



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

17 OCTOBER 2025

Warangal airport gets ₹90 cr more

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

The State government has sanctioned an additional amount of ₹90 crore for land acquisition for the Mamnoon Airport project in Warangal.

According to a Government Order issued by the Transport, Roads & Buildings (Airports) Department on Thursday, this is in addition to the ₹205 crore sanctioned on November 11, 2024, for the same purpose. The previous order had authorised the Warangal district collector to acquire 280 acres and 30 guntas of land for airport development.

The finance department has already issued a Budget Release Order (BRO) for ₹205 crore towards land acquisition.

BOOST TO AVIATION SECTOR

- Finance department has already issued a Budget Release Order for ₹205 cr towards land acquisition.

- Earlier this month, the government granted administrative sanction of ₹40.53 lakh for a pre-feasibility study of proposed greenfield airport at Anthergoan.

- Collector has requested the state to release the already sanctioned ₹205 crore and to sanction an additional ₹90 crore.



“The district collector has requested the government to release the already sanctioned ₹205 crore and to sanction an additional ₹90 crore, totalling ₹295 crore, to the land acquisition officer and revenue divisional officer, Warangal, to finalise the award and disburse compensation to landowners affected by the Mamnoon

Airport project,” the GO stated.

Earlier this month, the State government also granted administrative sanction of ₹40.53 lakh for a pre-feasibility study of the proposed greenfield airport at Anthergoan in Peddapalli district.

The Government of Telangana has proposed to develop six regional air-

ports across the State. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been appointed as the consultant to prepare the Techno-

Economic
Feasibility Reports (TEFRs) for these airports. As per a GO issued on October 11, the consultancy fee has been fixed at ₹40,52,946.

The AAI’s executive director (architecture) in New Delhi informed that these fee rates would remain valid up to December 31, 2025. Accordingly, the finance department released the required funds as additional allocations for 2025-26. The proposed airport site at Anthergoan village and mandal in Peddapalli district covers 591.24 acres.

High-tech airport customs fails to stop gold smuggling

Latest customs data reveals massive gold hauls, placing Bengaluru sixth nationwide as Kerala airports dominate India's expanding smuggling network

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Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has emerged as the sixth busiest airport in India in terms of gold seizures, according to the latest data released by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). While the airport has witnessed sharp growth in smuggling cases over the past two years, recent trends show a marginal decline. Other airports in Karnataka — Mangalore and Kannur — feature much lower on the national list, underlining Bengaluru's prominence as a smuggling hotspot.

Bengaluru's surge in seizures

According to Rajya Sabha data, in 2021-22, gold weighing 105.6 kg was seized at Bengaluru Airport. This rose to 192.49 kg in 2022-23, reflecting a massive 82% year-on-year increase. However, in 2023-24, seizures dipped to 174.91 kg, a 9% decrease from the previous year. Despite the slight fall, the overall three-year data indicates that gold smuggling activity through Bengaluru has grown significantly — nearly 65% higher in 2023-24 compared to 2021-22.

Customs officials attribute the surge to the rising number of international flights, particularly from Gulf nations, which continue to be the primary



Airport under scrutiny as customs intercept rising gold smuggling cases

source of smuggled gold into southern India. Concealment methods have also become more sophisticated, ranging from electronic devices and baggage linings to food packets and clothing.

Apart from Bengaluru, two other international airports feature in the national list of gold seizures — Mangalore International Airport and Kannur Airport (though Kannur serves Kerala officially, its proximity to the Karnataka border gives it significance for smugglers targeting both states). Mangaluru recorded 30.57 kg of seized gold in 2023-24, ranking far lower nationally compared with Ben-

galuru. Kannur, on the other hand, accounted for 62.66 kg, placing it above Mangaluru but still well below Bengaluru's numbers. The relatively smaller volumes at these airports are linked to fewer international arrivals than at Bengaluru.

At the all-India level, Bengaluru ranks sixth in gold seizures. The top five airports ahead of it are Mumbai (1,091.3 kg), Delhi (474.21 kg), Chennai (409.24 kg), Calicut (303.57 kg), and Cochin (195.97 kg). Bengaluru's figure of 174.91 kg places it just below Cochin but comfortably ahead of other southern airports such as Kannur, Trichy (54.38 kg), and Mangalore. This rank-

ing cements Bengaluru's status as one of the leading gateways for smuggled gold into India, reflecting both its increasing international connectivity and the vigilance of customs authorities.

