



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस मिलते ही एयरपोर्ट लोकार्पण की तिथि होगी निर्धारित

- एयरपोर्ट साइट पर रनवे, टर्मिनल व एटीसी टावर का किया विस्तृत निरीक्षण
- निर्माण एजेंसियों को गति व गुणवत्ता बनाए रखने के निर्देश

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 18 नवम्बर (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट परियोजना की प्रगति का जायजा लेने के लिए मंगलवार को यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (यौडा) व नियाल के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी राकेश कुमार सिंह ने एयरपोर्ट साइट का विस्तृत निरीक्षण किया। यह दौरा परियोजना की वर्तमान स्थिति की समीक्षा करने और निर्धारित समय-सीमा के भीतर कार्य को पूरा कराने की तैयारी को और मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से किया गया था।

निरीक्षण के दौरान सीईओ ने



**नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का निरीक्षण : सीईओ राकेश कुमार सिंह ने दी सख्त हिदायतें, समय पर पूरा होगा पहला चरण**

रनवे, टर्मिनल भवन, एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोल (एटीसी) टावर और संपर्क मार्गों के निर्माण कार्य का बारीकी से परीक्षण किया। उन्होंने निर्माण एजेंसी यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (यापल) और टाटा प्रोजेक्ट्स के अधिकारियों से विस्तृत बातचीत की। इस दौरान निर्माण की गति, गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण मानकों और सुरक्षा प्रबंधन जैसे अहम पहलुओं पर चर्चा हुई।

सीईओ ने स्पष्ट कहा कि

परियोजना में किसी भी प्रकार की देरी स्वीकार नहीं की जाएगी, और अधिकारियों को सभी संसाधनों का अधिकतम उपयोग कर कार्य समय पर पूरा करने के निर्देश दिए। उन्होंने सुरक्षा मानकों, निर्माण सामग्री की गुणवत्ता, श्रमिकों की संख्या और कार्य की समग्र गति की भी समीक्षा की।

अधिकारियों ने सीईओ को भरोसा दिलाया कि एयरपोर्ट का काम तय योजना के अनुसार अंतिम चरण में है। निर्माण कार्य

लगभग पूरा हो चुका है और ट्रायल रन भी सफलतापूर्वक पूरे कर लिए गए हैं। अब एयरपोर्ट के संचालन के लिए सिर्फ एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस जारी होने का इंतजार है। लाइसेंस मिलते ही एयरपोर्ट के लोकार्पण की तिथि घोषित कर दी जाएगी।

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का पहला चरण रनवे, एटीसी टावर और यात्री टर्मिनल जैसी महत्वपूर्ण सुविधाओं के साथ लगभग तैयार है, जिससे एनसीआर और पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश को विश्वस्तरीय हवाई कनेक्टिविटी मिलने का रास्ता अब लगभग साफ हो चुका है।

## ● What exactly happened at IGI Airport?

**AIRCRAFT IN DELHI'S** airspace began showing incorrect GPS (global positioning system) data, with navigation displays indicating false positions and terrain. Spoofed signals made it seem as if the aeroplanes were elsewhere, some as far as 60 nautical miles off their true location. At the same time, the critical Instrument Landing System (ILS) was partially out of service due to ongoing upgrades, increasing dependence on GPS-based navigation. This led to confusion among pilots and ATC, affecting over 800 flights. Many flights were diverted to nearby airports and several were even cancelled. Investigations by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and security agencies are still underway to determine the origins of the spoofing signals and whether it was a deliberate cyberattack or accidental interference. The DGCA is also compiling a nationwide database of such anomalies to identify emerging patterns and strengthen preventive measures.

## ● What is GPS spoofing?

**GPS SPOOFING INVOLVES** sending counterfeit satellite signals that mimic legitimate GPS transmissions, deceiving receivers into trusting false location and timing data. Unlike jamming, which simply blocks signals, spoofing actively alters the navigation information aircraft depend



# Why GPS spoofing poses a big risk for the aviation industry

Earlier this month, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport experienced large-scale disruption as multiple aircraft received false GPS signals, leading the Air Traffic Control to rely on manual systems. In an era of burgeoning cyber threats, securing satellite-based navigation is imperative, explains *Rishi Raj*

on. By feeding fake coordinates, a spoofing attack can cause an aircraft's autopilot, flight director, and navigation systems to malfunction or relay incorrect data to pilots. The consequences can range from mild disorientation to serious safety risks, especially during critical

phases like approach and landing. In short, GPS spoofing is a sophisticated threat that manipulates satellite signals to feed false location data to aircraft, as seen at the IGI Airport. It disrupts navigation, complicates air traffic control, and poses serious risks to flight safety.

## ● Impact on Air Traffic Control systems

**AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL** primarily depends on ground-based radar and navigation aids independent of GPS. However, spoofing creates a mismatch between radar tracking and aircraft-reported GPS positions. This discrepancy forces ATC to manage traffic manually, increasing radio communication and controller workload while reducing airspace capacity. These fall-back mechanisms, while reliable, are less efficient than satellite-based navigation, causing delays and operational strain on controllers and pilots alike.

## ● Lessons from the IGI incident

**THE IGI AIRPORT** episode exposes both the vulnerabilities and the resilience of modern aviation infrastructure. It underlines the urgent need to reduce over-dependence on GPS by accelerating upgrades to ground-based systems and developing new anti-spoofing technologies. Enhanced pilot training, improved threat intelligence, and faster incident response protocols are also critical. Moreover, this event highlights the strategic dimension of GPS spoofing as a potential tool of cyber warfare, necessitating cross-sector collaboration between security agencies and civil aviation. The IGI incident acts as a clear warning that securing satellite-based navigation is no longer optional but necessary to safeguard aviation safety, operational continuity, and national security in an era of burgeoning cyber threats.

## ● Concerns of the aviation industry

**MODERN AIRCRAFT** rely heavily on satellite navigation systems for precise position, navigation, and timing, especially with advancements like Required Navigation Performance (RNP) and Performance-Based Navigation (PBN). However, the unencrypted and low-power nature of GPS signals leaves them vulnerable to interference and manipulation. Reports of spoofing incidents have surged globally, with over 430,000 cases of satellite navigation jamming and spoofing reported in the last one year.

## ● Response of the global aviation community

**THE GLOBAL AVIATION** community is responding by enhancing navigation redundancy, improving detection and reporting, and bolstering cyber-security collaboration. Aviation safety regulators emphasise a layered approach to navigation security. Aircraft and airports maintain a suite of navigation aids, including radar, ILS, VOR, and Distance Measuring Equipment (DME), to provide alternatives when GPS signals are unreliable. Authorities such as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), and DGCA mandate reporting of GPS anomalies, with India recently enforcing a 10-minute incident reporting rule for spoofing. Technical efforts to introduce GPS signal authentication and resilient navigation technologies are underway but have not yet been broadly deployed due to complexity and cost.

> 430,000

CASES OF SATELLITE NAVIGATION JAMMING & SPOOFING WORLDWIDE IN THE LAST ONE YEAR

THE UNENCRYPTED & LOW-POWER NATURE OF GPS SIGNALS LEAVES AIRCRAFT VULNERABLE TO INTERFERENCE AND MANIPULATION





# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

18 NOVEMBER 2025

## State seeks fast-track airport expansion

**HD Bureau**

**CHENNAI**

Minister for Industries T. R. B. Rajaa has highlighted the pressing need for the rapid development of airport facilities to keep pace with the growing demand for air travel, especially in light of rising passenger traffic and the emergence of new industrial hubs across the state.

According to Rajaa, Tamil Nadu's industrial landscape has undergone a transformation in recent years, marked by the proliferation of industrial clusters and a surge in economic activity. This has led to increased demand for efficient and accessible air connectivity. Despite several airports



**Despite several airports being near completion, the lack of timely operational clearance has created bottlenecks**

being near completion, such as those in Vellore, Neyveli, Salem, and Thanjavur, the lack of timely operational clearance has created bottlenecks that could undermine the state's economic

potential.

Over the past four years, Tamil Nadu has witnessed rapid industrial growth, with sectors such as manufacturing, information technology, and healthcare dri-

ving job creation and economic diversification. As industries set up shop in both established and emerging industrial zones, the need for enhanced air transport links has never been more urgent.

