



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

22 JULY 2026

AAI FLOATS ₹28.42 CRORE AIRSIDE INFRA TENDER FOR BIRPUR AIRPORT

Ruchir Kumar

ruchirkumar@hindustantimes.com

PATNA : The Airports Authority of India (AAI) on Tuesday issued a ₹28.42-crore tender for the construction of a runway, taxiway, apron and other airside infrastructure to enable operations of Code-2B category aircraft, having a seating capacity of up to 20 passengers, at Birpur airport in Supaul district.

The tender marks another key milestone in the airport's revival under the Centre's Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN, aimed at improving air connectivity in underserved regions. The last date of bid submission is August 13 and bids will open on August 20, said Nilesh Ramchandra Deore, secretary in civil aviation department.

Earlier, on March 10, AAI floated a separate ₹36.38-crore tender for the construction of the airport's landside infrastructure. The contract has already been awarded.



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THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

India may allow airport operators to own airlines

New Delhi, July 22: India is considering a policy change that would allow airport operators to own airlines, potentially clearing the way for the Adani Group and GMR Airports to launch their own carriers as the government seeks to increase competition in the domestic aviation market, people familiar with the matter said.

Current rules bar operators of airports in Delhi and Mumbai from owning more than 10 per cent in any airline, the people said. Shares of IndiGo, India's largest airline, fell as much as 3.7 per cent and were headed for their biggest decline in two weeks after the report.

The deliberations are underway within the ministry of civil aviation. Any relaxation is expected to require clearance from the law ministry and approval from the Union Cabinet, the people said.



A relaxation of the ownership restrictions would allow the Adani Group, whose unit operates Mumbai airport and seven others, and GMR Airports, which manages New Delhi airport and four other facilities in India, to own airlines. The move aims to broaden competition in a market where IndiGo and Air India control nearly 90 per cent of domestic capacity.

While the move could ease the concentration held by the two largest carriers, it could also

raise concerns over airport operators potentially allocating prime slots to their own airlines.

The ministry of civil aviation did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

The global shortage of aircraft remains a major constraint for new entrants. Delivery delays at Airbus and Boeing have slowed expansion plans worldwide, with pandemic-era supply chain disruptions continuing to limit aircraft availability.

Any move in this direction would reflect a broader policy decision, said Kapil Kaul, director and CEO of CAPA India.

"Any new airline may not have an impact in the short to medium term since Boeing and Airbus have a large backlog, plus continuing supply chain issues, it will take time for new start-ups," he said.

—Bloomberg



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

Thales sees airports, MRO driving growth in aviation

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, July 22

FRENCH AEROSPACE AND defence major Thales sees significant opportunities emerging across airport infrastructure, avionics, inflight entertainment, connected aircraft, air traffic management and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services as India's aviation ecosystem expands.

"As the aviation ecosystem continues to expand with a growing aircraft fleet, passenger volumes and MRO capabilities, we see substantial opportunities in airport modernisation, regional connectivity, air traffic management and the adoption of digital technologies that enhance safety, operational efficiency and the overall passenger experience," Ankur Kanaglekar, Vice President –

ANKUR KANAGLEKAR,
VICE PRESIDENT-INDIA, THALES

We see substantial opportunities in airport modernisation, regional connectivity, air traffic management and adoption of digital technologies

India, Thales, told *FE*. The company, which supplies avionics, airport technologies and digital solutions to airlines such as Air India and

IndiGo, said carrier requirements are evolving amid a shift towards integrated, technology-driven operations.

"We are seeing an evolution in how airline customers define requirements across the aircraft lifecycle. Airlines are moving from standalone onboard systems to integrated, data-driven experiences that improve operational performance, passenger satisfaction and long-term fleet value," Kanaglekar said. He added connected aircraft, cybersecurity, modular avionics, next-generation inflight entertainment and personalised digital passenger experiences are key priorities for airlines.





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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

Govt may let airport owners run airlines

Bloomberg

feedback@livemint.com

India is discussing a policy change that would allow airport operators to run airlines, according to people familiar with the matter, potentially clearing a path for the Adani Group and GMR Airports Ltd. to have their own carriers as the government seeks to boost domestic competition.

Current rules bar the operators of airports in Delhi and Mumbai from owning more

than 10% stake in any airline, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the discussions are private. Shares of IndiGo, India's largest airline, fell as much as 3.7% and were headed for their biggest drop in two weeks after the report.

The deliberations are underway within Ministry of Civil Aviation, and any waiver is expected to require legal clearance from the law ministry as well as approval of the federal Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the people said.

A relaxation of ownership restrictions would allow the Adani Group — whose unit operates the Mumbai airport and seven others — and GMR Airports, which manages the New Delhi airport and four additional facilities in India, to own carriers. The aim of the policy is to broaden competition in the market at a time when IndiGo and Air India control nearly 90% of domestic capacity.

The aviation ministry didn't immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

Centre considering to lift restrictions on airport ownership

The current rules cap airline ownership in airports and are inferred to similarly restrict airport operators from owning airlines

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

The Centre is considering removing restrictions on cross-ownership between airport operators and airlines, a move that could allow airport companies to own airlines and airline groups to acquire stakes in airports, according to people familiar with the matter.

“The Ministry of Civil Aviation is preparing a concept note for consultations with NITI Aayog and other government ministries on the proposed changes,” a person aware of the discussions said, adding that such a proposal would need the final nod from the Union Cabinet.