An interesting observation from the national data is the dominance of Kerala's airports. Calicut, Cochin, and Kannur all feature prominently on the list,

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport has become one of India's busiest hubs for gold seizures, with nearly 175 kg intercepted last year

with Calicut ranking fourth nationwide with 303.57 kg seized in 2023-24. The Gulf-Kerala corridor has long been a smuggling route due to the high volume of expatriate traffic, and its proximity to Karnataka often has spillover effects, especially for airports such as Mangaluru and Bengaluru.

Enforcement measures

Experts said the government has been stepping up enforcement through multiple initiatives. At Bengaluru, customs authorities have installed advanced scanning technologies and increased coordination with airline operators. Intelligence-based targeting of passengers has led to the interception of several high-profile smuggling attempts.

FESTIVE FLYING TAKES OFF: DIWALI AIRFARES FROM MUMBAI SOAR ON POPULAR ROUTES

Festive travel has begun and Diwali airfares from Mumbai are heating up -- though not uniformly across all routes. Destinations like Jaipur, Jodhpur, Raipur, Ranchi, Mysore and Bagdogra are seeing a sharp spike due to high demand. In contrast, ticket prices to major metros such as Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad remain relatively moderate, likely due to greater flight availability on these routes

TRAFFIC DENSITY

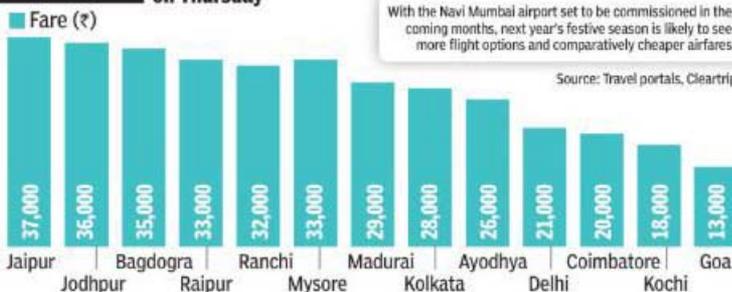
At Mumbai airport, air traffic density has gone up:

1,012 flights handled on Wednesday	950 flights in 24 hours is the average	1,032 flights in 24 hours is record (Nov 11, 2023)
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CHEAPEST FARES

Cheapest 48-hour advance purchase fare for travel from Mumbai on Oct 18 and return on Oct 24 on non-stop flights as available on Thursday



MONTHLY COMPARISON

For travel from Mumbai. Approx air fare comparison, Sept vs Oct

	Sept	Oct
Bangalore	6,000	9,000
Delhi	7,700	11,600
Hyd	5,700	8,500
Jaipur	9,400	16,500
Chennai	6,700	9,900

Flight bookings are up by over 28%, with Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Pune emerging as the busiest routes

— A Cleartrip spokesperson

On key domestic routes, airfares have risen by more than 50% year-on-year. This is in stark contrast to Diwali 2024, when average fares on many routes had declined... Flight bookings have jumped over 60% year-on-year — **Rikant Pittie** | EASEMY TRIP



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2025

Akasa sets up base in Delhi, increases flights

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Akasa Air has increased its flights from Delhi by 56 per cent in the winter schedule, with new frequencies to Bagdogra, Kolkata and Srinagar, the airline said on Friday.

Delhi also becomes the third operational base for the airline after Bengaluru and Mumbai.

Frequencies to Mumbai, Delhi and Pune will be ramped up, offering more choices to travellers in the winter schedule. Akasa Air will operate 165 flights per week from Delhi.

WINTER IS COMING

On an overall basis, the airline's capacity in the winter schedule, measured by the number of flights, will rise by 12 per cent.

"This expansion will improve connectivity across the country and beyond, supporting mobility, trade and tourism, while offering travellers enhanced choice and



convenience through seamless and thoughtfully curated connections. Moreover, the emergence of Delhi as Akasa Air's third operational base reflects the maturity and scalability of our network and operations," said Co-founder and Chief Commercial Officer Praveen Iyer.

The airline will further expand its footprint across West Asia with a 14 per cent increase in departures from Abu Dhabi, introducing non-stop flights connecting Abu Dhabi to Cochin and Chennai, strengthening its code-share partnership with Etihad Airways. Departures from Jeddah will increase to 26 weekly flights, while frequency to Riyadh will be ramped up by 5x weekly.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2025

IndiGo to operate flights to Athens from Delhi, Mumbai

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Airline major IndiGo will operate thrice weekly, direct flights to Athens, each from Mumbai and Delhi, effective January 23 and 24, 2026, respectively.

As per the airline, the inaugural flight on India's first A321XLR will depart from Mumbai on January 23, 2026, and arrive in Athens on the same day.

