

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

No decision yet on operators of airports owning airlines: Naidu

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 22 September

No decision has been taken on allowing the operators of Delhi and Mumbai airports to own and run airlines because the government is weighing the pros and cons of relaxing cross-ownership restrictions, Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said on Tuesday.

"We need more airlines. (As regards) airports operating airlines ... we need some deliberation on that," he said in response to a question in a press conference on whether the government had taken a decision on the Adani group's request to start an airline.

The Adani group operates eight airports, including Mumbai airport.

On June 4, it wrote to the Airports Authority of India (AAI), requesting a waiver so that it and its affiliates could "invest in, establish, acquire, own, promote or control" a scheduled airline. On July 23, IndiGo promoter and Managing Director Rahul Bhatia opposed any move to allow such airport operators to own airlines, saying such a model would create a "massive conflict of interest" and could ultimately hurt consumers. Asked whether a decision had been taken, Naidu replied in the negative.

When Delhi and Mumbai airports were privatised in 2006, the AAI signed the "operation, management and development agreements" with the winning bidders. The pacts contain restrictions on airport operators owning or operating airlines.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Centre studying plan for 4 new airports in West Bengal

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

The Centre is assessing the viability of developing four new airports in West Bengal by reviving airstrips at Balurghat and Purulia and setting up commercial aviation facilities at the IAF bases in Kalaikunda and Hasimara, officials said.

“The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is preparing a detailed project report for the four airports and will assess whether airline services there are feasible,” officials of the Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

Officials could not confirm whether the airports would be developed under the UDAN scheme, saying the plan was still at an early stage. The Centre’s UDAN regional connectivity scheme (RCS) subsidises

AAI asked the State Govt. for 38.25 acre land at Kalaikunda, 38 acre at Hasimara for civil enclaves

airlines serving tier-2 and tier-3 cities and caps fares to keep tickets affordable.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol told the Rajya Sabha in August 2026 that there were plans to use the Kalaikunda and Hasimara IAF bases for commercial flights, but “the requisite land has not been handed over by the State Government.”

Clearing hurdles

With the BJP defeating the TMC in the 2026 Assembly election and forming government in West Bengal, officials say it will now be

easier to clear the hurdles.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) had asked the West Bengal government to provide 38.25 acre of land at Kalaikunda and 38 acre at Hasimara for civil enclaves at the two Air Force stations.

100 more airports

The Ministry of Civil Aviation signed MoUs with 21 States and Union Territories on Tuesday, urging them to take the lead under the scheme and propose new RCS airports. Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu said the move would help create 100 more airports over the next 10 years.

The Union Cabinet in March approved “Modified UDAN” scheme for another 10 years at a total outlay of ₹28,840 crore.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Will weigh all pros and cons of cross ownership of airports, airlines: Naidu

Sukalp Sharma

New Delhi, September 22

THE GOVERNMENT will weigh all the pros and cons and will focus on maintaining market balance while deciding on the issue of cross-ownership between airlines and airports, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram-mohan Naidu said Tuesday.

Naidu's comments at an industry event came in response to a question on whether the government had decided on the Adani group's request for a waiver from cross-ownership restrictions as it was evaluating participating in the airline business. Naidu said that no decision has been taken and the matter is under deliberation.

"...one thing from the government is clear: that we need more airlines to come into the picture. Now, operating airports and airlines together needs some deliberation. We are going to see the pros and the cons of it...You see the first idea is to provide the passenger with more airlines as an option and if there is someone who is interested to do it, then the government supports the idea.

"But when the (airport) operator only has to do it, then what are the cons also that might come out? We need to create a system where the cons

• STRIKING A BALANCE

THE GOVERNMENT has been calling for more airlines in the Indian skies, given the duopoly of IndiGo and the Air India group, which have a cumulative domestic market share of over 90%

BUT ALLOWING airport operators to run airlines can have pitfalls, specifically those related to fair competition and non-discriminatory access to carriers, according to experts

AS PER the OMDA for Mumbai and Delhi airports, scheduled airlines and their group entities can't



hold more than 10% stake in the airport operator

are also taken care of," the minister said.

