमत में



अकासा एयर का विमान● फाइल फोटो

पश्चिम एशिया में जंग के कारण विमान ईंधन की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी से एयरलाइनों की परिचालन लागत बढ़े

बढ़ोतरी पूरे विमान उद्योग की संचालन लागत को प्रभावित करती है।' अइएनएस के अनुसार, देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो ने एक रोज पूर्व यानी शुक्रवार को घोषणा की थी कि वह 14 मार्च से घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान टिकटों पर ईंधन अधिभार लगाएगी। यह अधिभार मार्ग के अनुसार 425 रुपये से 2,300 रुपये के बीच होगा। पश्चिम एशिया की फ्लाइट्स के लिए यह 900 रुपये होगा। एयरलाइन ने कहा था कि एटीएफ का खर्च एयरलाइन की संचालन लागत का 40 प्रतिशत है।

एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने पहले चरण में 12 मार्च

तथा होता है फ्यूल सरचार्ज

फ्यूल सरचार्ज हवाई टिकट पर लगाया जाने वाला एक अतिरिक्त शुल्क है, जो विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) के दाम बढ़ने पर एयरलाइंस अपनी परिचालन लागत को कवर करने के लिए वसूलती है। यह शुल्क मूल किराये के अतिरिक्त होता है।

वर्तमान में एयरलाइनों को फ्लाइट्स का रास्ता बदलना पड़ा है। इससे उड़ानों का रास्ता लंबा हो गया है, फ्यूल व आपरेटिंग खर्च बढ़ गए हैं।

से हर घरेलू फ्लाइट और सार्क देशों की फ्लाइट पर 399 रुपये का अधिभार लगाने की घोषणा की थी। पश्चिम एशिया की फ्लाइट के लिए यह सरचार्ज 10 अमेरिकी डालर होगा जबकि अफ्रीकी देशों के लिए 30 से बढ़कर 90 अमेरिकी डालर होगा। दूसरे चरण में एअर इंडिया 18 मार्च से यूरोप, उत्तरी अमेरिका और आस्ट्रेलिया जाने वाली फ्लाइट्स के लिए फ्यूल सरचार्ज 25 से 50 अमेरिकी डालर तक बढ़ाएगी। यूरोपीय फ्लाइट्स के लिए 100 से बढ़कर 125 अमेरिकी डालर हो जाएगा। उत्तरी अमेरिका के लिए यह 150 से बढ़कर 200 अमेरिकी डालर हो जाएगा।

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DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

15 MARCH 2026

इंडिगो ने दोहा, कुवैत समेत सात स्थानों के लिए उड़ानें 28 तक निलंबित की

नई दिल्ली, 15 मार्च : इंडिगो एयरलाइन ने पश्चिम एशिया में चल रहे संघर्ष के कारण दोहा, कुवैत और शारजाह सहित क्षेत्र के सात स्थानों के लिए अपनी उड़ानों को 28 मार्च तक निलंबित कर दिया है। यह एयरलाइन की संचालन योजनाओं में समायोजन का हिस्सा है, जिसके तहत यह 16 से 28 मार्च के बीच क्षेत्र के लिए 252 साप्ताहिक उड़ानें संचालित करेगी।

शनिवार को जारी एक बयान में एयरलाइन ने कहा कि वह वर्तमान परिस्थितियों के अनुसार क्षमता को समायोजित कर रही है जबकि आवश्यक कनेक्टिविटी बनाए रखी जा रही है। इन आवश्यक नेटवर्क समायोजनों के तहत दोहा, कुवैत, बहरीन, दम्मम, फुजैरा, रस अल खैम और शारजाह के लिए योजनाबद्ध उड़ानें 28 मार्च तक निलंबित रहेंगी।

इस बीच, एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस 15 मार्च को पश्चिम एशिया क्षेत्र के लिए कुल 72 निर्धारित और अस्थायी उड़ानें संचालित करेंगी। एअर इंडिया ने एक बयान में कहा गया कि एअर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) और सऊदी अरब के लिए कुल 52 अस्थायी उड़ानें संचालित करेंगी। उधर, एयर कनाडा ने पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते तनाव के बीच अपनी टोरंटो-दुबई की सभी उड़ानों का संचालन एक मई तक निलंबित कर दिया है।

Akasa Air Announces Fuel Surcharge After Air India, IndiGo



Our Bureau

Mumbai: Akasa Air on Saturday announced a fuel surcharge on bookings made from Sunday, following the footsteps of larger rivals IndiGo and Air India, citing a sharp rise in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices amid escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

“As fuel represents a significant portion of airline operating costs, this (ATF price increase) impacts the cost of operations across the aviation industry,” an Akasa Air spokesperson said in a release.