Similarly, for Greece, IndiGo's flight connecting the two capital cities, Athens and Delhi, on January 24, 2026, will mark their first A321XLR operation.

Accordingly, the new flights will mark IndiGo's foray into long-range narrow-body operations.

Besides, the airline major will become the only Indian carrier to offer direct flights between India and Greece.

EUROPE, WE COME!

According to IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers, with the induction of the A321XLR aircraft into the fleet, IndiGo will increasingly be able to operate deeper into Europe while maintaining the cost-efficiency and operational reliability.

Furthermore, the new flights will be the Airbus A321XLR, a next-generation narrow-body aircraft with a range of up to 8,700 km.

The aircraft will enable IndiGo to operate non-stop flights from India to Southern Europe while maintaining cost-efficiency.

Notably, this aircraft features 12 IndiGoStretch seats in a 2x2 configuration with a 44-inch seat pitch and a 6-inch recline.

The aircraft is equipped with 183 economy class seats offering a 31-inch seat pitch and 5-inch recline.

Additionally, the airline said that complimentary hot meals and beverages.

दीवाली से पहले हवाई किराया आसमान पर

रोशनी शेखर

दीवाली का त्योहार अपनों के संग मनाने के लिए लोग कामकाज से छुट्टी लेकर दूर-दूर से आते हैं। बहुत से लोग इस दौरान कुछ पल सुकून से गुजारने के लिए पर्यटन स्थलों का रुख करते हैं तो कई धार्मिक स्थलों की ओर जाते हैं। इस तरह त्योहार पर यात्रा में वृद्धि को देखते हुए लोकप्रिय मार्गों पर हवाई किराये और होटल बुकिंग में खासी बढ़ोतरी हुई है। होटल कमरों की मांग में सालाना हिसाब से 20-25 प्रतिशत तक उछाल आई है।

ईजमाईट्रिप के अनुसार हैदराबाद से नागपुर और कोलकाता के लिए उड़ानों के किराये तेजी से बढ़े हैं। आमतौर पर इन हवाई रूट पर टिकट 4,500 रुपये से 6,500 रुपये के बीच होता है, लेकिन अब यह 11,500 रुपये से 16,500 रुपये तक पहुंच गया है। इसी तरह हैदराबाद से दिल्ली के लिए हवाई किराया 5,500-8,500 रुपये से बढ़कर 8,500-18,500 रुपये के बीच हो गया है। दिलचस्प बात यह है कि हवाई किराये में यह बढ़ोतरी 20 अक्टूबर से शुरू होने वाले दीवाली सप्ताह से दो से तीन महीने पहले दर्ज की गई थी। दूसरे शब्दों में कहें तो यात्रियों द्वारा दो से तीन महीने पहले उड़ान की बुकिंग की गई थी।

दूसरी ओर इक्सिगो के ग्रुप सीईओ आलोक बाजपेयी ने कहा कि दीवाली से ठीक पहले यात्रा के लिए स्पॉट किराये में लगभग 25 प्रतिशत की गिरावट आई है। इसलिए अंतिम समय में यात्रा की योजना बना रहे लोगों के लिए बुकिंग कराने का यह आदर्श समय है। उन्होंने कहा कि तिरुपति और वाराणसी जैसे आध्यात्मिक स्थलों में दीवाली की अवधि के लिए बुकिंग में 50 प्रतिशत से अधिक की वृद्धि देखी गई है। बाजपेयी ने यह भी कहा, 'थाईलैंड और वियतनाम के लिए बुकिंग में 25 प्रतिशत से अधिक की वृद्धि हुई है।



होटल कमरों की बुकिंग में भी 20-25 प्रतिशत तक वृद्धि, पर्यटन केंद्रों पर सेवाओं के लिए टूर ऑपरेटर भी व्यस्त

श्रीलंका पहली बार 36 प्रतिशत वृद्धि के साथ शीर्ष पर है।'