Vellore, for instance, has seen significant growth as an industrial hub, with both domestic and international companies establishing operations in the region. The Vellore airport, though nearly ready for operation, has faced delays in receiving the necessary clearances.

Similarly, airports in Neyveli and Salem, which are expected to serve growing industrial clusters, are also waiting for government approval to commence operations. Thanjavur, historically

known for its cultural significance, has become a new focal point for industrial development, further intensifying the need for reliable air connectivity.

The delays in airport clearance are a cause for concern, as they could hamper the state's efforts to attract foreign investments and enhance its position in the global market. Rajaa emphasized the importance of streamlining the clearance process to ensure that these airports are operational as soon as possible. He pointed out that with passenger traffic steadily increasing, especially in non-metro cities, there is a risk that the demand for air travel will outstrip capacity.



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HINDUSTAN

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19 NOVEMBER 2025

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## नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर टैक्सी और होल्डिंग-बे तैयार

ग्रेंटर नोएडा। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर टैक्सी और कैब की पार्किंग तक सभी इंतजाम पूरे हो चुके हैं। वहीं, ग्राउंड ट्रांसपोर्टेशन सेंटर में 1200 वाहनों की पार्किंग बन गई है। टैक्सी-बे और होल्डिंग-बे भी तैयार हो गए हैं। एयरपोर्ट का प्रथम चरण में 1334 हेक्टेयर में निर्माण कार्य पूरा हो गया है। यहां करीब दो कार्गो समेत 28 विमानों को खड़ा करने के लिए एप्रन बने हैं। ग्राउंड ट्रांसपोर्टेशन सेंटर में 1200 वाहनों की पार्किंग और चार्जिंग नेटवर्क का प्रबंध हो गया है।



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THE HINDU

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19 NOVEMBER 2025

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## UK Export Finance issues EoI for Dubai airport expansion

The UK Export Finance (UKEF) has issued a \$3.5 billion Expression of Interest (EoI) letter to support participation of U.K. businesses in the \$35 billion expansion of Al Maktoum International – Dubai World Central (DWC). Currently the second airport of Dubai, DWC is being developed as a mega hub to deliver an airport designed for the next 50 years of aviation growth, and will accommodate up to 150 million passengers annually.



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THE HINDU

CHENNAI

18 NOVEMBER 2025

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## NMIA to begin commercial operations from Dec. 25

Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) has announced that it will begin commercial operations on December 25. In the first month, it will operate for 12 hours between 08:00 hrs and 20:00 hrs, handling 23 scheduled daily departures. During this period, the airport will manage up to 10 flight movements per hour. During the initial launch period IndiGo, Air India Express, and Akasa Air, will provide connectivity from Navi Mumbai to 16 domestic destinations.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## हवाई अड्डे के उद्घाटन से पहले विशेष विमानों से तकनीकी जांच

जनसत्ता संवाददाता  
ग्रेटर नोएडा, 18 नवंबर।

नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर कैलिब्रेशन उड़ान के हवाईपट्टी-10 और हवाईपट्टी-28 की सफल जांच पूरी होने के बाद अब विशेष विमानों से अन्य तकनीकी जांच की जा रही।

अलग-अलग ऊंचाइयों पर उड़ान भर रहे यह निरीक्षण विमान हवाई पट्टी संरक्षण, संपर्क मार्ग, रेडियो आवृत्ति, संचार व्यवस्था और हवाई यातायात पैटर्न की सटीकता माप रहे हैं। बता दें कि नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे का निर्माण कार्य पूरा हो गया है। हवाई अड्डे का परिचालन

15 दिसंबर से होने की उम्मीद है। हवाई अड्डे पर एअरोड्रम लाइसेंस के लिए अलग-अलग तरह के यात्रियों की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था और आपात स्थितियों के लिए प्रशिक्षण दिए जा रहे हैं। हवाई अड्डे पर अभी हाल में ही कैलिब्रेशन उड़ान की जांच हुई थी।

हवाई अड्डे पर दो दिनों तक हवाईपट्टी-10 और हवाईपट्टी-28 पर सभी तकनीकी जांच भी हुई थीं। इसमें हवाई पट्टी पर लाइटिंग, आपातकालिन प्रतिक्रिया मार्ग, हवाई अड्डे के कर्मचारियों के बीच तालमेल और मौसम निगरानी सेंटर की कार्यप्रणाली की भी जांच की गई थी। अब हवाई अड्डे पर विमानों की अन्य तरह की जांच के लिए परीक्षण किए जा रहे हैं।

MINT

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## GMR eyes ₹2,150 cr NCD to pare debt at Hyderabad airport

Abhishek Law  
abhishek.mukherjee@livemint.com  
NEW DELHI

**G**MR Airports Ltd (GAL) plans to refinance foreign currency loans of Hyderabad airport by issuing rupee-denominated non-convertible debentures (NCDs) worth up to ₹2,150 crore as it continues to reduce borrowing costs, a top executive said.

"The next refinancing we are looking at is for Hyderabad airport 2026 foreign currency

bonds where the board has given approval for issuing rupee-denominated NCDs," Sourabh Chawla, executive director (finance & strategy) at GAL, said in an earnings call last week.

Switching to rupee-denominated NCDs from foreign currency bonds eliminates the risk of increasing debt service costs if the rupee depreciates and stabilizes future payments. Such refinancing also leads to a lower interest burden and better terms, especially if domestic liquidity is strong.

GMR Airport has yet to respond to queries from *Mint*.

GMR Airports, the world's second-largest private sector airport operator by passenger traffic, had brought down borrowing costs through refinancing in the second quarter, the benefits of which are expected in the coming quarters.

The company raised ₹5,900 crore via non-convertible bonds in two tranches. The first tranche of ₹1,500 crore carries a coupon rate of 5% with a redemption premium of 5.225% and the second tranche of ₹4,400 crore carries a coupon rate of 5% with a redemption premium of 5.425%, the company presentation said.



The firm had cut borrowing costs via refinancing in Q2. *mwr*

"The non-convertible bonds were raised in two tranches of 18 months and 36 months maturity at an effective cost of 10.225% to 10.425%. This resulted in a saving of 300 basis points," Chawla said. "GMR Airports... used the proceeds to repay existing debt of ₹5,000 crore along with a redemption premium of ₹85 crore."

According to Elara Capital, GAL cut average borrowing costs by 395 bps and extended maturities by issuing the NCBs.

**Switching to rupee NCDs removes the risk of higher debt-service costs if the rupee weakens**

These steps, combined with stronger aero and non-aero cash flows and monetization of Aerocity and Goa assets, are expected to moderate leverage and improve return on capital

employed in FY26-28," Elara Capital analysts Ankita Shah, Hem Raval and Het Patel wrote in a note dated 4 November.

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) also raised ₹1,000 crore through 15-year NCDs at 8.75%, replacing earlier debt carrying a 9.98% coupon (a 123 basis point advantage).

GAL additionally tapped ₹3,000 crore in working capital loans to run newly acquired duty-free operations at Delhi and Hyderabad airports.

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



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## Navi Mumbai Int'l Airport to start ops from Dec 25

**MUMBAI:** Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) will start commercial flight operations from December 25 and initially, there will be 23 scheduled daily departures. In the first month, the airport will operate for 12 hours between 8 am and 8 pm, handling 23 scheduled daily departures.

During this period, the airport will manage up to 10 flight movements per hour, a release said on Monday.

The airport has been developed by Navi Mumbai International Airport Pvt Ltd (NMIAL), an SPV jointly owned by Adani Group and the City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd (CIDCO).

NMIA, the second main airport in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 8. In the ini-

tial phase, NMIA will handle around 120 air traffic movements daily.

From February 2026, it will transition to round-the-clock operations, expanding to 34 daily departures.

"The inaugural flight to arrive at NMIA will be IndiGo 6E460 from Bengaluru, scheduled to touchdown at 8:00 am. Shortly after, IndiGo 6E882 will depart for Hyderabad at 8:40 am, marking the first outbound service from the new airport.

"During the initial launch period, passengers will benefit from services operated by IndiGo, Air India Express, and Akasa Air, connecting Mumbai to 16 major domestic destinations," the release said.

The first phase of NMIA has been built at a cost of Rs 19,650 crore.

MPOST



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THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

18 NOVEMBER 2025

## Over 60 chartered flights likely to land at Ayodhya airport on Nov 25

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

■ Ayodhya

Nearly 60 chartered planes will land in Ayodhya on November 25 when the flag hoisting ceremony will be held at Ram Mandir, which will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other VVIPs, officials said on Monday.