The airline said it will introduce a fuel surcharge ranging from ₹199 to ₹1,300 per sector on domestic and international routes for bookings made from 00:01 hrs on March 15. “The fuel surcharge will be applied per sector and will vary based on the duration of the flight,” the spokesperson said.

Jet fuel costs have climbed globally as tensions in West Asia have rattled energy markets and complicated aviation operations.

ATF typically makes up about 35–40% of an airline’s total operating expenditure, hence even modest increases can significantly raise costs for carriers. Airlines have already been grappling with operational challenges since the conflict escalated, with many forced to take longer routes to avoid restricted airspace, leading to higher fuel burn and longer flight times.

Earlier, Air India had rolled out a phased fuel surcharge on tickets starting March 12, while IndiGo imposed fuel surcharge from Saturday.



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FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

15 MARCH 2026

IndiGo halts ops in region

INDIGO HAS SUSPENDED flight operations to seven Middle Eastern destinations—Doha, Kuwait, Bahrain, Dammam, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah—until March 28 as part of a network realignment in the region. However, the airline said it will operate 252 weekly flights to and from West Asia between March 16 and March 28. This includes 126 weekly flights to and from Saudi Arabia, 28 weekly flights to and from Oman, reports FE Bureau.

Continued on Page 2

IndiGo halts ops

THIS ALSO INCLUDES 98 weekly flights to and from the United Arab Emirates, primarily serving Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Muscat, Madinah, Riyadh and Jeddah. IndiGo stated that it is "aligning capacity with the current conditions while maintaining essential connectivity". It added that it is prepared to operate extra ad-hoc flights for stranded passengers "if needed" and is coordinating with relevant authorities as it adjusts operations to the changing environment.



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Akasa Air to levy fuel surcharge

AKASA AIR WILL levy fuel surcharges ranging from ₹199 to ₹1,300 on domestic and international flight tickets from March 15 due to the spike in jet fuel prices amid the West Asia conflict.

Air India, Air India Express and IndiGo have started levying similar charges on domestic and international flight tickets.

In a statement issued on Saturday, Akasa Air said it would levy fuel surcharge for each flight and the quantum would vary based on the duration of the flight. "Akasa Air will introduce a fuel surcharge ranging from ₹199 to ₹1,300 on our domestic and international routes, for all bookings that are made with effect from 00:01 hrs on March 15, 2026," it said.

According to the airline, there has been a significant increase in the price of aviation turbine fuel, driven by evolving geopolitical developments in West Asia. "As fuel represents a significant portion of airline operating costs, this impacts the cost of operations across the aviation industry," the statement said.

—PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

14 MARCH 2026

After Air India, IndiGo hikes fuel surcharge

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

IndiGo announced the introduction of fuel surcharge on domestic and international routes from March 14, after Air India Group's decision to hike fuel surcharge on March 10. Several major Indian and international airlines are set to implement or increase fuel surcharges in the upcoming weeks, signaling a sharp rise in airfares for the spring and summer travel seasons.

The move comes as the aviation industry grapples with a sudden spike in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices, driven by West Asia conflict.

From Saturday, IndiGo will charge an additional Rs425 for the domestic routes and the Indian subcontinent. The surcharge for Middle East routes will be hiked by Rs900 while South East Asia, China, Africa and West Asia will see a surcharge of Rs1,800. Flights to Europe will get costlier by Rs2,300.

Several foreign airlines, have either introduced fuel surcharges or have announced to introduce it in the upcoming week.

Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

14 MARCH 2026

Govt formulating civil aviation policy, says Minister MB Patil

NT Correspondent

BENGALURU

Karnataka Infrastructure Development Minister M B Patil on Friday said that the state government is formulating a civil aviation policy of its own, covering various aspects of the sector.

He also said that a meeting of public representatives from Ballari, Vijayanagara and Koppal districts will be held soon under Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's chairmanship, regarding the airport in the region, as he stressed that both feasibility and viability should be considered while determining the location for airports.