दीवाली सीजन में हवाई किराया ही नहीं बढ़ा है, बल्कि होटल बुकिंग में भी 20 से 25 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ने की उम्मीद है। आईकोनिका के संस्थापक और रॉयल ऑर्किड होटल्स के अध्यक्ष अर्जुन बलजी ने कहा कि कमरों की मांग में यह रूझान क्रिसमस और नए साल की पूर्व संध्या तक जारी रहेगा और प्रमुख पर्यटन स्थलों पर होटलों में 90 से 95 प्रतिशत तक कमरे बुक होने की उम्मीद है। ईजमाईट्रिप के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी और सह-संस्थापक रिकांत पिट्टी ने कहा, 'हमारे प्लेटफॉर्म पर कमरों की बुकिंग में 20 से 25 प्रतिशत की सालाना वृद्धि होने की उम्मीद है। उनके अनुसार, जयपुर, उदयपुर और जैसलमेर, वाराणसी, गोवा, केरल, हिमाचल और उत्तराखंड के पहाड़ी सर्किट पर्यटकों की पहली पसंद बने हुए हैं। थॉमस कुक इंडिया के अध्यक्ष और कंट्री हेड (हॉलंडेज, माइस वीजा) राजीव काले ने कहा कि शीर्ष अंतरराष्ट्रीय पसंदीदा स्थलों में स्विट्जरलैंड, फ्रांस, इटली, ऑस्ट्रिया, स्पेन और पुर्तगाल को प्राथमिकता दे रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि ऑस्ट्रेलिया और न्यूजीलैंड अपने बाहरी अनुभवों और वन्यजीवों के लिए लोकप्रिय हैं, जबकि जापान और दक्षिण कोरिया अपनी परंपरा और पॉप संस्कृति के कारण युवाओं को आकर्षित करते हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2025

IndiGo to buy 30 additional A350 widebody planes from Airbus

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 17 October

IndiGo on Friday signed a contract with Airbus to order 30 additional A350-900 widebody aircraft, aiming to expand its long-haul network over the next decade. With this, IndiGo has doubled its wide-body order from 30 to 60 A350-900 planes.

India's largest carrier and European aircraft manufacturer had in June this year signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for these additional 30 planes. This MoU on Friday was converted into a firm order.

IndiGo had in April 2024 placed its first widebody aircraft order in April 2024, comprising 30 Airbus A350-900s. At the time, the airline also retained purchase rights for an additional 70 aircraft from the Airbus A350 family to meet future requirements. With 30 of those purchase rights now converted into firm orders, IndiGo still holds purchase rights for 40 more widebody aircraft.

All A350-900 aircraft in IndiGo's fleet will be powered by Rolls Royce's Trent XWB engine, the airline announced on Friday.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2025

फ्लाई 91 ने की दिवाली पर अतिरिक्त उड़ानों की घोषणा

पणजी। क्षेत्रीय विमान सेवा कंपनी फ्लाई 91 ने इस साल दिवाली के मौके पर अतिरिक्त उड़ानों की घोषणा की है। एयरलाइंस ने शुक्रवार को एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में बताया कि वह गोवा-बेंगलुरु-गोवा और सिंधुदुर्ग-बेंगलुरु-सिंधुदुर्ग मार्गों पर अतिरिक्त उड़ानों का परिचालन कर रही है। इसके अलावा, 18 और 19 अक्टूबर को गोवा-बेंगलुरु-गोवा, गोवा-हैदराबाद-गोवा और सिंधुदुर्ग-हैदराबाद-सिंधुदुर्ग मार्गों पर अतिरिक्त उड़ानें उपलब्ध होंगी। वहीं, 21 अक्टूबर को गोवा-पुणे-गोवा मार्ग पर अतिरिक्त उड़ानें होंगी। फ्लाई 91 के प्रबंध निदेशक एवं मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी मनोज चाको ने कहा कि दिवाली एक ऐसा समय होता है जब परिवार इकट्ठा होता है और यात्रा की मांग स्वाभाविक रूप से बढ़ जाती है क्योंकि लोग त्योहार मनाने के लिए अपने परिवार के पास लौटते हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2025

IndiGo Firms Up Order for 30 More Airbus Widebody Jets

Our Bureau

Mumbai: IndiGo on Friday firmed up an order for 30 additional Airbus A350-900 aircraft, converting part of its purchase rights into firm orders and doubling its widebody order from 30 to 60 jets.

The move comes less than a year after the airline placed its first-ever widebody order in April 2024, signalling a strong push into long-haul international operations.

At the IATA annual general meeting held in New Delhi in June 2025, IndiGo and Airbus had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for these additional aircraft.



"The conversion of this MoU into a firm order for 30 additional A350-900s is a testament to our confidence in the future of Indian aviation and our strategic partnership with Airbus, further reinforced by the strong start of our long-haul operations," Pieter Elbers, CEO of IndiGo, said.