The proposal comes amid Air India’s interest in expanding into the airport business, one person aware of discussions added but senior Air India sources denied it. Air India is jointly owned by Tata Sons, which holds a 74.9% stake, and Singapore Airlines, which owns the remaining 25.1%.

Some existing airport concession agreements impose limits on airline ownership. For instance, the concession agreements for the Noida International Airport and Navi Mumbai International Airport projects provide that no sche-



Myriad of protocols: The ownership restrictions are even tighter for Delhi and Mumbai airports. REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO

duled airline, cargo airline or their associates may hold more than 26% of the subscribed and paid-up equity of the concessionaire.

The ownership restrictions are even tighter for Delhi and Mumbai airports. Under the original privatisation framework, the aggregate equity held by all Indian scheduled airlines was capped at 10%, while foreign airlines were not permitted to hold any equity in the airport operating companies.

These restrictions also operate in reverse, effectively preventing airport operators from owning or controlling airlines. The Adani Group, which operates eight airports and has businesses spanning ports, power and renewable energy, has so far maintained that it has no interest in entering the airline business amid growing discussions around the dominance of Air India and IndiGo, which have a duopoly

between them.

The discussions come at a time when the Ministry of Civil Aviation has submitted a proposal to the Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) for the third round of airport privatisation of 11 airports, which too will come before the Cabinet for its nod.

In 2019, the Tata Group, through a consortium with Singapore’s sovereign wealth fund GIC, had proposed to acquire a 55.2% stake in GMR Airports, but the deal did not materialise due to a conflict of interest issue involving Tatas’ stake in Vistara and AirAsia India.

Since then, Vistara has been merged into Air India, while AirAsia India has been integrated into Air India Express, both of which are part of the Tata Group’s airline portfolio.

Queries were sent to Tata Group and Air India, but there was no reply till the time of publication.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

India weighs policy tweak to let airport owners run airlines



India is discussing a policy change that would allow airport operators to run airlines, according to people familiar with the matter, potentially clearing a path for the Adani Group and GMR Airports Ltd to have their own carriers as the government seeks to boost domestic competition. Current rules bar these airport operators from owning more than 10% stake in any airline, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the discussions are private. **BLOOMBERG**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

Naidu invites PM to inaugurate Bhogapuram airport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Vijayawada

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Wednesday to extend an official invitation for the grand inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, scheduled for August 1, 2026.

Sharing details of the meeting on X, Naidu stated that the new airport, named after revolutionary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, stands as a tribute to his legacy while serving as a strategic growth engine for North Coastal Andhra.

During the interaction,



Naidu introduced Vizianagaram MP Kalisetti Appalanaidu to the Prime Minister, who warmly acknowledged the MP's practice of commuting to Parliament on a bicycle. Naidu and Modi also held discussions on key political and development issues concerning both the State and the nation.

Continuing his national capital visit, Naidu held separate meetings with Union Ministers CR Patil, Piyush Goyal, and Manohar Lal Khattar to discuss progress of the Polavaram project, Jal Jeevan Mission, and urban infrastructure initiatives.

Meanwhile at the Secretariat in Velagapudi, a high-level review meeting was held by State

ministers, senior officials, and district administrations from Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Alluri Sitarama Raju and Parvathipuram Manyam to coordinate arrangements for the August 1 event.

Ministers K Atchannaidu, P Narayana, Payyavula Keshav, Vangalapudi Anitha, Y Satya Kumar Yadav, BC Janardhan Reddy and Gottipati Ravi Kumar, alongside TDP State president Palla Srinivasa Rao and BJP State president PVN Madhav, discussed logistics, crowd management, transport, parking, and catering.

The meeting also planned cultural shows, including Araku tribal Dhimsa dance. Given that the inauguration falls on August 1, the Ministers directed authorities to advance



monthly pension disbursement and streamline security arrangements, keeping in mind the upcoming Simhachalam Giri Pradakshina on July 28.

In a late-night teleconference on Tuesday with officials and elected representatives, the Chief Minister emphasised that the Bhogapuram International Airport will serve as a global logistics hub and a game-changer for the state's economy.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

Govt may let airport owners run airlines

The govt has initiated talks on a policy change that would allow airport operators to own and run airlines, potentially clearing a path for the Adani Group and GMR Airports Ltd to have their own carriers. The deliberations are on in aviation ministry. Current rules bar the operators of airports in Delhi and Mumbai from owning more than 10% stake in any airline.

The aim of the policy is to broaden competition at a time when IndiGo and Air India control nearly 90% of domestic capacity. **P 15**

Airport owners to be allowed to run airlines?

Govt Discussing Change In Policy, Move May Help Operators Adanis, GMR Airports: Report

India is discussing a policy change that would allow airport operators to run airlines, according to people familiar with the matter, potentially clearing a path for the Adani Group and GMR Airports to have their own carriers as govt seeks to boost domestic competition.

Current rules bar the operators of airports in Delhi and Mumbai from owning more than 10% stake in any airline, said the people, who asked not to be identified because discussions are private. Shares of IndiGo, India's largest airline, fell as much as 3.7% and were headed for their biggest drop in two weeks after the report.

The deliberations are underway within the ministry of civil aviation, and any waiver is expected to require legal clearance from the law ministry as well as approval of the Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the people said.