The minister was replying to a question about Ballari airport, raised by Gangavathi MLA G Janardhana Reddy in the Legislative Assembly.

"We build airports, but after three years they get shut down. The situation is not only in our state, but it is across the country. We don't know the future of district airports. So I met the Union Civil Aviation Minister along with the



Chief Minister with a request that the UDAN scheme be extended from three years to five years, and that for the subsequent five years the Centre and the state should jointly support operations in a 50:50 ratio," Patil said.

"The issue is there across the country and they (Centre) are also thinking on these lines...We are also bringing a policy on civil aviation from the Infrastructure Development Department (IDD). Two other states have done it --Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. That policy will have things like state's share, bulk amount sought by international airlines, among other

things," he said, adding that work is on regarding this policy.

Noting that the proposed Ballari airport should benefit not only Ballari district but also the people of Koppal and Vijayanagara districts, the minister said in this regard, a meeting of public representatives from the three districts will soon be convened under the chairmanship of the chief minister to deliberate on the merits and challenges of the project.

There is little use if an airport becomes inactive after construction. "Keeping this in mind, the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) has identified two new sites in Ballari district measuring about 800 acres and 1,200 acres for the proposed airport," he said.

If the airport were to be constructed at the previously identified site in Ballari, it would require the construction of an eight-lane greenfield highway and involve several other issues, the minister said.



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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

15 MARCH 2026

अकासा के दाम बढ़े, इंडिगो की उड़ानें रद्द

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। अकासा एयर ने 15 मार्च से घरेलू अंतरराष्ट्रीय टिकटों पर 199 से 1300 रुपये तक फ्यूल सरचार्ज लगाने का फैसला किया है।

भू-राजनीतिक तनाव के चलते विमानन टर्बाइन ईंधन महंगा होने से परिचालन लागत बढ़ी है। वहीं, इंडिगो ने दोहा, कुवैत और शारजाह समेत सात मध्य-पूर्वी शहरों के लिए अपनी उड़ानें 28 मार्च तक रद्द कर दी हैं। इस बीच एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस 15 मार्च को क्षेत्र के लिए 72 उड़ानें संचालित करेंगे।

Closed skies and costly detours: why Indian airlines are among the worst hit by the conflict in West Asia

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

As Gulf routes that have long formed the backbone of Indian airlines' international networks are hit by the ongoing regional conflict, aircraft utilisation at domestic carriers has dropped sharply.

At Air India Express, for example, nearly a quarter of the fleet is effectively idle. "About one in four aircraft of Air India Express's 115-strong fleet is grounded," an industry executive said about the country's second-largest domestic airline. While the aircraft are not formally grounded, airlines are flying them once every three or four days to keep them serviceable, and because parking stands are scarce at several airports.

For many Indian carriers, destinations across the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and Kuwait account for the bulk of their international flying, reflecting the pre-



Many IndiGo aircraft are now idling at airports during hours that were once used to operate frequent flights to West Asia. REUTERS

sence of more than 90 lakh Indians living across the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. But flight restrictions and heightened military activity in the region led to about 2,600 flight cancellations by Indian carriers in the first nine days after tensions between Iran and Israel escalated on February 28.

While operations in Oman are normal, major hubs such as Dubai, Doha, and Abu Dhabi continue to face severe disruptions and intermittent suspensions.

In more normal times,

roughly half of all international passengers flying to or from India travels on a Gulf route, using hubs such as Dubai, Doha, and Abu Dhabi to connect onward to flights to the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

Nearly four crore passengers travelled between India and the Gulf in 2025, making it the country's largest international aviation corridor by far.

Rising costs

Several other factors are also driving up operational costs for airlines. Jet fuel prices in India have risen

by about \$50 per kilolitre since January to \$150 per kilolitre, while aircraft operating on Gulf routes are also facing additional war-risk insurance premiums of about ₹18,000 per seat.

Though airlines have announced a fuel surcharge of up to ₹400 on domestic routes (and higher for international routes), these barely cover 10% to 12% of the ticket fare, executives say.

The unpredictability of flight schedules to West Asia caused by security threats, along with last-minute slot allocations by airports in the region, leaves airlines with little time to sell seats, contributing to the underutilisation of aircraft. Most flights to these destinations are operating with very few passengers.