The airline has now exercised 30 of its 70 purchase rights for the A350 family, leaving 40 rights available for future use.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2025

फ्लाइट कू परीक्षा के लिए आवेदन प्रक्रिया आसान की

नई दिल्ली। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय ने फ्लाइट कू (विमान चालक दल सदस्य) परीक्षा के लिए आवेदन करने वाले उम्मीदवारों के लिए ऑटो कंप्यूटर नंबर जनरेशन सुविधा शुरू की है। यह कदम आवेदन प्रक्रिया को सुगम बनाने और दस्तावेजों के मैन्युअल सबमिशन को समाप्त करने के उद्देश्य से उठाया गया है। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय से जारी जानकारी के अनुसार उम्मीदवारों को डिजिटल दस्तावेज सत्यापन के बाद कंप्यूटर नंबर अपने आप मिल जाएगा। इससे आवेदन प्रक्रिया तेज हो जाएगी। यह सुविधा गुरुवार से लागू हुई pariksha.dgca.gov.in पोर्टल से आवेदन करने वाले उम्मीदवारों के लिए उपलब्ध है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2025

भोजन में बाल मिला तो एयर इंडिया पर जुर्माना

अदालत से

चेन्नई, एजेंसी। मद्रास हाईकोर्ट ने भोजन में बाल निकलने पर एयर इंडिया को एक यात्री को 35,000 रुपये का भुगतान करने का निर्देश दिया है।

मद्रास हाईकोर्ट ने निचली अदालत का आदेश रद्द किया

न्यायमूर्ति पी. बी. बालाजी ने हाल ही में एयर इंडिया लिमिटेड द्वारा दायर अपील को आंशिक रूप से स्वीकार

करते हुए यह निर्देश दिया। अपील में निचली अदालत के उस आदेश को चुनौती दी गई थी जिसमें एयर इंडिया को एक लाख रुपये का मुआवजा देने का निर्देश दिया गया था। अपने आदेश में जज ने कहा कि भोजन के पैकेट में बाल निकलने पर प्रतिवादी यात्री को

क्षतिपूर्ति के लिए उत्तरदायी है, भले ही भोजन उनके द्वारा तैयार न हुआ हो। जज ने कहा कि एक लाख रुपये की दर से मुआवजे के आदेश को रद्द करते हुए, मुकदमे की लागत 15,000 रुपये, 20,000 रुपये वकील की फीस भुगतान करने का निर्देश दिया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2025

 **Hindustan Times:**

DGCA TIGHTENS NORMS FOR CABIN CREW DUTY HOURS

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has revised duty time and rest regulations for cabin crew across Indian airlines, introducing stricter limits and mandatory fatigue management measures aimed at improving safety and working conditions.

Under the revised norms, released on October 15, cabin crew can operate a maximum of eight to 10 hours in any 24 hour period. For long-haul (flights between six to 14 hours) or ultra long range flights (flights over 14 hours), the duty period can stretch up to 17 to 21 hours, but only if the airline carries extra crew members on board to enable in-flight rest.

The aviation safety regulator has capped cumulative flight hours at 35 hours in seven days, 100 hours in 28 days, and 1,000 hours in a year.

"These changes aim to enhance safety while ensuring that crew members are adequately rested," the circular issued by the DGCA said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2025

**Air India Express launches campaign:
'Xplore More, Xpress More'**

Air India Express unveiled one of the Indian aviation industry's largest brand campaigns - 'Xplore More, Xpress More,' an ode to the transformative power of travel that makes every trip a journey of memorable moments and meaningful connections.

The campaign comes at a defining moment for the airline, which now connects 60 destinations across the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and South Asia, with an impressive fleet of 115 aircraft, including 50 brand-new planes.



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[BUSINESS] EXPANSION PLAN

IndiGo to buy 30 A350-900 planes



IndiGo on Friday announced a firm order to buy 30 more A350-900 planes from Airbus as India's largest airline seeks to have more wide-body aircraft for its international expansion. The airline, which has been increasing its international operations, has over 400 planes in its fleet and over 900 aircraft on order. With the latest announcement from IndiGo, which did not disclose financial details, the total confirmed orders for A350-900 now stands at 60. Separately, it has signed an agreement with Rolls-Royce to equip its Airbus A350 fleet with Trent XWB-84 engines. —HTC



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THE INDIAN EXPRESS

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IndiGo to buy 30 more A350-900s

New Delhi: IndiGo on Friday announced a firm order to buy 30 additional A350-900 planes from Airbus as the country's largest airline seeks to have more wide-body aircraft for its international expansion. With the latest announcement, IndiGo's total confirmed order for the wide-body aircraft stands at 60. PTI

MINT

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IndiGo seals order for 30 large Airbus planes

New A350 deliveries, expected from 2027, will feed international routes

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NEW DELHI

IndiGo, the country's largest airline by market share, has placed orders for the purchase of 30 more wide-body aircraft from Airbus.