Naidu also reiterated the government's stated position that there was no blanket policy restricting airport operators from holding substantial equity in airlines, although cross-holding restrictions are part of contracts for some airports operated by private sector players, like in the case of Mumbai airport operated by the Adani group.

Last month, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) informed Parliament that the

state-owned Airports Authority of India (AAI) had received a request seeking a waiver of the cross-holding cap provision, but didn't name the Adani group.

The government has been calling for more airlines in the Indian skies, given the duopoly of IndiGo and the Air India group, which have a cumulative domestic market share of over 90%. But allowing airport operators to run airlines can have pitfalls, specifically those related to fair competition and non-discriminatory access to

carriers, according to experts.

In a letter addressed to the AAI chairman in June, Adani Airport Holdings's CEO Arun Bansal had sought a waiver or clarification in the Mumbai airport's operation, management and development agreement (OMDA) to pave the way for the group to directly or indirectly invest in, acquire, promote, or control a scheduled airline, it is learnt. Bansal also sought similar waivers, approvals, and clarifications for all existing and future airports, given that the conglomerate may in future operate more airports, according to sources.

However, Adani group flagship Adani Enterprises had said in July that it was not evaluating any proposal to enter the airline business.

As per the OMDA for Mumbai and Delhi airports, scheduled airlines and their group entities can't hold more than 10% stake in the airport operator. This also effectively restricts the airport operator and its group entities from investing in or promoting a scheduled airline.

The Adani group has 74% stake in the Mumbai airport, while GMR has 74% in the Delhi airport.

FULL REPORT ON

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

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THE PIONEER

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Telangana airports to highlight State heritage, says CM Reddy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ Hyderabad

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday emphasized that the proposed airports at Warangal and Adilabad, besides the Telangana Bhavan in Delhi should symbolise the southern State's rich culture.

He instructed officials to conduct a study of the architectural and sculptural styles of the famous 'akatiya Kala Thoranam (arch) of the Kakatiya dynasty, Ramappa Temple, and Pillalamarri Temple-which embody the state's history and culture-and to incorporate the Telangana heritage in the new constructions.

During a meeting, the officials briefed the chief minister on various logistical issues at the sites where the airports are proposed to be developed, including the shifting of power lines, diversion of streams and roads, and the relocation of BSNL lines and drinking water supply pipelines, an official release said.

CM Revanth Reddy issued several directives to the officials on the construction of roads along the airport compound walls and connecting them to nearby district, state, and national highways, it said.

He cautioned that numerous complications would arise if the departments execute the works in their purview without coordina-



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy

tion with other wings, it said.

Reviewing the designs for the Adilabad and Warangal airports and the Telangana Bhavan in Delhi, Reddy suggested several modifications to reflect Telangana culture, sculpture, and architectural styles in the construction of the airports. The CM, on September 19, said the dream of an airport at Warangal was taking shape, with the required land having been handed over to the Airports Authority of India.

Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy recently said a "joint use" airport would come up at Adilabad with the facility being used for defence and civilian purposes.

Kishan Reddy has said nodal officers would be appointed on behalf of the state government, Civil Aviation ministry and the Defence Ministry to expedite the establishment of the airport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Govt plans to review airport-airline stakes

New Delhi, Sept. 22: The government will assess the "pros and cons" of the proposal for airport operators owning stakes in airlines and decide on a balanced approach, Civil Aviation minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said on Tuesday.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of signing pacts for the next phase of Udaan, the minister said that to make full use of today's strong travel demand, India's aviation sector needs at least five airlines operating with 100 aircraft each.

He said the ministry is actively supporting the ambition given the country's size and growing airport network.

Naidu further said people, even in small towns, want airports in their vicinity.

To a query on the Adani Group seeking to own a stake in an airline, the minister said one thing from the government is clear: the country needs more airlines to come into the picture.