Redeploying their idle aircraft on Southeast Asian routes is not a viable option for airlines, as that market is already oversupplied and earnings per passenger per kilometre are significantly lower than on

Gulf routes. The same holds true for domestic services, where margins are thinner and airlines must additionally contend with VAT and other levies on aviation turbine fuel that do not apply to international flights. In India, fuel alone accounts for about 40% of airlines' operating costs.

For Air India, the challenges are even greater as its flights to Europe and the U.S. are now forced to take a longer southerly route to avoid Iranian airspace, with some U.S. services also requiring fuel stops. This comes on top of the earlier closure of Pakistani airspace following Operation Sindoor last April.

As a result, flight times have lengthened sharply. A Delhi-London service now takes around 12 hours, compared with about nine hours last year. Flights to New York, which must now stop in Rome for refuelling, can take close to 20 hours instead of roughly 15 hours earlier.



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INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

15 MARCH 2026

Akasa Air to levy fuel surcharge starting today

New Delhi: Akasa Air will levy fuel surcharges ranging from Rs 199 to Rs 1,300 on domestic and international flight tickets starting today, due to the spike in jet fuel prices amid the West Asia conflict. Air India, Air India Express and IndiGo have started levying similar charges on domestic and international flight tickets. In a statement on Saturday, Akasa Air said it would levy fuel surcharge for each flight and the quantum would vary based on the duration of the flight. PTI

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JANSATTA

DELHI

15 MARCH 2026

इंडिगो ने पश्चिम एशिया के सात गंतव्यों के लिए उड़ानें 28 मार्च तक स्थगित की

नई दिल्ली, 14 मार्च (भाषा)।

इंडिगो ने क्षेत्र में संघर्ष के मद्देनजर पश्चिम एशिया के सात गंतव्यों के लिए अपनी नियोजित उड़ानें 28 मार्च तक स्थगित करने की घोषणा की। इन गंतव्यों में दोहा, कुवैत और शारजाह शामिल हैं।

यह निर्णय विमानन कंपनी की पश्चिम एशिया में अपने परिचालन को समायोजित करने की योजना का हिस्सा है, जिसके तहत वह 16 से 28 मार्च के दौरान इस क्षेत्र के लिए और इस क्षेत्र से 252 साप्ताहिक उड़ानें संचालित करेगी। कंपनी ने शनिवार को जारी एक बयान में बताया कि इंडिगो मौजूदा भू-राजनीतिक जोखिम, हवाई क्षेत्र प्रतिबंधों, हवाई अड्डों की समस्याओं, लगातार बढ़ती ईंधन व बीमा

लागतों और अन्य अनिश्चितताओं को देखते हुए स्थिति पर नजर रखना जारी रखेगा।

विमानन कंपनी आवश्यक कनेक्टिविटी बनाए रखते हुए मौजूदा परिस्थितियों के अनुरूप अपनी क्षमता को समायोजित कर रही है। बयान में बताया गया, 'नेटवर्क में आवश्यक समायोजन के तहत, दोहा, कुवैत, बहरीन, दम्माम, फुजैर, रस अल खैमा और शारजाह के लिए निर्धारित उड़ानें 28 मार्च 2026 तक निलंबित रहेंगी।' अमेरिका, इजराइल और ईरान के बीच 28 फरवरी को शुरू हुए संघर्ष ने हवाई परिचालन को काफी प्रभावित किया है। इस बीच, एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस 15 मार्च को पश्चिम एशिया क्षेत्र से आने-जाने वाली कुल 72 निर्धारित उड़ानों का परिचालन करेंगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLANIUM POST

DELHI

15 MARCH 2026

Akasa Air to levy fuel surcharge on flight tickets from March 15

NEW DELHI: Akasa Air will levy fuel surcharges ranging from Rs 199 to Rs 1,300 on domestic and international flight tickets from March 15 due to the spike in jet fuel prices amid the West Asia conflict.

Air India, Air India Express and IndiGo have started levying similar charges on domestic and international flight tickets.

In a statement on Saturday, Akasa Air said it would levy fuel surcharge for each flight and the quantum would vary based on the duration of the flight.

Now, Akasa levies fuel surcharge

Revised charge will be applicable from today as airline claims ATF sees notable price rise

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AFTER Air India and IndiGo, Akasa Air has announced that it will introduce a fuel surcharge to offset the impact of rising jet fuel prices.