The carrier signed a contract with the European aircraft maker to convert 30 purchase rights for the Airbus A350-900 into firm orders. The move will effectively double its wide-body order to 60 aircraft, the airline said in a statement on Friday.

Deliveries are expected 2027 onwards, as the airline looks to expand its presence on international routes. Overall, IndiGo's existing fleet consists of more than 400 aircraft. IndiGo and Airbus had already signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for these additional 30 aircraft in June 2025.

Further, IndiGo has entered into an agreement with Rolls-Royce to power this upcoming A350 fleet with Trent XWB-84 engines. "IndiGo doubles its wide-body order from 30 to 60 Airbus A350-900 aircraft," the Gurugram-based carrier said in a statement.

The carrier had placed an initial order of 30 Airbus A350-900 aircraft in April 2024, marking its first wide-body purchase. The airline had also retained purchase rights for another 70 Airbus A350 family aircraft for future requirements. Of that, 30 are being exercised now. IndiGo will be left with purchase rights for 40 more wide-body aircraft.

Pieter Elfers, chief executive, IndiGo, said the purchases go towards expanding its international footprint.

As a part of its international route expansion plans, IndiGo has launched Manchester, and Amsterdam recently, followed by flights to Copenhagen, London and Athens with its fleet of temporarily damp-leased Boeing 787-9 and soon



Overall, IndiGo's existing fleet consists of more than 400 aircraft.

to be inducted Airbus A321XLR aircraft. In addition, IndiGo is also strengthening its network across Asia.

The arrival of the Airbus A350 aircraft will further extend its capabilities and open new routes to the Americas and other long-haul destinations.

"Conversion of this memorandum of understanding (MoU) into a firm order for 30 additional A350-900s is a testament to our confidence in the future of Indian aviation. These aircraft, as they join our fleet in the years to come, will play a pivotal role in enabling IndiGo expand its reach, connect India with more destinations across the globe, and offer new international travel opportunities," Elfers said.

The A350-900 aircraft (wide bodies) will be powered by Rolls-Royce's Trent XWB engine, known for their fuel efficiency, the company said.

In June 2023, IndiGo had also announced placing a firm order for 500 Airbus A320 aircraft. This will provide the airline a further steady stream of deliveries between 2030 and 2035. This 500 aircraft order was IndiGo's largest, and also the largest-ever single aircraft purchase by any airline with Airbus.

The stock of Interglobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo, closed at ₹5,848.40, down 0.5%, on the BSE on Friday. The announcement came after market hours.

To be sure, India is today the world's third-largest aviation market, reflecting the country's rapid economic growth, rising disposable incomes, and expanding middle class. Passenger traffic has surged in recent years, driven by increased domestic connectivity, the proliferation of low-cost carriers, and the growing popularity of air travel among first-time flyers.

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

60
The size of IndiGo's wide-body fleet after this order



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MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

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DGCA issues draft duty and rest period norms for cabin crew

MUMBAI: Aviation safety regulator DGCA has issued draft duty and rest period norms for the cabin crew.

As per the draft rules, for a maximum flight duty period of 11 hours, as many as six landings have been allowed, while for 11.30 hours, the maximum limit for landings has been kept at five. Similarly, for 12 hours and 12.30 hours flight duty period, the number of landings allowed stands at four and three landings, respectively.

The maximum flight time for this would be 8 hours, as per the proposed norms. Similarly, for a total of 9 hours of fly-

ing, and a maximum flight duty period of 14 hours, a cabin crew member can perform two landings, while for 10 hours of flying time, and a maximum duty hour of 15 hours, only one landing has been allowed.

A period which starts when a cabin crew member is required by an operator to report for, or to commence a duty and ends when that person is free from all duties. Flight time is total time from the moment an aeroplane first moves for the purpose of taking off until the moment it finally comes to rest at the end of the flight while the flight duty time commences when a

cabin crew member is required to report for duty and finishes when the aircraft finally comes to rest and the engines are shut down at the end of the last flight.

The maximum duty period during any 24 hours shall not be more than one hour beyond maximum allowable flight duty period, as per the draft norms.