A relaxation of ownership restrictions would allow the Adani Group — whose unit operates the Mumbai airport and seven others — and GMR

CONCERNS OVER DUOPOLY IN THE AIR

> The collapse of Jet Airways, Go Airlines, along with the merger of Vistara and AirAsia India under the Tata Group, has left IndiGo and Air India in a dominant position in the world's fourth-largest aviation market

> Newer players like Akasa Air along with struggling incumbents like SpiceJet and smaller regional carriers are operating on the margins

> Concerns over the duopoly intensified during IndiGo's operational crisis in Dec last year, when the airline cancelled thousands of flights mainly due to pilot shortages

> Limited number of airlines also threatens to constrain future aviation growth as India plans to double the number of airports to 350 by 2047



Airports, which manages the New Delhi airport and four additional facilities in India, to own carriers. The aim of the policy is to broaden competition in the market at a time when IndiGo and Air India control nearly 90% of domestic capacity.

While that could ease the near-duopoly the top two carriers hold over India's skies, it also raises the prospect of fresh imbalances, including airport operators possibly allocating prime slots to their own carriers.

The civil aviation mini-

stry didn't immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

While new entrants could theoretically ease that concentration, the global shortage of aircraft remains a major constraint. Delivery delays at Airbus and Boeing have considerably slowed expansion plans worldwide, with pandemic-era supply chain disruptions continuing to limit availability. Any move in this direction reflects a broader policy call, said Kapil Kaul, director and CEO at CAPA India. BLOOMBERG



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

INDIA REBUKES DGCA OVER HIRING CONFLICTS

New Delhi, July 22: India has reprimanded its aviation safety regulator for failing to guard against officials using their influence to help family members get jobs in the sector and for delays in disclosing such placements, government documents show.

India's Ministry of Civil Aviation has repeatedly challenged its safety body, the directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA), since mid-2025 over the handling of conflicts involving officials' relatives in airlines, including an instance that involved Air India, according to the documents.

The concerns come at a critical time for the DGCA while battling staffing shortages after a year of heightened scrutiny following an Air India Dreamliner crash, safety lapses at the airline and disruption at the country's largest carrier, IndiGo. — Reuters



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

दिल्ली-तेल अवीव की एयर इंडिया उड़ानें सितंबर तक निलंबित

यरूशलम। पश्चिम एशिया में तनाव और सुरक्षा चिंताओं के बीच एयर इंडिया ने बुधवार को कहा कि उसने 'तेल अवीव-दिल्ली' वायुमार्ग पर अपनी उड़ानों का निलंबन सितंबर के अंत तक बढ़ा दिया है। पश्चिम एशिया में सुरक्षा के मददेनजर एयर इंडिया गत कई माह से इस मार्ग पर उड़ान सेवाओं का निलंबन लगातार बढ़ाता रहा है। अमेरिका-ईरान में हालात बिगड़ने के बाद पिछले 10 दिनों में नई सुरक्षा चिंताओं के बीच यह घोषणा की गई है। एजेंसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

दिल्ली और तेल अवीव के बीच एयर इंडिया उड़ानें सितंबर तक निलंबित



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22 JULY 2026

Our Bureau
View Profile

In terms of operational performance, IndiGo recorded the highest on-time performance (OTP) among major domestic airlines at the country's 10 busiest airports during June at 89.4 per cent, followed by the Air India Group (85.9 per cent), Akasa Air (82.7 per cent), Alliance Air (74.7 per cent) and SpiceJet (33.5 per cent).



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

Government plans aviation reforms to spur new airlines

FLIGHT PLAN. New policy to review 0/20 rule, licensing norms, ownership structures

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Against the backdrop of an increasingly concentrated domestic aviation market, the Centre is preparing a comprehensive package of structural reforms aimed at lowering barriers to setting up new airlines, intensifying competition and attracting fresh investments across the aviation ecosystem.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation is reviewing key regulatory provisions governing the establishment and expansion of airlines, including the 0/20 rule, licensing norms, pilot availability and ownership structures, as part of a broader overhaul intended to simplify market entry while maintaining safety and regulatory oversight, sources aware of the deliberations said.

MORE COMPETITIVE

"The objective is to make aviation more competitive by reducing unnecessary regulatory barriers for setting up new airlines while maintain-



GROWTH PATH. The new aviation policy push seeks to unlock competition and investment in the sector

ing safety, security and financial discipline," sources told *businessline*.

The proposed reforms come at a time when India's aviation market has effectively become a two-player contest following the collapse or consolidation of several carriers over the past decade. Policymakers believe a review of the regulatory framework could facilitate the entry of new airlines and broaden private participation as passenger demand continues to grow.

The Ministry is reviewing ownership structures across different segments of the aviation ecosystem as policymakers explore ways to encourage wider private participation and investment.

At present, the regulatory framework creates a clear separation between airport and airline ownership. Consequently, airport operators, including private concessionaires such as Adani Airports and GMR Airports, are restricted from operating airlines under existing concession agreements, while airlines face limitations on participating in airport ownership and operations.

Sources said the Ministry is examining whether some of these restrictions could be eased to facilitate integrated aviation businesses while maintaining regulatory oversight.

Among other proposals under consideration is a review of operational and regu-

latory requirements that industry stakeholders have long argued increase the cost, time and complexity of launching scheduled airline operations. These include the 0/20 rule, under which an airline can commence international operations only after deploying at least 20 aircraft, or 20 per cent of its total fleet, whichever is higher, on domestic routes.

PILOT AVAILABILITY

The Ministry is also examining the existing airline licensing framework, minimum fleet deployment requirements, pilot availability and recruitment norms, and other operational provisions that influence market entry.

The review assumes significance as the government prepares to privatise another batch of airports and seeks to broaden private investment across the sector.