The low-cost airline has introduced a fuel surcharge ranging from ₹199 to ₹1,300 on our domestic and international routes for all bookings that will be made from 12 am on March 15. "There has been a significant increase in the price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), driven by evolving geopolitical developments in the Middle East. As fuel represents a significant portion of airline operating costs, this impacts the cost of operations across the aviation industry," said a spokesperson from Akasa Air.

IATA's Jet Fuel Monitor indicates over 85% increase in fuel prices for the region. Jet fuel is the biggest expense for airlines, accounting for 30% to 40% of total operating costs.

It will be applied per sector and will vary based on the duration of the flight.

"At Akasa Air, we remain focused on offering warm and efficient customer service, reliable operations, and affordable fares while maintaining the highest standards of operational efficiency. We will continue to closely monitor the operating environment and review the fuel surcharge on a regular basis," said the spokesperson.

IndiGo on Friday announced introducing a fuel surcharge between ₹399 and ₹2,300 for its

domestic and international flights. While offsetting the entire impact of this fuel price surge requires a very substantial adjustment to fares, IndiGo has introduced a relatively smaller amount as a fuel charge keeping in mind the consequential burden on customers, said the airline.

Earlier this week, Air India had also announced an increase in fuel surcharge of

₹399 to ₹4,600 (\$50) amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

Ever since tension escalated in West Asia after the US and Israeli forces targeted key Iranian sites on February 28, oil and gas prices have seen a sharp surge. Brent crude prices have surpassed the \$100/barrel mark following the continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz, limited storage facilities in the producer countries

and the attacks on oil & gas infrastructure and vessels.

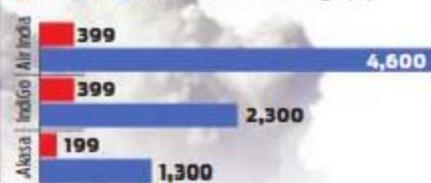
According to industry figures, jet fuel prices in many markets have doubled since the conflict began. In recent sessions, jet fuel prices are hovering between \$150 and \$200 per barrel, up from \$85 to \$90 per barrel before the war. Aviation turbine fuel accounts for 35-40% of airline industries' operational cost.

Jet fuel prices are hovering between \$150 and \$200 per barrel, up from \$85 to \$90 before the war



COSTLY AFFAIR

Domestic International Surcharge (₹)



No need to import petrol, diesel: Govt

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

INDIA has enough capacity to meet the domestic demand, and there is no need to import petrol and diesel as the refineries are working in full capacity, assured the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Saturday. It even urged the people not to go for panic buying.

"Sufficient quantities of petrol and diesel are available and there is no report of dry out. As per the needs of the country, we yield ample quantities of petrol and diesel. That's why there is no need to

import too," said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary (Marketing & Oil Refinery), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, during a press conference.

The Ministry also issued an advisory asking people not to take or store fuel in loose or inappropriate containers, as it poses serious safety risks. It has come to notice that in a pump in Tamil Nadu, petrol was reportedly being dispensed in a loose container at a retail outlet, which violates safety norms.

Petrol and diesel prices in India remained unchanged despite global crude oil mar-

kets continuing to witness sharp volatility. Recent volatility in crude oil prices has been linked to geopolitical tensions in West Asia, with concerns growing over potential supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil transit route.

Even oil companies like IOCL confirmed a couple of days ago that fuel supply across the country remains uninterrupted and assured that all its fuel stations nationwide are fully operational and adequate stocks of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products are available.

Akasa Air joins Air India, IndiGo in levying fuel surcharge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

Air travelers are set to face higher ticket costs from Sunday. After Air India group and IndiGo moved to pass on part of the fuel cost burden to passengers, Akasa Air on Saturday announced to levy fuel surcharge between ₹199 and ₹1,300 on its domestic and international flights from Sunday. There has been a significant increase in the price of aviation turbine fuel, driven by evolving geopolitical developments in the Middle East.

Akasa's decision comes after larger Indian carriers Air India Group and IndiGo also moved to pass on part of the fuel cost burden to passengers. The airline said the change would apply to both domestic and international flights starting March 15.

"With oil prices skyrocketing, rupees crashing to new lows every day, longer routes due to airspace restrictions and uncertainty of schedules, costs have reached a tipping point for airlines," said an aviation expert defending the hike.

In a post on X, the airline said it will levy fuel surcharges ranging from ₹199 to



₹1,300 on domestic and international flight tickets from March 15 due to the spike in jet fuel prices amid the West Asia conflict.