"Now, airports and airlines operating together need some deliberation on that. We are going to see the pros and the cons of it," he said. The first idea, he added, is to provide the passenger with more airlines as an option.

And if there is someone who is interested in doing it, then the government supports the idea, the minister said. Naidu also added that there is no clause or rule which stops the airport operators from having airlines other than the OMDA agreements for Delhi and Mumbai.

— PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Centre to decide on airport operators owning airlines

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Centre is examining the implications of airport operators owning airlines and vice versa, and will take a balanced approach, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said on Tuesday.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event, the Minister said no decision had been taken yet and the matter remained under deliberation. He was responding to a question on the Adani Group's interest in starting an airline.

At present, the Adani

Group operates several airports under the public-private partnership model.

DELIBERATION NEEDED

"However, airports and airlines operating together require deliberation. We will examine the pros and cons and take a balanced approach," he said.

Besides, the Minister said there was no general government rule preventing airport operators from owning airlines, apart from provisions in the operation, management and development agreements for Delhi and Mumbai airports.

एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटरों को एयरलाइन चलाने की अनुमति पर फैसला नहीं

दीपक पटेल

नई दिल्ली, 22 सितंबर

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री किंजरापु राममोहन नायडू ने मंगलवार को कहा कि दिल्ली और मुंबई हवाई अड्डों के संचालकों को एयरलाइन चलाने की अनुमति देने के संबंध में केंद्र सरकार ने अभी तक कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया है। सरकार अभी क्रॉस ऑनरशिप प्रतिबंधों में ढील देने के की खूबियों व खामियों का आकलन कर रही है।

अदाणी समूह द्वारा एयरलाइन शुरू करने के अनुरोध पर फैसले को लेकर पूछे गए एक सवाल के जबाब में उन्होंने एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस के दौरान कहा, 'सरकार को एक बाद साफ है कि हमें अधिक एयरलाइनों को लाने की जरूरत है। अब हवाई अड्डे भी एयरलाइन चला रहे हैं। हमें इस मसले पर अभी विचार विमर्श की जरूरत है।' अदाणी समूह भारत में 8 हवाई अड्डों का संचालन करता है, जिसमें मुंबई हवाई अड्डा भी शामिल है। समूह ने 4 जून को भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण को रियायत के लिए पत्र लिखा था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

‘उड़ान’ स्कीम दस साल के लिए बढ़ी, सिर्फ 18 महीने में तैयार होंगे एयरपोर्ट, अभी 3 साल लगते हैं

सरकार ने क्षेत्रीय कनेक्टिविटी स्कीम उड़ान को 10 साल और बढ़ा दिया है। इससे ₹60,000 करोड़ के आर्थिक असर का अनुमान है। अब तक 21 राज्य सहमति दे चुके हैं, पश्चिम बंगाल का समझौता 28 सितंबर को होना है। 10 साल में यह स्कीम 90 से ज्यादा एयरपोर्ट शुरू कराकर 1.54 करोड़ यात्रियों को सस्ती कनेक्टिविटी दे चुकी है। अब एयरपोर्ट बनाने का औसत समय 3 साल से घटाकर 18 महीने करने का लक्ष्य है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

हिमाचल में हवाई संपर्क बढ़ाने पर जोर

■ हिमकिरण मांटा

शिमला, 22 सितम्बर (देशबन्धु)। हिमाचल प्रदेश में हवाई संपर्क और विमानन ढांचे को मजबूत करने के लिए केंद्र सरकार, राज्य सरकार और भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) ने नई दिल्ली में 10 वर्ष की अवधि के लिए त्रिपक्षीय समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए। संशोधित क्षेत्रीय संपर्क योजना 'उड़ान' के तहत हुए इस समझौते से मौजूदा उड़ानों के विस्तार और नई उड़ानें शुरू करने का मार्ग प्रशस्त होगा।