The reforms are expected to be implemented through amendments to existing rules, changes to DGCA regulations and, where necessary, Central policy.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

जयपुर-लखनऊ की नियमित फ्लाइट बंद, सिर्फ 4 दिन उड़ान

जयपुर | जयपुर से लखनऊ जाने वाले यात्रियों को अब सप्ताह के तीन दिन सीधी फ्लाइट नहीं मिलेगी। इंडिगो ने दोपहर में संचालित होने वाली जयपुर-लखनऊ फ्लाइट की प्रीक्वेसी घटा दी है। फ्लाइट 6ई-7482 अब सोमवार, बुधवार, शुक्रवार और रविवार को ही उड़ान भरेगी। यह फ्लाइट जयपुर से दोपहर करीब 2 बजे रवाना होती है। इससे पहले 1 जुलाई से जयपुर-लखनऊ रूट की सुबह की फ्लाइट बंद कर दी गई थी। ऐसे में मंगलवार, गुरुवार और शनिवार को जयपुर से लखनऊ के लिए इंडिगो की सीधी फ्लाइट उपलब्ध नहीं रहेगी। यात्रियों को कनेक्टिंग फ्लाइट या दूसरे साधनों का विकल्प देखना पड़ेगा। **कुल्लू की फ्लाइट भी अनियमित**; जयपुर-कुल्लू रूट पर अलायंस एयर की फ्लाइट नियमित नहीं चल रही है। डीजीसीए से फ्लाइट 9आई-805 और 9आई-806 को सप्ताह में 4 दिन संचालन की मंजूरी है। जयपुर से सुबह 9:20 बजे रवाना होती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

अकासा के नेटवर्क में अक्टूबर में शामिल होगा जयपुर

नई दिल्ली। नवोदित विमान सेवा कंपनी अकासा एयर अक्टूबर में राजस्थान की राजधानी और गुलाबी शहर जयपुर से उड़ानें शुरू करेगी। एयरलाइंस ने बुधवार को एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में बताया कि वह 11 अक्टूबर से जयपुर से मुंबई और बेंगलुरु के लिए दैनिक सीधी उड़ानें शुरू करेगी। उसका कहना है कि यह कदम प्रमुख पर्यटन, सांस्कृतिक और आर्थिक केंद्रों के बीच बेहतर हवाई संपर्क प्रदान करने की उसकी प्रतिबद्धता को और मजबूत करता है। यात्री अकासा एयर की वेबसाइट, एंज्रॉयड और आईओएस ऐप तथा कई प्रमुख ऑनलाइन ट्रेवल एजेंसियों के माध्यम से टिकट की बुकिंग करा सकते हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

कनाडा के लिए एअर इंडिया की नान स्टाप उड़ान फिर होगी शुरू

जगरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: एअर इंडिया एक अगस्त से नई दिल्ली और टोरंटो (कनाडा) के बीच बिना किसी फ्यूल स्टाप (ईंधन के लिए रुकने) के सीधी उड़ानें शुरू करने जा रही है। इसके लिए इस रूट पर एअर इंडिया अपने नए बोइंग 787-9 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान को तैनात कर रही है।

पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र के बंद होने से एअर इंडिया को उत्तर अमेरिका और यूरोप जाने वाली उड़ानों के लिए लंबे रास्तों का सहारा लेना पड़ रहा था, जिस कारण फ्यूल स्टाप होता था। वर्तमान में विमान (आस्ट्रेलिया) में फ्यूल स्टाप मिलाकर लगभग 20

घंटे लगते थे, जो घटकर 17 घंटे रह जाएंगे। एअर इंडिया के अनुसार एक अगस्त से दिल्ली-टोरंटो रूट पर उड़ानों की संख्या भी बढ़ाई जा रही है। अभी सप्ताह में पांच दिन चलने वाली इस उड़ान को बढ़ाकर रोजाना कर दिया जाएगा। टोरंटो से नई दिल्ली की वापसी की उड़ान पहले की तरह नान-स्टाप रहेगी, जिसमें लगभग 16 घंटे का समय लगेगा। एअर इंडिया के सीईओ और प्रबंध निदेशक कैपबेल विल्सन ने कहा कि हम अपनी प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों पर लगातार नए विमान और विश्वस्तरीय केबिन सुविधाएं उपलब्ध करा रहे हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

**एअर इंडिया ने तेल अवीव-
दिल्ली रूट पर सितंबर तक
उड़ानें निलंबित कीं**

यरुशलम: पश्चिम एशिया में सुरक्षा
घिंताओं को लेकर एअर इंडिया ने
बुधवार को कहा कि वह तेल अवीव-
दिल्ली रूट पर अपनी सेवा को सितंबर
के आखिर तक निलंबित कर रही है।

एयरलाइन इस इलाके में सुरक्षा
हालात को देखते हुए कई महीनों से
इस रूट पर अपनी सेवा को लगातार
निलंबित करती आ रही है। यह ताजा
घोषणा पिछले 10 दिनों में सुरक्षा को
लेकर बढ़ी घिंताओं के बीच आई है,
क्योंकि अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच
सैन्य कार्रवाई बढ़ गई है। (प्रेट्र)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

CAPITALISING ON TIE-UP WITH EMBRAER FOR PLANE MANUFACTURING

Adani Seeks Clearance to Own Airline

Asks govt to dilute clause that bars airport majors from holding 10%+ in carriers

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: Adani Group has approached the government, seeking dilution of a clause that currently prevents operators of the country's busiest airports of New Delhi and Mumbai from holding more than 10% stake in a schedu-

led airline, said government officials and company executives.