More than 100 additional CISF personnel will be deployed at the Ayodhya airport for heightened security, airport director Dharendra Singh said.

"Considering the VVIPs arriving in their chartered planes, land management has been done for about 60 chartered planes. But the parking of the planes will be done at nearby airports," Singh said.

Alongside a special lounge for PM Modi, six VIP lounges are being prepared for other dignitaries including the governor and the chief minister, the officials said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will review arrangements for the event on Tuesday, they said.

Sri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has requested invitees to reach Ayodhya on November 24, officials of the Trust said.

The Trust has acquired 1,600 rooms in different hotels along with tent cities to accommodate the invitees, they said.

Temple Trust general secretary Champat Rai said that all guests have been asked to arrive on November 24 and entry for the event will be allowed between 7:30 am and 9:00 am on November

25.

Fifty beds in the Ayodhya medical college have been reserved and around two dozen doctors, supported by a large team of paramedical staff, will be on duty, Ayodhya DM Nikhil Tikaram Funde said.

Ayodhya MLA Ved Prakash Gupta said that preparations for the event would be discussed with Trust officials and public representatives at a meeting in the Ram Janmbhoomi complex in presence of the chief minister on Tuesday.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## सुक्खू ने पालमपुर हेलीपोर्ट की रखी आधारशिला

शिमला, विक्रान्त सूद (पंजाब केसरी): मुख्यमंत्री ठाकुर सुखविंदर सिंह सुक्खू ने पालमपुर के अपने एक दिवसीय दौरे पर 19.77 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से निर्मित होने वाले पालमपुर हेलीपोर्ट की आधारशिला रखी। हेलीपोर्ट में यात्री टर्मिनल भवन, फायर स्टेशन, उपयोगिता भवन और यात्रियों के लिए अन्य सुविधाएं उपलब्ध होंगी।

मुख्यमंत्री ने जनसमूह को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि इस हेलीपोर्ट को अगले वर्ष अप्रैल तक पूरा कर दिया जाएगा, जिसके पश्चात चंडीगढ़ और शिमला के लिए किफायती किराए पर हेलीकॉप्टर सेवाएं शुरू हो जाएंगी। उन्होंने कहा कि राज्य सरकार कांगड़ा जिले के लिए कई विकासात्मक योजनाएं तैयार कर रही



हैं। पालमपुर में एक पर्यटन गांव विकसित करने का प्रस्ताव भी तैयार किया गया था, लेकिन भाजपा के कुछ लोगों ने अदालत का दरवाजा खटखटाया और इस पर रोक लगवा दी। उन्होंने कहा कि इन बाधाओं को दूर करने के प्रयास जारी हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रदेश सरकार कांगड़ा जिले को राज्य की पर्यटन राजधानी के रूप में विकसित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## डीजीसीए ने इंडिगो पर लगाया 20 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना

नई दिल्ली। विमानन नियामक नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने इंडिगो पर 20 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया है। यह जुर्माना उदयपुर हवाईअड्डे में मानक उपकरण प्रस्थान (एसआईडी) और उपकरण उड़ान प्रक्रिया (आईएफपी) के कार्यान्वयन के उल्लंघन से संबंधित है।

एसआईडी, पूर्व-निर्धारित हवाई मार्ग है, जो विमान को हवाईअड्डे से प्रस्थान के बाद पास के हवाई मार्गों पर ले जाता है। वहीं, आईएफपी पूर्वनिर्धारित अभ्यास है, जिनका इस्तमाल पायलट सुरक्षित व कुशल संचालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए करते हैं, खासकर जब दृश्यता कम हो। इंडिगो की मूल कंपनी इंटरग्लोब एविएशन ने बीएसई को बताया, इससे कंपनी की वित्तीय स्थिति, परिचालन या अन्य गतिविधियों पर असर नहीं पड़ा है। व्यूरो

## SpiceJet to rejig liabilities, expand fleet with fresh leases

**POSITIVE OUTLOOK.** The airline expects growth in traffic in the coming months

Our Bureau  
Mumbai

SpiceJet aims to strengthen its balance-sheet with restructuring of liabilities in the second half of FY26, the airline said in its latest investor presentation.

This builds on positive momentum of the past few months with settlement of dues, improvement in credit rating and signing of fresh aircraft leases that will double its operating fleet in the winter schedule. Apart from bringing revenue growth, higher capacity and better aircraft utilisation expected to materially improve unit costs and lift overall profitability, the airline said.

**SIGNIFICANT LIABILITY**  
“Liability restructuring remains an ongoing process and significant liability is expected to be restructured in Q3 and Q4, thereby strengthening the balance sheet,” it added.

The airline’s net loss



**FLEET REVIVAL.** Last week SpiceJet Chairman Ajay Singh said that investments in fleet revival will start yielding results from the third quarter onwards

widened 42 per cent to ₹635 crore in Q2FY26 on a year-on-year basis due to adverse forex impact. Revenue from operations fell 14 per cent during the same period. Costs related to aircraft grounding, rupee depreciation and Pakistan airspace closure impacted the company results in second quarter, it said.

The airline’s operating fleet too remained flat on a year-on-year basis with 19 active aircraft in September quarter. As such its domestic market share dipped to 1.9 per cent in September from 3.2 per cent in January. The airline is expecting growth in traffic in the coming months.

Last week SpiceJet Chairman Ajay Singh said that in-

vestments in fleet revival will start yielding results from the third quarter onwards. “With aircraft additions already underway and our network expanding rapidly, SpiceJet is now on a clear trajectory towards stronger operational and positive financial performance in the second half of the year,” he said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## MoCA proposes ₹30,000-crore push to scale up UDAN scheme

**NEW FLIGHT PATH.** Plan earmarks more funds for new airports and higher VGF

**Rohit Vaid**  
New Delhi

The outlay for the modified UDAN (*Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik*) regional air connectivity scheme has been proposed at ₹30,000 crore, industry sources told *businessline*.

The proposal, mooted by Ministry of Civil Aviation, is intended to continue the scheme beyond April 2027 through an expanded UDAN framework.

On Monday, the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) of the Ministry of Finance met to review the proposal, the sources added, noting that the Committee is expected to take "a call on it soon". The final policy draft would then go to the Union Cabinet for approval.

Of the proposed outlay of ₹30,000 crore, the sources cited that ₹18,000 crore is intended for new airport development, and the remaining ₹12,000 crore for viability gap funding (VGF).

The scheme incentivises the creation of new airports as well as refurbishment and



**SKYLINE SHIFT.** The new version aims to connect 120 additional destinations SHANKAR KUMAR

expansion of existing facilities. Besides, airlines are to be supported to connect underserved regions by offering them VGF and a host of concessions provided by airport operators, the Central, and State governments.

### REVISED SCHEME

Sources added that the revised scheme or the expanded framework is expected to address earlier challenges and attract more private participation while enhancing air access to remote areas.

The original version of UDAN was launched in October 2016 with an initial tenure of 10 years under the National Civil Aviation Policy. The first UDAN scheme was provided with a support of over ₹8,000 crore. However,

the scheme still faces challenges with 649 of the 915 valid routes having been operationalised under the scheme. These routes have connected 92 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes across the country. A number of these airports remained unserved.

The Centre has accordingly devised the next tranche of the scheme. The proposal for the modified scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26.

The new version aims to connect 120 additional destinations and enable the travel of four crore passengers over the next decade.

In addition, the scheme will support helipads and smaller airports in hilly areas

as well as aspirational and North-Eastern districts.

Earlier this year, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu told *businessline* that the modified UDAN scheme is a "major move on the part of the Centre to give a continued boost to the civil aviation sector in the country."

Additionally, he had said that the extension proposal, as put forward by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, was based on an assessment of the need for continued support to operationalise and build more airports, water aerodromes, and helipads.

### INVESTMENTS

Official figures from last month showed that the Centre has disbursed more than ₹4,300 crore as VGF along with an investment of ₹4,638 crore in airport development under regional air connectivity scheme.