The minimum rest, which must be provided before undertaking a flight duty period will be at least as long as the preceding duty period, 12 hours and 18 hours for crossing 3 time zones, up to 7 time zone and 36 hours for crossing 7 time zones, DGCA proposed norms said. #1



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RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

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त्योहारी सीजन

**हवाई किराया हुआ
लगभग दोगुना**

नई दिल्ली @ पत्रिका। त्योहार पर यात्रियों की संख्या भारी वृद्धि से लोकप्रिय मार्गों पर हवाई किराए व होटल बुकिंग में खासी बढ़ोतरी हुई है। होटल कमरों की मांग में सालाना हिसाब से 20-2% तक उछाल आई है। जबकि प्लेन टिकट के दाम दोगुने हो गए हैं। ईजमार्केटिप के अनुसार, हैदराबाद से नागपुर और कोलकाता के लिए उड़ानों के किराए तेजी से बढ़े हैं। आमतौर पर इन हवाई रूट पर टिकट 4,500 रुपये से 6,500 रुपये के बीच होता है, लेकिन अब यह 11,500 रुपये से 16,500 रुपये तक पहुंच गया है। इसी तरह हैदराबाद से दिल्ली के लिए हवाई किराया 5,500-8,500 रुपये से बढ़कर 8,500-18,500 के बीच हो गया है। दिलचस्प बात यह है कि किराए में यह बढ़ोतरी 20 अक्टूबर से शुरू होने वाले दीवाली सप्ताह से 2-3 महीने पहले शुरू हो गई थी।



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THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

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Surge in bookings despite high fares; passenger numbers remain below pre-Covid levels

China flight lifts foreign travel demand

SANJAY MANDAL

Calcutta: A direct flight to Guangzhou, China, from Calcutta has generated very encouraging demand in advance of its relaunch on October 26.

Despite return fares reaching as high as ₹56,000 on some days, travellers have eagerly booked seats, signalling strong interest. The new flight is expected to boost international traffic from Calcutta, although airport officials noted that passenger numbers would still be below pre-Covid levels.

IndiGo will operate daily services on the Calcutta-Guangzhou route starting October 26. Additionally, the airline has announced a new direct flight from Calcutta to Siem Reap in Cambodia, beginning November 13.

According to sources, within 24 hours of bookings opening for the Guangzhou flight earlier this month, half the seats on the inaugural flight were sold. "Demand for seats on the Guangzhou flight is huge. Initially, return fares were around ₹28,000, but with rising demand, prices have surged," said a travel agent.

On Thursday evening, a round-trip ticket departing Calcutta on October 28 and returning November 5 was priced at ₹56,000. Tour operators said that even at these higher fares, there were buyers.

Guangzhou, also known as Canton or Kwangchow, is the capital of Guangdong province in southern China. Situated on the Pearl river, it lies about 120km

northwest of Hong Kong.

"Guangzhou is a major trade and tourist hub, popular among Calcuttans not only for business but also tourism," explained Anil Punjabi of the Travel Agents Federation of India's eastern region.

Cantonese food is very popular among Calcuttans and English is widely spoken there, easing communication.

"With no direct flights from Calcutta to Hong Kong currently, this route can be a faster and more cost-effective option," Punjabi added.

Hong Kong and Macau are favourite short-haul international destinations for travellers from Calcutta, and this flight offers easier access to them, as Hong Kong is just about an hour away from Guangzhou by high-



speed train.

Another factor driving demand is the upcoming Canton Fair 2025, sources in the aviation industry said. The trade event is being held in two editions: spring and autumn. The 138th Canton Fair's

second phase will take place from October 23 to 27, focusing on consumer goods and home decor items like kitchenware, bathroom supplies, furniture, ceramics, garden products, and gifts.

The third phase, scheduled

from October 31 to November 4, will showcase textiles and everyday consumer products, including clothing, footwear, healthcare, medical devices, toys, baby products, stationery, and food.

"I plan to attend the Canton Fair to explore the market. The third phase will be particularly useful for bulk purchases of clothes and toys," said Rajesh Gidwani, a businessman who lives on Park Street.

Flight services between Calcutta and Guangzhou had been suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic and were not restored due to border tensions between India and China. However, in early October, India's ministry of external affairs announced that direct flights to China would

resume later this month.

"The flights to China, as well as Cambodia, will definitely boost international traffic from Calcutta. But the numbers are yet to reach pre-pandemic levels," said Pravat Ranjan Beuria, director of Calcutta airport. "We also need direct connectivity to Europe to attract more international passengers from the city," he added.

Calcutta, which previously had direct flights to cities like London and Frankfurt, has lost these routes due to insufficient business-class demand, according to aviation experts.

The state government has held several discussions with airlines about restarting direct flights to Europe, but so far, no airline has expressed interest.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

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Air fares burn a hole in travellers' pocket

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Bengaluru: Festival-time travel has always been a headache and this Deepavali season is no different. With Deepavali preceded by a weekend, airfares from Bengaluru to cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, and Delhi have doubled, crossing the Rs 15,000 mark in some cases.