This would allow the energy-to-defence conglomerate to start an airline and expand its reach in aviation, where it has established a strong presence in pilot training, aircraft maintenance and repair, and ground handling, besides operating eight airports. Adani cur-

rently holds a 74% stake in Mumbai airport. Delhi airport is 74% owned by GMR Airports.

The ministry is seeking views from solicitor general Tushar Mehta on the legality of retrospectively amending the clause, included in the agreements when the two airports got privatised in 2006. Any such amendment will require cabinet approval.

Senior officials said the Centre may be keen on a well-funded airline operator to inject much-needed competition by breaking the duopoly of IndiGo and Air India, which together control around 90% of the domestic market.

Last December, Jeet Adani, son of group patriarch Gautam Adani, denied any interest in the airline business.

Strong Opposition from Rivals Likely

► From Page 1

Jeet Adani said it doesn't fit the company's capital discipline. The change in thinking is strongly linked to the group's plans to set up an aircraft manufacturing facility in partnership with Brazilian firm Embraer, said people.

Adani Group has failed to garner interest from existing airlines to buy Embraer planes and sees starting a carrier of its own as a way to make the project viable, the people said,

adding a manufacturing unit can only become commercially viable if it secures a sizeable order for the planes. "No concrete decisions have been taken but there is no doubt that there is synergy for the group to start an airline," said a senior Adani executive. "Suggestion to government was to have an enabling provision so that there are no restrictions." He, however, said there are no advanced discussions within the group to acquire an airline. Adani Group didn't respond to queries.

Cross-ownership Across World

US No ban; non-discriminatory airport access allowed and antitrust oversight

EU No ban; abuse of dominance and mergers regulated

UK Competition and economic regulation instead of ownership limits

AUSTRALIA Airline ownership capped at 5% for airport operators



Strong Opposition from Rivals Likely ►► 12

Centre Pulls Up DGCA over Lapses in Hiring Process

Reuters

New Delhi: India has reprimanded its aviation safety regulator for failing to guard against officials using their influence to help family members get jobs in the sector and for delays in disclosing such placements, government documents reviewed by Reuters show. India's Ministry of Civil Aviation has repeatedly challenged its safety body, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), since mid-2025 over the handling of conflicts involving officials' relatives in airlines, including an instance that involved Air India, according to the documents.



The concerns come at a critical time for the DGCA as it oversees one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets while battling staffing shortages after a year of heightened scrutiny following an Air India Dreamliner crash, safety lapses at the airline and disruption at the country's largest carrier, IndiGo.

The DGCA is also contending with a federal police investigation after one of its officers was accused of taking a bribe and is due within months to undergo a routine U.S. Federal Aviation Administration safety audit. A January DGCA document reviewed by Reuters summarised the ministry's concerns over the regulator's handling of conflicts of interest.

CROSS-HOLDING CAP SET TO EASE

Airline doors may open for Adani, GMR

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, July 22

THE GOVERNMENT IS considering one of the biggest policy changes in the civil aviation sector since the privatisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports, with a proposal to relax the cross-ownership restrictions that prevent airport operators from owning more than a 10% stake in an airline.

The move is a part of a wider strategy to encourage new entrants and reduce the dominance of IndiGo and Air India.

Officials familiar with the discussions said the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) is examining amendments to the Operation, Management and Development Agreement (OMDA) governing the two airports, which caps airport operators equity holdings in any airline.

The restriction was introduced when the airports were privatised in 2006 to prevent vertical integration between airports and airlines and avoid any potential conflict in allocation of airport infrastructure.

If the proposal is approved,

FLIGHT MODE

■ IndiGo, AI Group control nearly **90%** of the domestic capacity

■ IndiGo alone accounts for around **66%** of the domestic passenger market

■ The airline industry has shrunk over the past decade following the collapse of Jet Airways and Go First



Internationally, airport-airline cross ownership is uncommon

airport operators such as the Adani Group and GMR Airports could either launch airlines, acquire meaningful stakes in existing carriers or partner with foreign airlines looking to establish a larger presence in the domestic market.

Continued on Page 9

Airline doors may open for Adani, GMR

THE PROPOSAL IS part of a broader package of reforms under discussion, including simplification of licensing procedures by easing the process for obtaining the mandatory no objection certificate (NoC) from the ministry and the air operator permit from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, with the aim of reducing entry barriers for new airlines.

"India needs more airlines and more competition. The objective is to create an enabling environment for financially strong investors to enter the sector. Airport operators are among the stakeholders who could benefit if the cross-holding restrictions are revisited," a senior government official said, adding that the proposal remains at a preliminary stage and would require legal vetting and Cabinet approval.



The policy rethink comes as the government is getting increasingly concerned over the concentration in the aviation market. IndiGo alone now accounts for around 66% of the domestic passenger market, while Air India Group has emerged as the second dominant player following the merger of Vistara and AirAsia India. Together, the two groups

control nearly 90% of domestic capacity, leaving Akasa Air, SpiceJet and regional carriers with a relatively small share of the market.

Officials said the rationale behind the 2006 restriction has weakened over time because operational decisions such as slot allocation, route approvals and airport infrastructure planning are no longer determined solely by airport operators but are subject to regulatory oversight involving agencies including the DGCA and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). They believe adequate institutional safeguards now exist to prevent preferential treatment by airport operators towards their own airlines.