Under the scheme, 649 routes have been operationalised connecting 93 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes, facilitating over 1.56 crore passengers through 3.23 lakh flights.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## Domestic aviation industry's loss may nearly double this fiscal: ICRA

**Press Trust of India**  
Mumbai

Domestic aviation industry's net losses are projected to nearly double to ₹9,500-10,500 crore in the current fiscal ending March next year, mainly impacted by moderating passenger growth and higher costs due to aircraft deliveries, a report said on Tuesday.

While maintaining a stable outlook and projecting 4-6 per cent domestic passenger traffic growth in FY26, rating agency ICRA said the airline industry's financial performance is expected

to remain under pressure. "The deterioration is linked to moderating passenger growth, coupled with higher deliveries of aircraft, which increase capital and operational expenses. ICRA forecasts the industry's interest coverage ratio to range between 1.5 and 1.7 times for FY26," it said.

### LOSSES LOWER

The agency also said the expected losses are significantly lower than ₹21,600 crore and ₹17,900 crore reported in FY22 and FY23, respectively. The report said growth prospects for the current fiscal year are ex-

pected to remain moderate due to cross-border tensions, global disruptions, travel hesitancy post the June 2025 aircraft tragedy and recent disruptions related to air traffic control operations.

In October, domestic air passenger traffic is estimated to have reached 1.43 crore, a year-on-year growth of 4.5 per cent and a sequential increase of 12.9 per cent from September. "This momentum in travel demand was supported by an expansion in capacity, with domestic departures reaching about 99,816 during October," the report said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

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## IndiaOne Air to buy up to 10 Twin Otter 300-G aircraft

### Our Bureau

Mumbai

Regional carrier IndiaOne Air has signed a letter of intent with aircraft manufacturer De Havilland Canada to acquire up to 10 Twin Otter Series 300-G aircraft. The announcement was made on Tuesday at the Dubai air show.

IndiaOne Air operates four Cessna Grand Caravan aircraft and links tier-II and



-III cities in the eastern India under the Udan scheme for regional connectivity.

The Twin Otter 300-G is the latest variant, offering

improved operational efficiency, advanced avionics, enhanced passenger comfort, and the ability to take off and land from short runways.

### ALIGN WITH MISSION

"Its performance, reliability and versatility align perfectly with our mission of connecting the unconnected and bringing air travel accessibility to every corner of India," said Prem Kumar Garg, CEO, IndiaOne Air.

# आंध्र प्रदेश में बनेगा भारत का पहला 'गीगा' इलेक्ट्रिक एयर टैक्सी हब

शाइन जेकब  
चेन्नई, 18 नवंबर

आंध्र प्रदेश कर्नाटक की सरला एविएशन के साथ साझेदारी करेगा। इसके तहत अनंतपुर जिले में इलेक्ट्रिक एयर टैक्सी के विनिर्माण के लिए भारत का पहला 'गीगा-स्केल' क्षेत्र स्थापित किया जाएगा।

इस पर 1,300 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश होगा। इस बारे में से आज ऐलान किया गया। यह 'स्काई फैक्टरी' इलेक्ट्रिक वर्टिकल टेक-ऑफ एंड लैंडिंग (ईवीटीओएल) के मामले में दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी फैक्टरियों में से एक होगी। यह ऐसी विनिर्माण और असेंबली प्रक्रिया है, जिसके तहत ऐसे इलेक्ट्रिक विमान बनाए जाएंगे जो सीधे ऊपर की तरफ उड़ान भरने, मंडरा सकने और उतरने में सक्षम होते हैं। राज्य सरकार के बयान में कहा गया है कि इससे भारत 'अगली पीढ़ी के विमानन नक्शे' पर आ जाएगा। यह

दुनिया के सबसे महत्वाकांक्षी ईवीटीओएल कार्यक्रमों में से एक है।

सरला और आंध्र प्रदेश एयरपोर्ट डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड ने विशाखापत्तनम में आयोजित सीआईआई पार्टनरशिप समिट 2025 में सहमति पत्र (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए और पूरी तरह एकीकृत ईवीटीओएल क्षेत्र स्थापित करने पर सहमति जताई। इस सहमति से एक सप्ताह पहले आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री एन चंद्रबाबू नायडू ने शिखर सम्मेलन में कहा था कि राज्य को उम्मीद है कि यहां दो वर्षों के भीतर ड्रोन टैक्सियों का बनना शुरू हो जाएगा।

स्काई फैक्टरी के पहले चरण में 330 करोड़ रुपये की निवेश प्रतिबद्धता और अनंतपुर में कल्याणदुर्ग मंडल के तिम्मासमुद्रम गांव में 150 एकड़ क्षेत्र में फैले विनिर्माण और परीक्षण परिसर का विकास किया जाएगा। यह स्काई फैक्टरी नवीनतम उत्पादन लाइनों,

अनुसंधान एवं विकास (आरएंडडी) केंद्रों, संयुक्त प्रयोगशालाओं और 2 किमी लंबे समर्पित रनवे से सुसज्जित होगी। यहां ईवीटीओएल विमानों के निर्माण, परीक्षण, प्रमाणन और रखरखाव के लिए 'निर्बाध' मूल्य श्रृंखला बनाई जाएगी।

बयान में कहा गया है कि यह परियोजना 2027 तक 40 विशिष्ट नौकरियों और 140 अप्रत्यक्ष नौकरियों सहित 'अधिक-वेतन वाले रोजगार' पैदा करेगी। दूसरे चरण में इसके 350 एकड़ के अतिरिक्त क्षेत्र में विस्तार की योजना है। पूरी तरह से चालू होने के बाद स्काई फैक्टरी में सालाना 1,000 विमानों को बनाने की क्षमता होगी। इनमें शून्य हाइड्रिड वीटीओएल जैसे प्रमुख प्लेटफॉर्म और स्वदेशी रूप से निर्मित इलेक्ट्रिकल हार्नेस सिस्टम, लैंडिंग-गियर असेंबली तथा आधुनिक संयुक्त संरचनाएं शामिल हैं।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## India to get its first 'giga-scale' electric air taxi hub in Andhra

Sky Factory will put the country on the 'map of next-generation aviation'

**SHINE JACOB**  
Chennai, 19 November

Andhra Pradesh will partner with Karnataka-based Sarla Aviation to set up India's first "giga-scale" cluster to manufacture electric air taxis in Anantapur district for an investment of ₹1,300 crore, it was announced on Tuesday.

The "Sky Factory" will be one of the world's largest for electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL), a manufacturing and assembly process to make electric aircraft that can take off, hover, and land vertically. It will put India on the "map of next-generation aviation" and marks one of the most ambitious eVTOL initiatives in the world, said a state government statement.

Sarla and the Andhra Pradesh Airport Development Corporation Ltd (APADCL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the CII Partnership Summit 2025 in Visakhapatnam, agreeing to set up a fully integrated eVTOL cluster. The agreement was signed a week after Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu



The 'Sky Factory' marks one of the most ambitious eVTOL initiatives in the world

Sarla and APADCL signed a MoU to set up a fully integrated eVTOL cluster

told the summit that the state expects to manufacture drone taxis within two years.

The first phase of Sky Factory will see an investment commitment of ₹330 crore and the development of a 150-acre manufacturing and testing campus in Thimmamanduram village, Kalyandurg Mandal, Anantapur. Equipped with the latest production lines, research and

₹330 crore investment is expected in the first leg of the project

40 specialised jobs and 140 indirect jobs to be generated by the year 2027

development centres, composite labs and a dedicated 2 km runway, Sky Factory will create a "seamless" value chain for building, testing, certifying and maintaining eVTOL aircraft. The project will generate "high-value employment", including 40 specialised jobs and 140 indirect jobs by 2027, with plans to expand to an additional 350 acres in the second phase.

Once fully operational, Sky

Factory will have the capacity to annually manufacture up to 1,000 aircraft, including flagship platforms such as the Shunya hybrid VTOL, and a range of indigenously produced electrical harness systems, landing-gear assemblies and advanced composite structures.

"With the world's biggest Sky Factory, we want to make India the nerve centre for the next era of flight. This giga facility will shape the aircraft of the future, create thousands of high-skill jobs, and establish India as a global force in sustainable aerial mobility. Our goal is simple: let India design, build, test, fly and operate the world's most advanced eVTOL systems from one integrated campus," said Rakesh Gaonkar, cofounder and chief technology officer of Sarla Aviation.