The airline said the surcharge will apply to all bookings made from 00:01 hrs on March 15, 2026, and will not be applicable to tickets booked before that time.

The airline said the additional charge will be levied per sector and will vary depending on the duration of the flight. "There has been a significant increase in the price of aviation turbine fuel, driven by evolving geopolitical developments in the Middle East," Akasa Air said in its statement. "As fuel repre-

sents a significant portion of airline operating costs, this impacts the cost of operations across the aviation industry," it added.

The airline said it remains focused on offering "warm and efficient customer service, reliable operations, and affordable fares while maintaining the highest standards of operational efficiency", and added that it will continue to monitor the operating environment and review the fuel surcharge periodically. The announcement comes less than a day after IndiGo introduced a fuel surcharge range between ₹425 and ₹2,300 per passenger,

depending on the route and distance of travel. IndiGo said it has opted for a "relatively smaller amount" rather than trying to offload the full shock of the surging aviation turbine fuel price.

Air India has also announced a phased expansion of fuel surcharges on both domestic and international routes due to the steep rise in jet fuel prices.

The airline noted in a statement that ATF (which accounts for nearly 40 per cent of its operating costs) has witnessed a significant price escalation since early March 2026 due to supply interruptions.

According to the statement, the new fuel surcharge will be implemented in three phases. It will apply to travel on all flights — including those operated by Air India Express.

Attacks on commercial shipping and oil infrastructure in the Gulf region, along with disruption through the Strait of Hormuz, have tightened supplies and driven a steep increase in fuel prices. Airlines are also facing added operational costs due to airspace restrictions and longer rerouted flights, which burn more fuel.

Corporate Communications Directorate

TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

14 MARCH 2026

Airlines lobby for tax cuts on ATF

New Delhi: IndiGo is asking the government to cut tax on aviation fuel and, along with rival Air India, pressing New Delhi to get private airports to lower some charges, three sources told Reuters, as conflict in West Asia adds to the carriers' financial pain.

IndiGo and Air India are facing a double whammy as the Iran war makes it difficult for carriers to use West Asian airspace at a time when Indian airlines are already banned from Pakistan's airspace due to diplomatic tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad.

That has left the two carriers facing higher costs on their international network as they are forced to take longer routes, with IndiGo flying

to the UK via Africa and Air India adding a stop on some flights to North America.

The airlines are lobbying the Indian government to provide financial relief, specifically related to aviation-related taxes and charges, said the three sources, all of whom are familiar with the matter.

IndiGo is seeking tax relief on aviation turbine fuel, which makes up 30-40 per cent of an airline's expenses but attracts a tax of 11 per cent and additional state levies that can be as high as 29 per cent, said two of the sources.

IndiGo, Air India and India's civil aviation ministry did not respond to requests for comment.

Reuters

IndiGo levies surcharge

AMIYA KUMAR
KUSHWAHA

New Delhi: IndiGo on Friday announced it will levy fuel charges ranging from ₹425 to ₹2,300 on domestic and international flight tickets from March 14, a move that can make air-travel costlier.

IndiGo's move came three days after Air India and Air India Express decided to levy fuel charges ranging from ₹399 to ₹4,600 on domestic and international flights.

The fuel surcharge will be ₹425 for IndiGo's domestic



GROUND REALITY

flights and services within the Indian Subcontinent. For West Asia, the charge will be ₹900. Passengers travelling on IndiGo flights to the South East Asia, China, Africa and West Asia will pay a fuel surcharge of ₹1,800, while those flying to Europe will be charged an additional ₹2,300 for fuel.

IndiGo said it is introducing a fuel charge due to the significant surge in fuel prices following the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

Fear, fares & few flights ground travel plans

SANJAY MANDAL

Calcutta: Apprehensions about getting stranded abroad, soaring airfares and limited seat availability are forcing many Calcuttans to cancel international trips, tour operators said.

The war in West Asia has restricted travel largely to essential purposes.

On Friday, Emiratés brought 304 passengers from Dubai to Calcutta, while only 160 flew out to Dubai. "Usually, the numbers travelling in both directions are about the same," a Calcutta airport official said. "This has been the trend" since Emiratés flights to the region resumed, the official added.

Partial closure of airspace has forced Gulf airlines to operate on a reduced scale. Most other carriers to Europe, the US, Australia and other regions are also running fewer flights or taking longer, alternative routes for safety reasons.