The government, however, sees the lack of financially strong airline promoters as a bigger challenge to sustaining

long-term growth. The airline industry has shrunk over the past decade following the collapse of Jet Airways and Go First and the consolidation of Vistara and AirAsia India into Air India. The limited number of carriers has also heightened concerns over market resilience, particularly after operational disruptions at IndiGo last year disrupted travel across the country.

Internationally, airport-airline cross ownership is uncommon. In the US, public ownership of major airports and federal rules effectively prevent airport revenues from being channelled into airline businesses. While such ownership structures are legally possible in parts of Europe, stringent competition regulations and antitrust scrutiny have largely discouraged integrated airport-airline models.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

Centre rebukes DGCA over conflict-of-interest lapses

ABHJITH GANAPAVARAM
New Delhi, July 22

THE GOVERNMENT HAS reprimanded its aviation safety regulator for failing to guard against officials using their influence to help family members get jobs in the sector and for delays in disclosing such placements, government documents reviewed by *Reuters* show.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has repeatedly challenged its safety body, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), since mid-2025 over the handling of conflicts involving officials' relatives in airlines, including an instance that involved Air India, according to the documents.

The concerns come at a critical time for the DGCA as it oversees one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets while battling staffing shortages after a year of heightened scrutiny following an Air India Dreamliner crash, safety lapses at the

CURBING INFLUENCE

■ MoCA has repeatedly challenged the DGCA since mid-2025 over handling of conflicts involving officials' relatives in airlines

■ The concerns come at a time for DGCA as it oversees one of the fastest-growing aviation markets



■ As of January 2026, 51 DGCA officials had disclosed 59 relatives working in the sector

airline and disruption at the country's largest carrier, IndiGo.

The DGCA is also contending with a police investigation after one of its officers was accused of taking a bribe and is due within months to undergo a routine US Federal Aviation Administration safety audit.

A January DGCA document reviewed by *Reuters* summarised the ministry's concerns over the regulator's handling of conflicts of interest.

"The DGCA has not been

able to effectively prevent or manage the possible influence exercised by its officials in the recruitment or placement of their relatives, family members, or dependents," it said. The documents did not indicate whether the ministry planned further action.

As of January 31 this year, 51 DGCA officials had disclosed 59 relatives working in the sector, up from 33 officials disclosing 41 relatives last year, one of the documents showed. **REUTERS**



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

22 JULY 2026

Domestic air traffic falls 12% to 1.35 cr in June

Domestic air traffic fell nearly 12% to 1.35 crore in June compared to 1.53 crore passengers flown by carriers in May, according to latest official data.

In comparison to 1.36 crore passengers recorded in June 2025, the decline was marginal last month. Generally, June, July, and August are lean periods for airlines in terms of traffic. IndiGo's market share climbed to 66.3% in June from 64.9% in May, while that of Air India Group decreased to 23.9% from 25.6% during the same period, data from the DGCA showed.

Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-June 2026 stood at 864.04 lakh as against 851.74 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year, registering an annual growth of 1.44% and a monthly growth of -1.03%, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation stated in its report for June.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

एअर इंडिया ने यरुशलम की उड़ानें रद्द कीं

यरुशलम। पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते तनाव और सुरक्षा संबंधी चिंताओं के बीच एअर इंडिया ने बुधवार को कहा कि उसने 'तेल अवीव-दिल्ली' वायुमार्ग पर अपनी उड़ानों का निलंबन सितंबर के अंत तक के लिए बढ़ा दिया है। अमेरिका और ईरान द्वारा सैन्य गतिविधियां तेज किए जाने के बाद पिछले 10 दिनों में उत्पन्न हुई नई सुरक्षा चिंताओं के बीच यह घोषणा की गई है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

Airline crew member sexually assaulted

The Hindu Bureau

HYDERABAD

A 23-year-old cab driver was arrested for sexually assaulting an IndiGo airline cabin crew member while she was travelling to the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad to report for duty.

The accused, identified as Prashant Kumar, was employed as a driver with the airline's cab service for staff. According to the police,

the incident occurred around 2 p.m. on July 20. The driver reportedly diverted the vehicle to a secluded area near an under-construction school on the outskirts of Shamshabad, where he sexually assaulted the woman. Hearing the woman's screams, workers at the nearby construction site rushed to her aid.

Based on her complaint, the police registered a case and arrested the accused on Tuesday.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

Airline cabin crew member raped in office cab in Hyderabad, driver held

**Nikhila Henry
& Sukalp Sharma**

Hyderabad, New Delhi, July 22

THE HYDERABAD Police have arrested the driver of a cab service for the alleged rape and assault of an IndiGo cabin crew member.

A local court remanded the 23-year-old accused, Errapogu Prashanth Kumar, in judi-

cial custody.

The alleged incident occurred at 2.40 pm on July 20, when the woman boarded her office cab to reach the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad, and start her shift. Instead of taking her to the airport, the accused allegedly took her to an isolated place and raped her.

IndiGo said in a statement it was "aware of the matter and

understand(s) that it is currently under investigation by the relevant law enforcement agencies". "We are fully cooperating with the authorities and remain committed to supporting them, as required. During this difficult time, we stand by our colleague and are extending our support to her and her family," the airline's spokesperson said.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Hyderabad rape

The woman was travelling a short distance from Shamshabad to the airport, police said. She lodged a complaint with the RGIA Police Outpost, which is right outside the sprawling airport premises, on the very same day. "She approached the police soon after the incident," RGIA Police Outpost Inspector B Kiran Kumar told *The Indian Express*. "The suspect also allegedly beat her up, so we have invoked sections for assault too."