Andhra Pradesh's government, through APADCL, will serve as a strategic facilitator to fast-track project implementation and ensure ecosystem readiness. "This collaboration represents a major stride in the state's mission to become India's capital of advanced manufacturing," said the statement.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

18 NOVEMBER 2025

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## **AI WILL RESUME DELHI-SHANGHAI FLIGHTS IN FEB.**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 17

Air India on Monday announced resumption of its direct flights between Delhi and Shanghai from February 1, 2026, marking the resumption of the airline's direct services to mainland China after nearly six years. The airline also plans to introduce non-stop services between Mumbai and Shanghai next year subject to regulatory approvals.

The reinstatement of services to Shanghai follows recent India-China diplomatic agreements. The now Tata Group-owned airline had stopped services to Shanghai in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic in early 2020 and remained suspended in view of the eastern Ladakh border row. At that time, Air India was owned by the government.

Air India will operate four times a week between Delhi and Shanghai using its twin-aisle Boeing 787-8 aircraft, featuring 18 flat beds in Business Class and 238 spacious seats in Economy Class.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## उड़ान ड्यूटी मानदंडों का कार्यान्वयन न होने पर हाई कोर्ट पहुंचा एफआइपी

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: उड़ान ड्यूटी मानदंडों का कार्यान्वयन न होने पर पायलटों के संगठन फेडरेशन आफ इंडियन पायलट्स (एफआइपी) ने दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट में अवमानना याचिका दायर की है। याचिका पर सुनवाई के दौरान कोर्ट ने फेडरेशन आफ इंडियन पायलट्स (एफआइपी) को यह दिखाने कहा कि नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) स्वीकृत नए उड़ान ड्यूटी समयसीमा मानदंडों को पूरी तरह से लागू न करने के न्यायिक आदेश की जानबूझकर अवज्ञा कर रहा है।

कोर्ट ने उक्त सवाल तब उठाया, जब एफआइपी के वकील ने दलील दी कि अप्रैल में हाई कोर्ट के समक्ष एक जुलाई से एक नवंबर तक चरणबद्ध तरीके से एफडीटीएल मानदंडों को लागू करने का वचन दिया था, लेकिन वह एयर इंडिया और स्पाइसजेट सहित कई एयरलाइनों को अनुमति नहीं दे रहा है। न्यायमूर्ति

अमित शर्मा की पीठ ने कहा कि पूछा कि जानबूझकर अवज्ञा या गैर-अनुपालन कहां हुआ है? कोर्ट ने एफआइपी को पिछले अदालती आदेश की प्रति पेश करने का समय देते हुए सुनवाई 15 दिसंबर के लिए सूचीबद्ध कर दिया।

डीजीसीए के वकील ने दलील दी कि उसके पास छूट देने का अधिकार है और ये छूट केवल छह माह के लिए है। इनकी समीक्षा की जा सकती है। डीजीसीए द्वारा एफडीटीएल ढांचे में कुछ ढील दिए जाने पर एफआइपी ने अवमानना याचिका दायर की गई थी। इसमें दो पायलट वाले बोइंग 787 ड्रीमलाइनर विमानों के संचालन के लिए अधिक रात्रि लैंडिंग और ड्यूटी समय विस्तार की अनुमति देना शामिल है। एफआइपी ने कहा है कि नियामक ने एयर इंडिया सहित विभिन्न एयरलाइनों को छूट देना शुरू कर दिया है, लेकिन सुरक्षा की तुलना में व्यावसायिक हितों को अधिक महत्व दिया जा रहा है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## डीजीसीए ने इंडिगो पर लगाया 20 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना

नई दिल्ली : विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए ने उदयपुर हवाई अड्डे पर इंस्ट्रूमेंट फ्लाइट प्रक्रिया से संबंधित उल्लंघन के लिए इंडिगो पर 20 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया है। इंडिगो की मूल कंपनी इंटरग्लोब एविएशन ने मंगलवार को बीएसई को जुर्माने की जानकारी देते हुए कहा कि कंपनी की वित्तीय स्थिति, परिचालन या अन्य गतिविधियों पर कोई महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा है। कंपनी ने एक फाइलिंग में कहा कि यह जुर्माना उदयपुर हवाई अड्डे के लिए कंपनी द्वारा तैयार किए गए मानक उपकरण प्रस्थान (एसआइडी) उपकरण उड़ान प्रक्रिया (आइएफपी) के कार्यान्वयन से संबंधित है। इंडिगो को नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) से 17 नवंबर को यह सूचना मिली है। (प्रेट्र)



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## Domestic air passenger traffic likely grew 4.5% in Oct: Icra

NITIN KUMAR  
New Delhi, November 18

**DOMESTIC AIR PASSENGER** traffic was estimated at 14.28 million in October 2025, marking a 4.5% year-on-year (y-o-y) increase over 13.6 million in October 2024, and a 12.9% rise month-on-month from September 2025, according to Icra. The data reflect steady demand recovery and a resilient aviation market despite headwinds including operational disruptions and global trade concerns.

Domestic capacity deployment rose 1.7% y-o-y and 10.8% sequentially during the month, supported by the return of grounded aircraft and improved fleet utilisation.

The average passenger load factor (PLF) stood at 84.7%, higher than 82.4% in October 2024, signalling sustained demand momentum.

For the first seven months of FY26, domestic air passenger traffic was 94.45 million, reflecting a y-o-y growth of 1.6%. In the same period in FY25, the domestic air passenger traffic was around 1,653.8 lakh, a YoY growth of 7.6%. This was in line with ICRA's estimates of 7-10% y-o-y growth for FY25, it said.

Icra expects the industry to maintain a Stable outlook in FY26, with domestic traffic growth projected at 4-6% and international traffic growth at 13-15%. While travel demand remains healthy, the agency notes that cross-border tensions, Air Traffic Control (ATC) disruptions, and a temporary slowdown in business travel sentiment could temper growth in the near term.



## CMIA seeks roads, air links



### FPJ News Network

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

A delegation of the Chamber of Marathwada Agriculture and Industries (CMIA), including president Utsav Machhar and honorary secretary Mihir Saundalgekar, met Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday and discussed various problems faced by industries. The delegation demanded better roads, network service, air connectivity to domestic destinations, industrial facilities and essential amenities.

The condition of roads in the industrial areas and on the Bidkin-Chitegaon stretch is very poor and requires immediate repairs. A demand was made to undertake the work without delay. The Auric (Bidkin and Shendra) area frequently faces mobile network problems, and the delegation said towers must be erected immediately.

Other demands included repairing the Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar-Pune Highway, providing air connectivity from the city to more domestic destinations

### Marathwada industry body urges CM to fix roads, improve connectivity and support key projects

and starting an air cargo service. CMIA also sought 10 acres of land for establishing a skill development centre and another 10 acres for attracting IT projects with plug-and-play facilities. A demand was also made to expedite works on the high joining Auric-Bidkin-Shendra and retain the tariff classification of the hotel and hospitality sector.

Fadnavis reacted positively to the demands and assured completion of road works in Chitegaon-Bidkin, Wadgaon Kolhati, Sajapur and Karodi. He also assured immediate action on other points discussed for the district's industrial development. OBC Welfare Minister Atul Save, Rajya Sabha MP Bhagwat Karad and others were present.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

18 NOVEMBER 2025

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## **Air India to resume flights to China**

Air India on Monday said it will resume New Delhi-China flights starting February 2026, nearly six years after suspension, as recent diplomatic steps are seen as cautiously reopening bilateral links. The carrier is also planning to launch a Mumbai-Shanghai route later next year, subject to regulatory approvals. The reinstatement of Air India's services to Shanghai follows recent India-China diplomatic agreements that restored the air links paused in early 2020.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

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## इंडिगो पर 20 लाख का जुर्माना लगाया

नई दिल्ली। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने उदयपुर हवाई अड्डे पर इंस्ट्रूमेंट फ्लाइट प्रक्रिया (आईएफपी) के उल्लंघन को लेकर इंडिगो पर 20 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया है। इंडिगो की मूल कंपनी इंटरग्लोब एविएशन ने मंगलवार को बीएसई को जुर्माने की जानकारी दी है। इंस्ट्रूमेंट फ्लाइट प्रक्रिया (आईएफपी) में विस्तृत नियम और निर्देश होते हैं, जिनका उपयोग खराब मौसम या कम दृश्यता की स्थिति में उड़ान भर के लिए होता है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