While a ticket to Mumbai usually costs around Rs 6,000, the Deepavali demand has doubled the fares. It's similar on the Kolkata route, with fares for Friday night and throughout Saturday going above Rs 14,000. While travel to Delhi follows the same trend, there being only a few available flights adds to the difficulty. Bengaluru airport, anticipating rush, issued



an advisory Wednesday for its passengers to arrive early during the season.

According to travel portal skyscanner.com, there's just one flight post-work hours to Delhi Friday. In a relief to travellers, Sunday (Oct 19) fares and return fares from next week are comparatively on the lower side as of Thursday. However, travel agents have urged those planning return trips to the city to act fast.

Poulomi Choudhury, a native of Kolkata who settled in Bengaluru, said, "I will not go home during the Deepavali time due to these

fare spikes. However, there are a lot of others like students and younger people, who go home; it's quite difficult for them. We have a huge Bengali community in Bengaluru; hence, we feel at home during the festival."

"This happens every season, especially when there are long holidays and long weekends. Bengaluru also has a lot of outstation residents. Some people plan well in advance, so they manage to get reasonable fares. People who plan travel in the eleventh hour find it a challenge because of the high fares," explained Niranjan S Bhargava, chairman, Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI), Karnataka chapter.

South Western Railway (SWR) on Thursday anno-

unced special services connecting Bengaluru to Vasco da Gama in Goa, Jaipur, and Santragachi, West Bengal. While there are special trains announced to various destinations, including Chennai and parts of Kerala, these are not sufficient, going by the long waiting lists. "We have already announced many special trains, and all of them are full; however, there will always be a demand," an SWR official told TOI.

Along with Karnataka's 2,500 Deepavali special buses, several other special bus services from other states are also announced. However, the majority of the tickets have either been sold out, leaving the city's huge migrant population with limited availability.



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THE TRIBUNE

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Gaggal airport expansion: Time for land acquisition extended till June 30 next year

122 hectares to be acquired for the project in 14 villages of Kangra

PRATIRHA CHAUDHAN
Tribune News Service

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 16

The Tourism Department has extended the time period for the acquisition of land for the expansion of the Gaggal airport in Kangra district till June 30 next year.

Devesh Kumar, Principal Secretary (Tourism and Civil Aviation), issued a notification in this regard yesterday to ensure that the social impact assessment report submitted by an expert group did not lapse for the reason that the land acquisition proceedings were not complete.

As per Section 11 of the Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, if a notice for land acquisition is not issued within 12 months from the date of the appraisal of the social impact assessment report, the report shall be deemed to have lapsed. The expert group had submitted the social impact assessment report on June 5, 2023, regarding land acquisition for the expansion of the Gaggal airport.

The Himachal Government is keen to undertake the expansion of the Gaggal airport to facilitate the landing of Boeing planes, which will give a fillip to tourism.



The present 1,376-metre-long airport runway will be expanded to 3,010 metres to facilitate the landing of bigger planes.

LAND ACQUISITION TO COST AROUND ₹1,900 CR

- The Himachal Government is keen to undertake the expansion of the Gaggal airport to facilitate the landing of Boeing planes, which will give a fillip to tourism
- The land acquisition will cost around ₹1,900 crore and ₹410 crore of it has already been paid to affected villagers

The present runway of the airport is 1,376 metres long and it will be expanded to almost 3,010 metres to facilitate the landing of bigger planes. The cost of land acquisition for this ambitious project will be around Rs 1,900 crore and Rs 410 crore out of it has already been paid to villagers for their land acquired.

A total of 122 hectares are to be acquired in 14 villages (10 villages in Kangra tehsil and four in Shahpur tehsil of Kangra district) for the

project. Additional 26 hectares belonging to the government are also being acquired and for which the appropriate government agency is required to issue a notification under Section 11 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

The authorities concerned have already acquired more than 50 per cent of the land required falling in nine villages in the vicinity of the

Gaggal airport.

The notification for land acquisition cannot be issued within the stipulated period under Section 7 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The state government has the power to extend the period for land acquisition up to 24 months. The notification mentions that the land acquisition work could not be completed due to unavoidable administrative reasons.

It is in exercise of powers conferred under Section 14 of the Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, the notification has been issued, extending the time period for land acquisition till June 30, 2026.

The state government has sought assistance from the Central Government for the airport's expansion but a positive response is still awaited. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has written to Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, seeking special Central assistance for the project. It is with this very objective that the Congress government has also declared Kangra as the tourism capital of the state.