The cab service was being run by a local company under the purview of the airline for which the woman worked. "We have asked the airline to check the safety of the operation of the cab services and the safety precautions that are in place for the transport of women workers," a police officer said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

दिल्ली-टोरंटो : एअर इंडिया की बगैर ठहराव वाली उड़ानें होंगी शुरू

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 22 जुलाई।

एअर इंडिया एक अगस्त से दिल्ली और टोरंटो के बीच बगैर किसी ठहराव वाली उड़ानें शुरू करेगी और इसके लिए नए बोइंग 787-9 ड्रीमलाइनर विमानों का इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा। एक साल से अधिक समय के बाद एअरलाइन इस मार्ग पर किसी ईंधन ठहराव के बगैर उड़ान सेवा को बहाल कर रही है। पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र 2025 में बंद होने की वजह से उसे उत्तर अमेरिका और यूरोप के लिए लंबा मार्ग अपनाना पड़ा था।

एअर इंडिया ने बुधवार को जारी बयान में कहा कि एक अगस्त से दिल्ली-टोरंटो के बीच दैनिक उड़ानें संचालित होंगी, जो अभी सप्ताह में पांच बार चलाई जा रही हैं। फिलहाल इस मार्ग पर उड़ानें बोइंग 777 विमानों के जरिए वियना में ईंधन भरने के ठहराव के साथ संचालित की जा रही हैं। एअरलाइन ने कहा कि ईंधन ठहराव हटने से दिल्ली-टोरंटो उड़ान का समय करीब तीन घंटे घटकर करीब 20 से 17 घंटे रह जाएगा। टोरंटो से दिल्ली की वापसी उड़ान पहले की तरह बगैर ठहराव रहेगी, जिसकी अवधि करीब 16 घंटे है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

अडानी को मिलेगी एयरलाइन शुरू करने की इजाजत इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया का दबदबा तोड़ने की तैयारी में सरकार

- एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर्स को एयरलाइन शुरू करने की अनुमति दे सकती है सरकार
- अडानी और जीएमआर का एयरलाइन सेक्टर में उतरने का रास्ता होगा साफ

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्ता। सरकार एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर्स को एयरलाइन शुरू करने की अनुमति दे सकती है। इससे अडानी ग्रुप और जीएमआर एयरपोर्ट्स के एयरलाइन सेक्टर में उतरने का रास्ता साफ हो सकता है। ब्लूमबर्ग की एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक इस बारे में पॉलिसी में बदलाव करने पर विचार कर रही है। एयरलाइन

सेक्टर में अभी इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया का दबदबा है जिसे सरकार तोड़ना चाहती है। इंडिगो की भारतीय बाजार में हिस्सेदारी 66.3 फीसदी पहुंच चुकी है। मौजूदा नियमों के तहत एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर किसी भी एयरलाइन में 10% से ज्यादा हिस्सेदारी नहीं रख सकते। लेकिन अब इसे बदला जा सकता है। सूत्रों का कहना है कि नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय में इस पर विचार-विमर्श चल रहा है। किसी भी छूट के लिए कानून मंत्रालय और कैबिनेट की मंजूरी की जरूरत होगी। ओनरशिप से जुड़ी पाबंदियों में ढील मिलने से अडानी ग्रुप और जीएमआर एयरपोर्ट्स को एयरलाइन का मालिक बनने की



इजाजत मिल जाएगी।

अडानी ग्रुप अभी मुंबई एयरपोर्ट और सात अन्य एयरपोर्ट चलाता है। इसी तरह जीएमआर एयरपोर्ट्स दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट और देश के चार अन्य एयरपोर्ट को मैनेज करती है।

इस पॉलिसी का मकसद बाजार में कॉम्पिटिशन बढ़ाना है। अभी देश के एविएशन मार्केट में इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया की हिस्सेदारी करीब 90% है। इससे दो बड़ी एयरलाइनों का दबदबा कम हो सकता है।

लेकिन नई तरह का असंतुलन पैदा होने की आशंका भी होती है। मसलन एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर अपनी एयरलाइनों को सबसे अच्छे स्लॉट दे सकते हैं। इस बारे में नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने टिप्पणी के लिए ईमेल से भेजे गए अनुरोध का तुरंत कोई जवाब नहीं दिया।

पिछले दशक में भारतीय एयरलाइंस की संख्या काफी कम हो गई है। जेट एयरवेज और गो एयरलाइंस के बंद होने से भारतीय एविएशन मार्केट में इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया का दबदबा हो गया है। आकासा एयर और स्पाइसजेट लिमिटेड संघर्ष कर रही हैं। भारत दुनिया का चौथा सबसे बड़ा एविएशन मार्केट है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

India aviation watchdog draws flak over conflict-of-interest lapses

New Delhi: The ministry of civil aviation has reprimanded the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for failing to guard against officials using their influence to help family members get jobs in the sector and for delays in disclosing such placements, government documents reviewed by *Reuters* show. According to the documents, the ministry has been raising flags on the matter since mid-2025.

REUTERS



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

22 JULY 2026

Domestic air traffic falls 12% to 1.35 cr in June on monthly basis

NEW DELHI: Domestic air traffic fell nearly 12 per cent to 1.35 crore in June compared to 1.53 crore passengers flown by the carriers in May, according to latest official data.