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## लखनऊ, कानपुर की उड़ानें जल्द शुरू होंगी

ट्रांस हिंडन। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से जल्द ही प्रदेश की राजधानी लखनऊ के साथ प्रयागराज और कानपुर की उड़ान शुरू हो सकती है। इसके लिए एयरलाइंस कंपनियों ने एयरपोर्ट प्राधिकरण से संपर्क किया है। सूत्रों की माने तो स्टार एयर कंपनी ने ने अपना प्रस्ताव भी दिया है, जिसमें 54 सीटर विमान की सेवा शुरू करने की बात कही है। सांसद अतुल गर्ग कई बार लखनऊ और प्रयागराज की उड़ान शुरू करने के लिए अधिकारी व नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री से मुलाकात कर चुके हैं।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

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## इंडिगो ने मैनेचेस्टर के लिए सीधी उड़ानें शुरू कीं

नई दिल्ली। इंडिगो ने दिल्ली और मैनेचेस्टर के बीच सीधी उड़ानें शुरू की हैं। इस रूट पर 15 नवंबर से सेवा शुरू हो गई है। इससे पहले एयरलाइन ने मुंबई और मैनेचेस्टर के बीच लंबी दूरी की पहली सेवा शुरू की थी। इसके सफल संचालन के बाद अब एयरलाइन ने 15 नवंबर से दिल्ली-मैनेचेस्टर के बीच भी सेवा शुरू कर दी है। इस रूट पर सप्ताह में पांच उड़ानें संचालित होंगी।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## Saudi to get a new budget carrier

**Jagriti Chandra**

DUBAI

The aviation world's eyes are trained on Saudi Arabia which has made air travel and tourism the key pillars of its economic transformation under Vision 2030, and on Tuesday its aviation regulator announced plans for yet another airline.

Saudi Arabia's aviation safety watchdog General Authority of Civil Aviation's executive vice-president Ali Rajab said it would bring out a tender for a budget carrier based in



The Kingdom plans to connect with 250 destinations.

Medina "in a few months".

He was addressing a conference at Dubai Airshow 2025. The Kingdom has already launched a

new flagship carrier in Riyadh Air, which commenced its first flight with daily service between Riyadh and London last month. In July, GACA announced Air Arabia will launch a low cost airline based in Dammam with a fleet of 45 planes to be ready by 2030.

### 'Unmatched' change

"The transformation taking place in Saudi Arabia's aviation sector is unmatched," said Rajab as he enumerated plans to connect the Kingdom with 250

destinations, triple the number of passengers and establish it as a cargo and logistic hub.

To achieve these goals Saudi Arabia will enable more than \$100 billion public and private investments. Various airlines of Saudi Arabia have more than 500 aircraft on order. The plans reflected "the impressive growth of low cost carrier segment to meet Saudi market demand," said Rajab.

*(The journalist is in Dubai on the invitation of fly-dubai)*



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

[ FDTL NORMS ROW ]

## 'Not convinced': HC on DGCA contempt action

Shruti Kakkar

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi high court on Tuesday said that it was not prima facie convinced to initiate contempt proceedings against the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for granting exemptions to certain airline operators from implementing the new Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms.

A bench of justice Amit Sharma expressed its reluctance while considering a petition filed by the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP), seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against the DGCA for allegedly failing to comply with the undertakings given to the court in February and April.

In February, the DGCA had told the HC that the new FDTL norms would be rolled out in two phases. Of the 22 proposed

clauses, 15 were scheduled to take effect from July 1. The remaining clauses were to be implemented from November 1.

FIP's lawyer argued that the DGCA was granting exemptions to several airline operators, including Air India and SpiceJet, from the norms that were implemented from November 1.

Defending the relaxation, DGCA's lawyer Anjana Gosain said the exemptions were temporary, limited to six months until March and subject to review. She added that the regulator was empowered to grant such concessions.

Considering the contention, the court remarked that the DGCA's actions of granting exemptions could form the basis of a separate challenge, but not necessarily contempt. Accordingly, the court thus fixed December 15 as the next date of hearing.

LOKSATYA

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

उपलब्धि

2 साल में पहली झेन टैक्सी शुरू होगी, सरला एविएशन 1300 करोड़ निवेश करेगी

## भारत का पहला इलेक्ट्रिक-एयर-टैक्सी हब आंध्र प्रदेश में बनेगा

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्या

भारत का पहला गीगास्केल इलेक्ट्रिक एयर टैक्सी हब आंध्र प्रदेश में बनेगा। इसके लिए आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार ने सरला एविएशन के साथ एक MoU साइन किया है। राज्य में eVTOL (इलेक्ट्रिक वर्टिकल टेक ऑफ एंड लैंडिंग) मैन्युफैक्चरिंग प्लांट सेटअप किया जाएगा। ये स्काई फैक्ट्री नाम का प्रोजेक्ट अनंतपुर जिले में लगेगा। जहां इलेक्ट्रिक एयर टैक्सी जैसे एयरक्राफ्ट बनेंगे। कंपनी ने पहले फेज में 330 करोड़ रुपए का निवेश करने का प्लान बनाया है। वहीं कंपनी 2029 तक कॉमर्शियल ऑपरेशंस शुरू कर देगी। ये कदम भारत को ग्रीन मोबिलिटी में आगे ले जाएगा।

150 एकड़ कैम्पस और 1000 एयरक्राफ्ट की कैपेसिटी

ये स्काई फैक्ट्री थिम्मासमदुरम में कल्याणदुर्ग मंडल के पास बनेगी, जो 150 एकड़ में फैली होगी। यहां



प्रोडक्शन लाइन्स, R&D सेंटर्स, कंपोजिट लैक्स और 2 किलोमीटर का रनवे होगा। जहां DGCA के सर्टिफिकेशन के साथ टेस्टिंग होगी। पहले फेज में 330 करोड़ रुपए लगेगे और दूसरे फेज में 350 एकड़ और बढ़ाकर कुल 1300 करोड़ रुपए का निवेश किया जाएगा। फैसिलिटी में सरला के फ्लैगशिप शून्य हाइब्रिड VTOL एयरक्राफ्ट के साथ-साथ इलेक्ट्रिकल हार्नेस

सिस्टम्स, लैंडिंग गियर और एडवांस्ड कंपोजिट स्ट्रक्चर्स बनेंगे। पूरी तरह चलने पर ये हब सालाना 1000 नेक्स्ट-जेन एयरक्राफ्ट प्रोड्यूस कर सकेगा। ये मॉडल कैलिफोर्निया और म्यूनिक के ग्लोबल हब्स पर बेस्ट है, जो इंटीग्रेटेड eVTOL क्लस्टर बनेगा। आंध्र प्रदेश एयरपोर्ट डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (APADCL) प्रोजेक्ट को फास्ट-ट्रैक करेगी।

2023 हुई सरला एविएशन की शुरुआत

सरला एविएशन 2023 में कर्नाटक में शुरू हुई कंपनी है, जिसके फाउंडर्स ग्लोबल eVTOL इंडस्ट्री के अनुभवी लोग हैं। प्राइवेट इक्विटी फंड एक्सल ने इसे बैंकिंग दी है। कंपनी सिक्स-सीटर इलेक्ट्रिक फ्लाईंग टैक्सी डिजाइन कर रही है, जो भारत के बड़े शहरों में सफर का टाइम कम करेगी। eVTOL का मतलब है इलेक्ट्रिक वर्टिकल टेक-ऑफ एंड लैंडिंग एयरक्राफ्ट, जो बैटरी से चलते हैं। ये वर्टिकल उड़ान, उतरना और होवरिंग कर सकते हैं, जो ट्रेडिशनल प्लेन्स से अलग हैं। भारत में ये टेक्नोलॉजी नई है, लेकिन ग्रीन मोबिलिटी के लिए गेम-चेंजर साबित हो सकती है। सरला का टारगेट 2029 तक कॉमर्शियल फ्लाइट्स शुरू करना है और ये हब इंडियन डेवलपमेंट को बूस्ट देगा। दुनिया में eVTOL मार्केट तेजी से बढ़ रहा है और भारत इसमें ग्लोबल प्लेयर बन सकता है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

18 NOVEMBER 2025

## SC seeks reply from Centre, others on plea over airfare fluctuations

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea seeking binding regulatory guidelines to control the "unpredictable fluctuations" in airfare and ancillary charges imposed by private airlines in India.