Rising prices

Airfares across international sectors have risen since February 28, when the US and Israel attacked Iran and Tehran retaliated. Many airlines are adding fuel surcharges, pushing prices even higher.

IndiGo announced a fuel surcharge on domestic and international routes effective March 14, citing an "85%+" surge in jet fuel prices in West Asia. "This sudden, steep in-



A plume of smoke over a suburb in Beirut after a strike on Friday. (Reuters picture)

crease will have a material impact on all airlines' costs and network, including IndiGo's," the airline said.

The surcharge will be ₹425 within India and the subcontinent, ₹900 for the Gulf, ₹1,800 for Southeast Asia, China, Africa and West Asia, and ₹2,300 for Europe.

Air India, Air Mauritius and VietJet have also introduced similar surcharges.

Traveller sentiment

"There is a lack of confidence and growing uncertainty among international travellers," said Anil Punjabi, chairman of the Travel Agents Federation of India, eastern region.

"As the number of flights to and from the Gulf has dropped significantly, demand for other airlines is soaring, pushing fares up daily," he said.

As airlines operate fewer

flights, seats in many sectors are difficult to secure.

Economy-class tickets from Mumbai to London for Saturday ranged from ₹2.36 lakh to ₹4.38 lakh, while a Calcutta-to-San Francisco seat via Mumbai cost around ₹3 lakh, and to New York ₹3.34 lakh.

A couple from Calcutta who booked a 10-day San Francisco trip in business class four months ago were scheduled to travel on Monday. "The return fare was ₹4 lakh each, but they have cancelled due to the prevailing situation," their travel agent said.

Similarly, a family of four cancelled a planned holiday to Budapest and other places in Europe, having paid ₹80,000 per person for economy tickets.

"The situation is worsening with no sign of recovery for the travel industry," said Anjali Dhanuka, chairman, Travel Agents Association of India, eastern region.



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TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

15 MARCH 2026

Text: AFP



6 million air passengers affected

More than six million air passengers travelling to or from the Middle East have had their flights cancelled since the start of the war, according to aviation data specialist Cirium.

It said more than 52,000 out of 98,000 scheduled flights have been called off

Airlines add fuel surcharge as West Asia tensions disrupt flights

Longer routes, higher fares for air travellers

MARCH 13

After Air India, IndiGo imposes fuel surcharge amid Middle East crisis

Riya Sharma

After Air India announced fuel surcharges on domestic and international routes following a sharp rise in jet fuel prices linked to geopolitical tensions in the Gulf region, IndiGo has also introduced a fuel charge on both domestic and international flights, effective from yesterday.

The move comes amid growing disruption to global aviation routes as the escalating Israel and Iran conflict forces airlines to cancel flights, reroute and take longer routes to avoid sensitive airspace, pushing up operational costs.

With flight cancellations rising and fares moving up on key international routes, where do your travel plans stand?

Airlines take longer routes, some flights rerouted via Russia

The conflict has also compelled airlines to change flight paths, particularly on long-haul routes between India and Europe. Hari Ganapathy, co-founder of Pickyourtrail, notes that several routes that earlier passed through Iranian airspace are currently being rerouted. "For example, many India-Europe routes that previously flew over Iran are now being rerouted via Russia. This increases travel time and operational costs for airlines," he shares.

Routes to key transit hubs such as Dubai, Doha and Abu Dhabi have also been affected. Ganapathy informs that flights to Dubai have been among the hardest hit, accounting for 50-65% of flight cancellations recorded this week. He adds that while the disruptions have created uncertainty, the impact is largely operational rather than a collapse in travel demand. "Travellers are becoming more flexible with routing and travel dates. Many are booking closer to departure and monitoring flight routes more closely," he comments.

Akash Rastogi, director, Argosy Travels, Gurgaon, shares, "Most European airlines are either fully booked for the next two to three weeks or are offering flights at significantly inflated prices. As a result, fares are likely to remain high as airlines deal with limited capacity, higher fuel costs and longer routes," he shares.

'Demand for international travel remains strong'

Travel companies say the disruption has already led to cancellations and rerouting across several international corridors. However, Nishant Pitti, founder and chairman of EaseMyTrip, points out that while the Gulf airspace situation caused temporary disruption the travel ecosystem responded quickly.