पर्यटन एवं नागरिक उड्डयन विभाग के सचिव संदीप कुमार ने बताया कि एमओयू पर केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री किजरापु राममोहन नायडू और केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री मुरलीधर मोहोले की मौजूदगी में हस्ताक्षर किए गए। वर्तमान में व्यवहार्यता अंतर वित्तपोषण (वीजीएफ) में केंद्र सरकार की हिस्सेदारी 80 प्रतिशत और राज्य सरकार की हिस्सेदारी 20 प्रतिशत है। प्रस्तावित संशोधन के बाद यह अनुपात 90:10 हो जाएगा। केंद्र



■ 'उड़ान' योजना के तहत केंद्र-राज्य की 90:10 हिस्सेदारी का प्रस्ताव, पर्यटन और स्थानीय रोजगार को मिलेगा बढ़ावा

सरकार की मंजूरी और आवश्यक औपचारिकताएं पूरी होने के बाद नई व्यवस्था लागू की जाएगी। मुख्यमंत्री ठाकुर सुखविंदर सिंह सुक्खू ने हिमाचल की कठिन भौगोलिक परिस्थितियों और पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में उड़ान संचालन की अधिक लागत को देखते हुए केंद्र सरकार से हिस्सेदारी में बदलाव का आग्रह किया है। इससे शिमला, धर्मशाला, कुल्लू-मनाली, चंबा, किन्नौर और लाहौल-स्पीति जैसे पर्यटन स्थलों तक हवाई पहुंच आसान होगी।

पर्यटन गतिविधियों में बढ़ोतरी से होटल, परिवहन, साहसिक पर्यटन, हस्तशिल्प और ग्रामीण होम-स्टे क्षेत्रों को लाभ मिलेगा तथा रोजगार के अवसर बढ़ेंगे। बेहतर हवाई सेवाओं से आपातकालीन चिकित्सा, राहत और बचाव कार्यों में भी तेजी आएगी। राज्य सरकार को उम्मीद है कि 90:10 की वीजीएफ व्यवस्था को मंजूरी मिलने के बाद हिमाचल का पर्यटन क्षेत्र और स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था और अधिक मजबूत होगी।

Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

22 SEPTEMBER 2026

Customs seizes ganja worth Rs 28 crore seized from 7 passengers at KIA

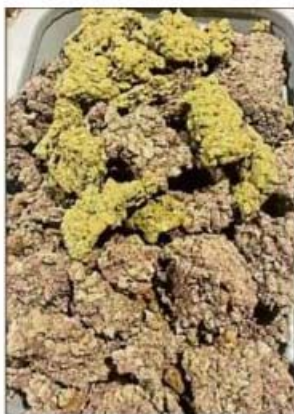
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru customs said it seized 80.1 kg of hydroponic ganja worth Rs 28.01 crore from seven passengers in five cases at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

In another case, 1.2 kg of gold valued at Rs 1.75 crore was seized.

In the latest case on Monday, customs officials intercepted a passenger arriving from Vietnam and seized 2 kg of hydroponic ganja worth Rs 70 lakh, concealed in cabin baggage. The passenger was arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

In another case, a passenger arriving from Kuala Lumpur was intercepted with 559.4 gram of gold worth Rs 81.47 lakh. The



Hydroponic ganja at the Kempegowda International Airport. PHOTO: CUSTOMS

gold was concealed in baggage, undergarments and on the passenger's body. The passenger was arrested under the Customs Act, 1962.

On September 19, customs officials intercepted

a passenger arriving from Bangkok and seized 15.3 kg of hydroponic ganja worth Rs 5.35 crore. The passenger was arrested under the NDPS Act.

On the same day, two passengers arriving from Bangkok were intercepted with 26.8 kg of ganja worth Rs 9.38 crore. Both were arrested under the NDPS Act.

In another case, a passenger arriving from Abu Dhabi was intercepted with 642 gram of gold ornaments worth Rs 93.78 lakh. The passenger was arrested under the Customs Act.

Customs also intercepted two passengers arriving from Bangkok and seized 36 kg of hydroponic ganja worth Rs 12.57 crore. Both were arrested under the NDPS Act.