The apex court agreed to hear the petition filed by social activist S Laxminarayanan, who has sought to establish a robust, independent regulator that ensures transparency and passenger protection across the civil aviation sector.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notices to the Centre, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India seeking their responses on the plea and posted the matter for hearing after four weeks.

Senior advocate Ravindra Srivastava and advocates Charu Mathur and Abhinav Verma appeared for the petitioner in the matter.

The plea claimed that all private airlines have, without any credible justification, reduced the free check-in baggage allowance for economy class passengers from 25 kg to 15 kg, "thereby converting what was earlier part of the ticketed service into a new revenue stream".

It said the "new policy of permitting only a single piece for check-in and the absence of any rebate, compensation or benefit to passengers who do not avail themselves of check-



**A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notices to the Centre, the DGCA and the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India**

in baggage demonstrates the arbitrary and discriminatory nature of the measure".

It claimed that currently, no authority has the power to review or cap airfares or ancillary fees, allowing airlines to exploit consumers through hidden charges and unpredictable pricing.

The plea said the "unregulated, opaque and exploitative conduct of airlines manifesting in arbitrary fare hikes, unilateral reduction of services, absence of on-ground grievance redressal, and unjustified dynamic pricing algorithms directly infringes upon citizens' fundamental rights to equality, freedom of movement, and life with dignity".

It said the absence of regulatory safeguards results in arbitrary fare hikes, especially during festivals or weather dis-

ruptions, which disproportionately harm poor and last-minute travellers.

The plea said the wealthier few can plan and book in advance, while economically weaker citizens are forced to buy tickets at the peak of surge pricing.

"This inequality in access and opportunity strikes at the heart of Article 14 and Article 21," it said.

While Article 14 of the Constitution deals with equality before law, Article 21 pertains to the protection of life and personal liberty.

The plea said in a Constitutional Republic governed by the rule of law, the State cannot remain a mute spectator to this ongoing violation of rights.

"The State has a positive obligation under Article 21 to ensure that essential services like air travel remain fair, affordable, transparent, and uninterrupted," it said.

The plea said inaction by the State in regulating fare algorithms, cancellation policies, service continuity, and grievance mechanisms constitutes a dereliction of its constitutional duty and calls for urgent judicial intervention.

It said there is no rule to stop airlines from increasing prices based on demand, and allowing them such freedom under essential services is unjustifiable.

It also said the right to dignity includes access to essential services such as emergency transport on fair and non-exploitative terms.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## Domestic aviation sector's loss likely to widen to ₹9,500-10,500 crore in current financial year

*In October, domestic air traffic is estimated at 1.43 crore passengers, up 4.5 per cent year-on-year and 12.9 per cent compared with September*

**MUMBAI:** The domestic aviation industry's net losses are expected to nearly double to Rs 9,500-10,500 crore in FY26, driven by slowing passenger growth and rising costs linked to new aircraft deliveries, according to a report by Ica released on Tuesday.

Despite maintaining a stable outlook and projecting 4-6 per cent domestic passenger traffic growth for FY26 the sector's financial performance will remain under pressure.

Ica estimates the industry's net loss to widen to Rs 95-105 billion in FY26 from around Rs 55 billion in FY25, as moderating demand and higher capital and operational expenses weigh on carriers. The industry's interest coverage ratio is



projected to remain between 1.5 and 1.7 times. Even with these pressures, the projected losses are far lower than the steep losses of Rs 21,600 crore and Rs 17,900 crore reported in FY22 and FY23.

Domestic passenger traffic grew 7.6 per cent in FY25, reaching 16.53 crore trav-

ellers. However, growth this year is expected to stay subdued due to cross-border tensions, global disruptions, post-tragedy travel hesitancy following the June 2025 aircraft crash, and recent air traffic control-related disruptions.

In October, domestic air traffic is estimated at 1.43

crore passengers, up 4.5 per cent year-on-year and 12.9 per cent compared with September.

This growth was supported by increased capacity, with domestic departures rising to nearly 99,816 — a 10.8 per cent sequential rise & 1.7 per cent rise year-on-year.

The sector continues to face supply chain issues and widespread aircraft groundings due to engine failures. As of March 31, 2025, around 133 aircraft across major airlines were grounded, accounting for 15-17 per cent of the total fleet.

These challenges have pushed up costs through grounding expenses, higher lease rentals for substitute aircraft, and reduced fuel efficiency.

AGENCIES



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

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## DGCA slaps ₹20 lakh fine on IndiGo

**NEW DELHI:** Aviation regulator DGCA has imposed a penalty of Rs 20 lakh on IndiGo for violation related to instrument flight procedure at the Udaipur airport.

Informing the BSE about the fine, IndiGo's parent InterGlobe Aviation on Tuesday said there is no material impact on financials, operations or other activities of the company.

The penalty pertains to "implementation of Standard Instrument Departure (SID) Instrument Flight Procedure (IFP) formulated by the Company for Udaipur Airport, instead of being promulgated by AAI as mandated under Rule 133A of The Aircraft Rules, 1937, read along with DGCA CAR 9/EN para nos 2.2 and 2.34," it said in a filing. **PTI**



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

18 NOVEMBER 2025

## AI to resume Delhi-Shanghai flights from February 1, 2026

### MPOST BUREAU

**NEW DELHI:** Air India will resume flights between Delhi and Shanghai from February 1, 2026, marking the resumption of the airline's direct services to mainland China after nearly six years.

The now Tata Group-owned airline had stopped services to Shanghai in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic in early 2020, and at that time, the loss-making carrier was owned by the government.

While making the announcement on Monday about the resumption of Delhi-Shanghai (PVG) flights from February 1 next year, Air India also said it plans to introduce non-stop services between Mumbai and Shanghai in 2026,



subject to regulatory approvals.

Air India will operate flights four times a week between Delhi and Shanghai with its Boeing 787-8 aircraft that will have 18 business and 238 economy class seats. Shanghai will be the 48th international destination to be served by Air India group, the airline said in a release.

"The reinstatement of Air India's services to Shanghai follows recent India-China diplomatic agreements that restored the air links paused in early 2020. Air India first launched non-stop services **Continued on P8**

## Delhi-Shanghai

to mainland China in October 2000," the release said.

Direct flights between India and China resumed on October 26. The services were operational between the two countries till early 2020 before being suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic, and remained suspended in view of the eastern Ladakh border row.

After the recent diplomatic initiatives, IndiGo resumed flights between Kolkata and Guangzhou on October 26 and started

services from the national capital to Guangzhou on November 10. China Eastern Airlines, on November 9, commenced direct Delhi-Shanghai flights.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

18 NOVEMBER 2025

## Indian airlines expanding presence in China

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

INDIAN airlines are aggressively expanding their presence in the Chinese market after both countries approved the resumption of direct flights following a six-year hiatus.

IndiGo led the revival with the launch of direct services between Kolkata and Guangzhou in October. Now, Air India is set to restart non-stop flights between Delhi and Shanghai from February 1, 2026, marking its return to mainland China after nearly six years. Subject to the regu-



site regulatory approvals, Air India intends to introduce non-stop flights between Mumbai and Shanghai in 2026. From the Chinese side, local carrier China Eastern has started operating flights connecting India and mainland China.

Air India will operate flights four times a week between Delhi and Shanghai using its twin-aisle Boeing 787-8 aircraft, featuring 18 flat beds in Business Class and 238 seats in Economy Class. The reinstatement of Air India's services to Shanghai follows recent India-China diplomatic agreements that restored air links paused in early 2020. Air India first launched non-stop services to mainland China in October 2000.

Campbell Wilson, CEO & MD, Air India, said, "Resumption of Delhi-Shanghai services is more than a route launch. It is

a bridge between two great, ancient civilisations and modern economic powerhouses. At Air India, we are happy to reconnect one of the world's most vital air corridors, enabling travellers to pursue opportunities in business, trade, healthcare, education and culture with the comfort and warm Indian hospitality that define Air India."

Shanghai will be the Tata Group airline's 48th international destination. Data shows before the pandemic, there were 539 scheduled direct flights per month between India and China.

## SC seeks replies from Centre, others on plea to check airfares

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea seeking binding regulatory guidelines to control the "unpredictable fluctuations" in airfare and ancillary charges imposed by private airlines in India. The Supreme Court agreed to hear the petition filed by social activist S Laxminarayanan, who has sought to establish a robust, independent regulator that ensures transparency and passenger protection across the civil aviation sector.

A bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notices to the Centre, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India seeking their responses on the plea and posted the matter for hearing after four weeks. Senior advocate Ravindra Srivastava and advocates Charu Mathur and Abhinav Verma appeared for the petitioner in the matter.

The plea claimed that all private airlines have, without any credible justification, reduced the free check-in baggage allowance for economy class passengers from 25 kg to 15 kg, "thereby converting what was earlier part of the ticketed service into a new revenue stream". It said the "new policy of permitting only a single piece for check-in and the absence of any rebate, compensation or benefit to passengers who do not avail themselves of check-in baggage demonstrates the arbitrary and discriminatory nature of the measure". The petition said that currently, no authority has the power to review or cap airfares or ancillary fees, allowing airlines to exploit consumers through hidden charges and unpredictable pricing.

The plea said the "unregulated, opaque and exploitative conduct of airlines manifesting in arbitrary fare hikes, unilateral reduction of services, absence of on-ground grievance redressal and unjustified dynamic pricing algorithms directly infringes upon citizens' fundamental rights to equality, freedom of movement and life with dignity".

It said the absence of regulatory safeguards results in arbitrary fare hikes, especially during festivals or weather disruptions, which disproportionately harm poor and last-minute travellers. The plea said the wealthier few can plan and book in advance, while economically weaker citizens are forced to buy tickets at the peak of surge pricing. "This inequality in access and opportunity strikes at the heart of Article 14 and Article 21," it said.

While Article 14 of the Constitution deals with equality before law, Article 21 pertains to the protection of life and personal liberty. It said the State must

ensure fare regulation and implement price-capping mechanisms to protect this constitutional guarantee, while claiming that ticket prices for air travel can double or even triple within hours due to opaque, algorithm-driven dynamic pricing mechanisms adopted by the airlines.

The plea cited reports about fare surge during the Maha Kumbh pilgrimage or in the aftermath of a crisis such as the Pahalgam terror incident and sought a direction to the concerned authorities to forth with enforce the provisions of the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024, the Aircraft Rules, 1937 and the civil aviation requirements to ensure fair, transparent and non-exploitative domestic air passenger services.





# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## Domestic aviation industry's loss may widen to ₹9,500-₹10,500cr this fiscal: Report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ Mumbai

Domestic aviation industry's net losses are projected to nearly double to ₹9,500 to ₹10,500 crore in the current fiscal ending March next year, mainly impacted by moderating passenger growth and higher costs due to aircraft deliveries, a report said on Tuesday. While maintaining a stable outlook and projecting 4-6 per cent domestic passenger traffic growth in FY26, rating agency Icra said the airline industry's financial performance is expected to remain under pressure.

"The Indian aviation sector is projected to report a wider net loss of ₹95-105 billion in FY2026, compared to an estimated loss of ₹55 billion in FY2025. The deterioration is linked to moderating passenger growth, coupled with higher deliveries of aircraft, which increase capital and operational expenses.

Icra forecasts the industry's interest coverage ratio to range between 1.5 and 1.7



times for FY2026," it said in the report. The agency also said the expected losses are significantly lower than ₹21,600 crore and ₹17,900 crore reported in FY2022 and FY2023, respectively.

In the last financial year, the passenger traffic growth was 7.6 per cent, translating to total passenger volumes of 16.53 crore. However, the report said, growth prospects for the current fiscal year are expected to remain moderate due to cross-border tensions, global disruptions, travel hesitancy post the June

2025 aircraft tragedy and recent disruptions related to air traffic control operations.

In October, domestic air passenger traffic is estimated to have reached 1.43 crore, a year-on-year growth of 4.5 per cent and a sequential increase of 12.9 per cent from September.

"This momentum in travel demand was supported by an expansion in capacity, with domestic departures reaching approximately 99,816 during October, representing a sequential increase of 10.8 per cent and a 1.7 per

cent rise year-on-year," the report said.

Supply chain bottlenecks and engine failure-related aircraft groundings also continue to hit the industry.

"As of March 31, 2025, around 133 aircraft across select airlines were grounded, representing 15-17 per cent of the total industry fleet. These operational setbacks have led to increased costs, including grounding-related expenses, higher lease rentals for replacement aircraft and reduced fuel efficiency," the report said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

18 NOVEMBER 2025

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## AI China flights

### OUR BUREAU

New Delhi: Air India on Monday announced the resumption of its non-stop flights between Delhi and Shanghai from February 1 next year, marking the airline's return to mainland China after nearly six years.

The Tata Group-owned airline also announced its plan to introduce non-stop services between Mumbai and Shanghai in 2026, subject to regulatory approvals.

The reinstatement of Air India's services to Shanghai follows recent India-China diplomatic agreements that restored air links paused in early 2020.

In end-October, IndiGo restarted flight services between Calcutta and Guangzhou.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

19 NOVEMBER 2025

## Where Air Passengers Pay Extra

Japan, which has seen tourist numbers surge to new highs after the pandemic slump, last week faced calls from lawmakers to triple the departure tax from the current 280 yen (around \$1.8). Like Japan, many countries include the departure tax in the ticket price, leaving most passengers unaware they are paying it.



# TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025  
Average tax collected per departing airline passenger in select of countries in 2024



Airline taxes can account for up to 40% of a ticket fare, depending on route and class

Source: IATA, Statista



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

18 NOVEMBER 2025

# 46 flights at NMIA from Dec 25; 24/7 ops from Feb

## IndiGo, AI Express And Akasa Air Will Connect New Airport To 16 Domestic Destinations Initially

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** The Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) will open to passengers on Dec 25 with 23 daily airline departures, or 46 aircraft movements including arrival flights, said authorities on Monday. IndiGo will operate both inaugural services, with flight 6E460 from Bengaluru touching down at the new airport at 8am, followed by flight 6E882, scheduled to depart for Hyderabad at 8.40am.

IndiGo, Air India Express, and Akasa Air will connect NMIA to 16

domestic destinations: Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin, Coimbatore, Goa (Dabolim and Mopa), Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Kolkata, Mangaluru, Jammu, Vadodara and Aurangabad.

In its launch phase, the airport will operate for 12 hours daily, from 8am to 8pm, handling up to 10 aircraft movements an hour, which is a capacity to handle 120 flights a day. While airlines will operate 46 flights a day, it remains to be seen how many charter flights will operate out of the new airport. Mumbai's airport operates 24/7 and handles 960 to 1,000

flights a day, including both airline and charter flights.

From Feb 1, NMIA will shift to round-the-clock operations with 34 scheduled departures a day. Currently, preparations are underway for operational readiness. The airport is conducting Operational Readiness and Airport Transfer (ORAT) trials with airlines, security agencies and other partners. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was inducted on Oct 29, with deployment across key operational areas. NMIAL, the project's special purpose vehicle, is a public-private part-

nership in which Adani Airports Holdings Limited, through Mumbai International Airport Ltd, holds a 74% stake, while Cidco owns 26%.

Spread across 1,160 hectares, NMIA will have a runway and a terminal building in phase 1. Terminal 1 has a passenger handling capacity of 20 million passengers per annum. In comparison, Mumbai airport handles about 55 million passengers per annum with its two terminals and single operational runway. NMIA is designed for a final capacity of 90 million passengers a year, supported by two parallel runways, mo-

dern terminals and dedicated cargo facilities. The NMIA terminal building design, inspired by the lotus flower, is by the firm of the late Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid.

As for air traffic control, in the initial years, NMIA will operate with only tower controllers, managing ground movements and aircraft up to 2,000 ft after takeoff. Beyond that, pilots will switch to Mumbai airport's approach controller, which will also guide inbound flights until about 3,900ft, before handing them back to Navi Mumbai's tower.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

18 NOVEMBER 2025

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## SC seeks Centre's reply on petition to curb airfare surge

**TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

**NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17**

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) to respond to a petition seeking binding regulatory guidelines to control the "unpredictable fluctuations" in airfare and ancillary charges imposed by private airlines in the country.

Issuing notices to the respondents, a Bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta asked them to file their replies to activist S Laxminarayanan's petition that sought to establish a robust, independent regulator that ensures transparency and passenger protection across the civil aviation sector and posted the matter for hearing after four weeks.