"While around 350 flights were cancelled on peak disruption days, airlines have already begun phased resumption of Gulf routes. Demand for international travel remains strong as travellers explore alternative destinations," he says.

Routes	Fuel Charge (in INR)
Within Domestic India	₹ 425
Indian Subcontinent	₹ 425
Middle East	₹ 900
South East Asia and China	₹ 1800
Africa and West Asia	₹ 1800
Europe	₹ 2300

IndiGo has introduced a fuel charge on both domestic and international flights starting March 14, joining Air India which announced a similar surcharge on March 10. The decision by airlines to introduce fuel surcharge comes as they deal with higher aviation turbine fuel costs and operational challenges caused by airspace restrictions in parts of West Asia

'Airfares could stay elevated if crisis prevails'

According to Ravi Gosain, president of the Indian Association of Tour Operators, the conflict has created uncertainty for international travellers, particularly on routes passing through the Middle East.

Travel companies are spending considerable effort rerouting passengers and adjusting itineraries wherever flights are disrupted or airspace restrictions are imposed. Rajiv Mehra, general secretary of the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality, says leisure travel is especially sensitive to geopolitical tensions. "Travel, particularly leisure travel, thrives when peace prevails. We are seeing cancellations for bookings to the UAE and Europe," he said. Mehra adds that higher fuel prices, rising insurance costs and longer routes could keep airfares elevated if the situation continues.

Corporate Communications Directorate

TRIBUNE

DELHI

15 MARCH 2026

US aviation group flags withheld docs in Ahmedabad crash probe

The Tribune **SPECIAL**

Shekhar Singh
Tribune News Service

New Delhi, March 14

A US-based aviation safety organisation has alleged that crucial documents related to the crash of Air India Flight AI-171 in June 2025 were withheld from investigators, raising serious questions about the official probe into the mishap that killed 260 persons.

In an email sent to investigators and oversight authorities, Ed Pierson, Executive Director of the Foundation for Aviation Safety, claimed that the group had obtained "non-public documents" indicating a troubling history of electrical failures on the aircraft that crashed in Ahmedabad.

The aircraft, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner with registration VT-ANB, went down on June 12, 2025. According to Pierson, the documents reveal "a history of chronic and serious electrical and electronic systems failures on VT-ANB", including smoke and fume incidents, burnt wiring, electrical shorts (or short circuit),

'BOEING, AIR INDIA DELIBERATELY HID INFO'

- According to the Foundation for Aviation Safety, the documents reveal "a history of chronic and serious electrical and electronic systems failures on VT-ANB", including smoke and fume incidents, burnt wiring, electrical shorts, arcing and electrical fires.
- "It appears to us that there has been a deliberate effort by Boeing and/or Air India to conceal and withhold information from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau and the rest of the international accident investigation team," said Ed Pierson, Executive Director of the group.

arcing and electrical fires.

He said the aircraft had even been grounded multiple times due to problems with a key electrical component. "The airplane was grounded and the P100 Power Panel was replaced on three different occasions," Pierson wrote in the email.

The P100 Power Panel is a major power distribution system that receives power from the aircraft's left engine and distributes it to multiple onboard systems.

Pierson said failure of this system had previously caused significant damage and led to design modifications and software updates aimed at improving fault protection.

The aviation safety group alleged that these documents were under the control of Air India and Boeing before and after the crash, but were never disclosed to investigators.

"This information should have been made immediately available to accident investigators," Pierson said, adding that none of the documents were referenced in the preliminary report issued by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) in July 2025.

He further noted that the AAIB had not issued any safety recommendations in the nine months since the crash. "By failing to disclose this information to the public and by giving no indication that these issues

are even being investigated, accident investigators have effectively reinforced the narrative that the pilots were to blame," Pierson said.

Pierson further wrote that the aircraft's "chaotic design and manufacturing history" and repeated electrical failures point to "more than one plausible scenario involving major airplane defects".

"It appears to us that there has been a deliberate effort by Boeing and/or Air India to conceal and withhold information from the AAIB, the National Transportation Safety Board and the rest of the international accident investigation team," Pierson wrote.

"We believe certain Boeing employees may have acted criminally," Pierson said.

The safety organisation said it had analysed several hundred internal reports related to the crashed aircraft and thousands of failure reports involving other Boeing 787 planes. "At this point, we have zero confidence in this accident investigation," Pierson wrote in the email to an NTSB investigator.