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

सुरक्षा घरे में अब इमिग्रेशन काउंटर तक जाएंगे यात्री

गौतम कुमार् विश्वा • जागरण

नई दिल्ली: आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षा में सेंच लगने के बाद नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय, गृह मंत्रालय और ब्यूरो आफ इमिग्रेशन ने कड़े सुरक्षा नियम लागू कर दिए हैं। नई व्यवस्था के तहत घरेलू उड़ानों से दिल्ली आकर अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान पकड़ने वाले यात्रियों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए विशेष नोडल टीमों को 24 घंटे तैनात किया गया है। वहीं टीम अब कनेक्टिंग यात्रियों को खुद सुरक्षा घरे (फिजिकल एस्कॉर्ट) में लेकर सही इमिग्रेशन काउंटर तक सुरक्षित छोड़ेगी।

यह सख्त कदम तीन सितंबर की मध्यरात्रि को हुई एक गंभीर सुरक्षा चूक के बाद उठाया गया है। इटली के तीन नागरिक अमृतसर से एअर इंडिया की उड़ान से दिल्ली पहुंचे थे। दिल्ली उतरने के बाद, उन्हें निर्धारित निकासी द्वार से बाहर

• आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट में इमिग्रेशन चूक पर सरकार का बड़ा एक्शन, नए दिशा-निर्देश जारी

• अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान पकड़ने वाले यात्रियों की सुरक्षा के लिए विशेष नोडल टीमें 24 घंटे रहेंगी तैनात

नए नियम के तहत क्या बदलेगा

• **24/7 नोडल टीमें:** ग्राउंड हैंडलिंग एजेंसियों के लिए 24 घंटे समर्पित नोडल क्रू स्टाफ तैनात करना अनिवार्य कर दिया गया है।

• **फिजिकल एस्कॉर्ट:** स्पोक (छोटे शहरों) उड़ानों से आने वाले ऐसे यात्री, जिन्हें दिल्ली में इमिग्रेशन करना है, उन्हें नोडल टीम अपनी

देखरेख में इमिग्रेशन काउंटर तक ले जाएगी।

• **डोमेस्टिक और इंटरनेशनल ट्रांसफर कारिडोर के बीच डिजिटल और फिजिकल चेकिंग को मजबूत किया जा रहा है,** ताकि भविष्य में किसी भी यात्री द्वारा सुरक्षा प्रोटोकाल को बाईपास न किया जा सके।

निकालकर इमिग्रेशन क्लियरेंस करने के बजाय, ग्राउंड स्टाफ की गलती से सीधे 'इंटरनेशनल-टू-इंटरनेशनल' ट्रांसफर कारिडोर में भेज दिया गया। इसके बाद तीनों यात्री बिना पासपोर्ट व इमिग्रेशन क्लियरेंस कराए ही म्यूनिख जाने वाली लुफ्थंडसा की उड़ान से विदेश

रवाना हो गए। इस घटना का पता बाद में दस्तावेजों के मैनुअल मिलान से हुआ। मामले की गंभीरता को देखते हुए उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने एअर इंडिया को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया, वहीं गृह मंत्रालय ने शीघ्र सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के साथ आपात बैठक बुलाई।

एयर इंडिया की पटना की उड़ानें कल से रद्द

जासं, नई दिल्ली: दिल्ली और बिहार के बीच हवाई सफर करने वाले यात्रियों की परेशानी बढ़ने वाली है। विमानन कंपनी एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने 24 से 30 सितंबर के बीच दिल्ली-पटना-दिल्ली रूट पर संचालित होने वाली अपनी दो मुख्य उड़ानें (आइएक्स 1346 और आइएक्स 1348) को पूरी तरह रद्द करने का फैसला किया है। एयरलाइंस प्रबंधन ने पटना एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन को केवल सात दिन परिचालन रद्द की जानकारी दी है, लेकिन विमानों के रद्द किए जाने की मूल वजह को अभी गुप्त रखा है। सामान्य दिनों में दिल्ली से पटना के बीच रोजाना औसतन 14 सीधी उड़ानें संचालित होती हैं।

Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट

इमिग्रेशन चूक पर सरकार का बड़ा एक्शन, कनेक्टिंग यात्रियों के लिए नई दिशा, निर्देश जारी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान पकड़ने वाले यात्रियों की सुरक्षा के लिए विशेष नोडल टीम 24 घंटे रहेंगी तैनात

अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों की होगी फिजिकल एस्कार्टिंग, कड़े नियम लागू

गौतम कुमार मिश्रा • नई दिल्ली

इंदिरा गांधी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा (आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट) पर सुरक्षा में संध लगने के बाद नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय, गृह मंत्रालय और ब्यूरो आफ इमिग्रेशन ने कड़े सुरक्षा नियम लागू कर दिए हैं। नई व्यवस्था के तहत घरेलू (डोमेस्टिक) उड़ानों से दिल्ली आकर अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान पकड़ने वाले यात्रियों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए विशेष नोडल टीमों को 24 घंटे तैनात किया गया है। यही टीम अब कनेक्टिंग यात्रियों को खुद सुरक्षा घेरे (फिजिकल एस्कार्ट) में लेकर सही इमिग्रेशन काउंटर तक सुरक्षित छोड़ेगी।

क्या है मामला : यह सख्त कदम तीन सितंबर की मध्यरात्रि को हुई एक गंभीर सुरक्षा चूक के बाद उठाया गया है। इटली के तीन नागरिक अमृतसर से एअर इंडिया की उड़ान से दिल्ली पहुंचे थे। दिल्ली उतरने के बाद, उन्हें निर्धारित निकासी द्वार से बाहर निकालकर इमिग्रेशन क्लियरेंस कराने के



आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट।

फाइल

बजाय, ग्राउंड स्टाफ की गलती के कारण सीधे 'इंटरनेशनल-टू इंटरनेशनल' ट्रांसफर कारिडोर में भेज दिया गया। इसके बाद तीनों यात्री बिना पासपोर्ट और इमिग्रेशन क्लियरेंस कराए ही म्यूनिख जाने वाली लुफ्थान्सा की उड़ान में सवार होकर विदेश रवाना हो गए।

इस घटना का पता बाद में दस्तावेजों के मैनुअल मिलान के दौरान हुआ। मामले की गंभीरता को देखते हुए नागरिक उड्डयन

मंत्रालय ने एअर इंडिया को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया, वहीं गृह मंत्रालय ने शीर्ष सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के साथ आपात बैठक बुलाई।

क्या है 'हब-एंड-स्पोक' योजना : नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने यात्रियों को सुगम और निर्बाध यात्रा का अनुभव देने के लिए एअर इंडिया के माध्यम से 'हब एंड स्पोक' (जिसे 'ईजी कनेक्ट' भी कहा जाता है) माडल इसी वर्ष जून में शुरू किया था।

इसके तहत छोटे शहरों (स्पोक, जैसे- अमृतसर, वाराणसी) से दिल्ली (हब) आकर विदेश जाने वाले यात्रियों का इमिग्रेशन और कस्टम्स क्लियरेंस मूल एयरपोर्ट पर ही कर दिया जाता है, ताकि दिल्ली में उन्हें दोबारा लंबी कतारों में न लगना पड़े।

हालांकि, इस मामले में तीनों यात्रियों के पास अमृतसर से जारी 'डी' (डोमेस्टिक, घरेलू) श्रेणी के बोर्डिंग पास थे और वे इस सीधी सेवा के पात्र नहीं थे। इसके बावजूद उन्हें गलती से अंतरराष्ट्रीय ट्रांसफर एरिया में जाने दिया गया।