In comparison to the number of 1.36 crore recorded in June 2025, the decline has been marginal last month.

Generally, June, July and August are lean periods for airlines in terms of traffic.

IndiGo's market share climbed to 66.3 per cent in June from 64.9 per cent in May while that of Air India Group to 23.9 per cent from 25.6 per cent during the same period, the data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) showed.

The market share of Akasa Air rose to 6.4 per cent in June from 5.8 per cent in May.

In the case of SpiceJet, the

market share dropped to 1.9 per cent last month from 2.5 per cent in May.

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January - June 2026 were 864.04 lakhs as against 851.74 lakhs during the corresponding period of the previous year thereby registering an annual growth of 1.44 per cent and monthly growth of -1.03 per cent," DGCA said in its traffic data report for June.

In the wake of surging fuel prices due to the West Asia conflict, airlines had also temporarily curtailed their networks.

IndiGo had an On Time Performance (OTP) of 89.4 per cent in June, followed by Air India Group at 85.9 per cent, Akasa Air (82.7 per cent), Alliance Air (74.7 per cent) and SpiceJet (33.5 per cent). OTP is

computed for ten major airports -- Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Cochin, Guwahati and Lucknow.

Last month, the overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines stood at 0.63 per cent.

Domestic airlines shelled out Rs 61.98 lakh towards compensation and facilities for 43,968 passengers who were affected by flight cancellations in June.

A total of Rs 2.85 crore was spent by airlines towards facilities of 1,10,273 passengers impacted by flight delays, as per the data. As many as 1,847 passengers were denied boarding in June and airlines shelled out Rs 64.84 lakh towards compensation and facilities in this regard.

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Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

Air India extends Tel Aviv flight suspension to late september

HARINDER MISHRA ■ Jerusalem

Amid renewed hostilities and growing security concerns in West Asia, Air India on Wednesday said it is extending its suspension of operations on the Tel Aviv-Delhi route till end of September.

The airline has been continuously extend-



ing its suspension of operations on the route for several months due to the prevailing security situation in the region. The latest announcement comes amid renewed security concerns over the last 10 days, as the US and Iran escalated military activity with the American forces targeting bridges, water desalination plants and electrical facilities in

Iran, in turn, hitting US bases in allied countries throughout West Asia. A senior Air India executive heading the airlines' Israel operations said that the operations have been further suspended "till September end due to security concerns."

Several other major international carriers are also adopting a policy of "wait and watch" as tensions prevail in the region. Besides Israeli carriers such as El Al, IsraAir, Arkia and Air Haifa, only a few other international airlines have been operating, posing great challenges for those looking to travel abroad for work, vacation or family visits.

Weeks after the Iran-US conflict started in February end, the Indian carrier in April announced to put on hold its operations till the end of May, which was further extended till end July and now, extended till end of September.

	
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Office of the Superintendent
3rd Circle, Public Works Department
 Email: sepwdpth@rediffmail.com

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Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

22 JULY 2026

Flyer opens emergency exit moments before take-off

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Surat: A trader's Goa holiday ended before it began after he allegedly opened an emergency exit door on a Surat-Goa IndiGo flight moments before take-off on Tuesday.

The incident occurred around 3 pm at Surat International Airport, after which airport officials and CISF personnel rushed to the aircraft, de-boarded passenger Hitendra Maniya and handed him over to Dumas police.

Dumas inspector M V Patel told TOI, "Maniya admitted that he opened the door but claimed it happened accidentally while he was trying to recline his seat by holding what he thought was the seat



Hitendra Maniya in custody

**GOA TRIP
CANCELLED**

handle. In the process, the emergency door opened. He informed a cabin crew member, who alerted the pilot. We are investigating if there was any motive behind the act."

Maniya was travelling to Goa with his friends on IndiGo flight 6E-419, to depart at 3.20pm. He was in Seat 19A, adjacent to the emergency exit.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

22 JULY 2026

IndiGo mkt share at new high as AI reduces flights

New Delhi: IndiGo's domestic market share touched a fresh high of 66.3% last month with Air India group slashing flights, following record losses last fiscal. DGCA domestic air traffic data issued Tuesday showed AI Group share falling to 23.9% — down from 25.6% in May and this Calendar year's high of 27% seen in Feb.

While IndiGo has also suspended flights due to oil prices skyrocketing and the rupee plummeting during the West Asia crisis, that number is less than AI group's.

IndiGo's market share has risen from 63.6% this Jan to an all time high of 66.3% last month.

Akasa is at third spot with 6.4% domestic market share. The remaining 3.4% market share is accounted for by smaller airlines. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

23 JULY 2026

Airline cabin crew member raped by office cab driver

Hyderabad: A 37-year-old cabin crew member of a private airline was allegedly raped by her office cab driver while travelling to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad, to report for duty Monday. The accused was arrested Tuesday and remanded in judicial custody, reports **Mahesh Buddi**.

The accused, identified as a 23-year-old man from Shamshabad, confessed to the crime during interrogation, an inspector with the airport police outpost said.

According to the woman's complaint, as the cab approached the airport, the driver took a detour through a low-traffic stretch. "Since he told her that he had to attend nature's call, she did not object. He stopped the car near an under-construction international school and got out. A little while later, he suddenly opened the back door and forced himself upon the woman..." said a police officer.

The accused later fled in the cab, leaving her behind. With the help of a construction worker, she contacted police, who sent her for a medical examination and shifted her to Bharosa Centre for counselling.