नए नियम के तहत क्या बदलेगा

24/7 नोडल टीम: ग्राउंड हैंडलिंग एजेंसियों के लिए 24 घंटे समर्पित नोडल कू स्टाफ तैनात करना अनिवार्य कर दिया गया है।

फिजिकल एस्कार्ट: स्पोक उड़ानों से आने वाले ऐसे यात्री, जिन्हें दिल्ली में इमिग्रेशन कराना है, उन्हें नोडल टीम अपनी देखरेख में इमिग्रेशन काउंटर तक ले जाएगी।

सख्त सेग्रिगेशन: डोमेस्टिक और इंटरनेशनल ट्रांसफर कारिडोर के बीच डिजिटल और फिजिकल चेकिंग को मजबूत किया जा रहा है, ताकि भविष्य में किसी भी यात्री द्वारा सुरक्षा प्रोटोकाल को बाईपास न किया जा सके।

Delhi's IGI airport leapfrogs Dubai in global connectivity

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, September 22

DELHI'S INDIRA GANDHI International Airport is emerging as a more important international connecting hub, with its global connectivity ranking improving sharply as IndiGo's expanding domestic network feeds into a growing international network.

Delhi climbed 11 places to rank 28th among the world's most connected international airport hubs in aviation data provider OAG's Megahubs 2026 report. It was ranked 39th in 2025.

Dubai International Airport, meanwhile, fell from 15th to 31st, although disruption in West Asia also affected the rankings this year.

The OAG ranking is not based simply on passenger traffic, number of flights or destinations. It measures the number of possible international connections that can be made between arriving and departing flights within a six-hour window, taking into account factors such as minimum connection times and destinations served.

The improvement therefore points to a change in the role of Delhi airport, from being primarily an origin-and-destination airport for the National Capital Region to becoming a stronger transfer point for passengers travelling between domestic and international destinations.

IndiGo is central to this shift. The airline accounts for 40% of flights at Delhi, according to OAG, giving the airport a large domestic feeder network that can connect passengers from other Indian cities to international services operating from the capital.

Delhi's strength is particu-

FLYING HIGH



28th globally
Delhi rises 11 places, from 39th

9th in Asia-Pacific
Among international megahubs

9th globally
Delhi's rank among low-cost megahubs

57% LCC capacity
Low-cost carriers' share at Delhi

Mumbai: 11th globally
Among low-cost megahubs

60% LCC capacity
Low-cost carriers' share at Mumbai

Global top 5	
Istanbul	London Heathrow
Kuala Lumpur	Amsterdam Schiphol
	Chicago O'Hare

larly visible in the low-cost carrier segment. It ranks ninth globally in OAG's Low-Cost Megahubs index, with low-cost carriers accounting for 57% of capacity at the airport. IndiGo's dominant presence gives it a substantial role in creating potential connections across the network.

Mumbai is also gaining prominence as a low-cost connectivity hub. It ranks 11th globally in the LCC Megahubs ranking, with low-cost carriers accounting for 60% of capacity. IndiGo operates 43% of flights at Mumbai.

The two airports underline the growing role of India's largest aviation markets in international low-cost networks. However, the con-

nectivity remains concentrated, with Delhi the only Indian airport to feature in OAG's global Top 50 international Megahubs ranking.

In the Asia-Pacific region, Delhi ranks ninth, behind Kuala Lumpur, Seoul, Tokyo, Singapore, Bangkok, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong.

Eight airports from the region feature in the global Top 25, reflecting the intense competition among Asian hubs.

Istanbul topped the global ranking, followed by London Heathrow, Amsterdam Schiphol, Kuala Lumpur and Chicago O'Hare. Istanbul serves 337 destinations, with Turkish Airlines accounting for 80% of its capacity.

Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

22 SEPTEMBER 2026

Med negligence plaint against airport nixed

Pranali Lotlikar

MUMBAI

Thirteen years after a Goa resident died following a medical emergency at Mumbai airport, the Maharashtra State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has dismissed a ₹48.04 lakh compensation complaint by his father, ruling there was no deficiency in service or medical negligence by Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), Go Airlines or Dr RN Cooper and Nanavati hospitals where he was shifted.

The forum held that complainant Rohidas Borkar had suppressed material facts about his 28-year-old son Siddhesh's medical history of alcoholic liver cirrhosis. After arriving in Mumbai from Abu Dhabi on July 29, 2013, he suffered convulsions, was examined by an airport medical officer and advised hospitalisation, which he refused. He was subsequently denied a "fit to fly" certificate by Jet Airways and offloaded on medical grounds.

According to Borkar's complaint, Siddhesh suffered convulsions again, fell on an airport escalator, sustained serious head injuries and was left unattended for nearly two hours before being shifted to

Father sought ₹48.04L over son's 2013 death; commission finds the airport provided prompt medical aid

Cooper Hospital.

MIAL, however, produced CCTV footage, medical logs and hospital records showing that Siddhesh independently booked a Go Airlines ticket after being offloaded by Jet. At around 2.23pm, he suffered another bout of convulsions while descending a stationary escalator. An airport doctor attended to him at 2.39pm, he was wheeled out at 2.51pm and the ambulance left for Cooper Hospital at 3.10pm.

Siddhesh was later shifted to Nanavati Hospital, where he remained on a ventilator for 11 days. His family took him out of both hospitals against medical advice after executing undertakings accepting responsibility. He was taken towards Goa by ambulance and died at a Parel hospital on August 14, 2013.

The Commission said the complaint concealed the "fit to fly" denial, calling the suppression a fundamental breach of trust. It expressed sympathy to Borkar and appreciated MIAL's prompt medical assistance.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

दो एयरपोर्ट पर बर्ड स्ट्राइक का खतरा

अध्ययन

■ ओगप्रकाश सती

देहरादून। देश के दो एयरपोर्ट पर बर्ड स्ट्राइक का खतरा है। इनमें कई पक्षी प्रजातियां एयरपोर्ट के ऊपर उड़कर विमानों के लिए खतरा बन सकती हैं।

जौलीग्रॉंट एयरपोर्ट पर विमानों के लिए 13 पक्षी प्रजातियां बर्ड स्ट्राइक का जोखिम पैदा कर रही हैं वहीं अमृतसर एयरपोर्ट पर आठ प्रजातियों के पक्षी विमानों के लिए खतरा बन रहे हैं। भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान के अध्ययन में इस खतरे को उजागर किया गया है।

अध्ययन के अनुसार जौलीग्रॉंट एयरपोर्ट क्षेत्र में कुल 57 पक्षी प्रजातियां दर्ज की गईं। इनमें टिटहरी, चील और

- जौलीग्रॉंट और अमृतसर में 21 पक्षी प्रजातियां बनीं विमानों के लिए मुसीबत
- डब्ल्यूआईआई के शोध में आया सामने, संरक्षण को लेकर सलाह दी

कबूतर समेत 13 प्रजातियों को विमानों के लिए अधिक जोखिम वाली श्रेणी में रखा गया है। अमृतसर एयरपोर्ट पर 50 प्रजातियां दर्ज की गईं। इनमें आठ को उच्च जोखिम वाली बताया गया है।

टेकऑफ और लैंडिंग के दौरान हादसे की आशंका : जौलीग्रॉंट एयरपोर्ट क्षेत्र में पक्षियों की अधिक संख्या और उनकी गतिविधियां विमान संचालन के लिए चुनौती बन रही हैं।

पक्षियों के रनवे और उड़ान मार्ग के आसपास आने से टेकऑफ और लैंडिंग के दौरान बर्ड स्ट्राइक की आशंका बढ़ जाती है। बड़े आकार के पक्षियों के विमानों से टकराने पर नुकसान की आशंका अपेक्षाकृत अधिक होती है। कुछ समय पूर्व वहां पक्षियों के चलते एक विमान को लैंडिंग से पहले काफी देर हवा में ही घुमाना पड़ा था।

स्तनधारी जीवों की सक्रियता भी बढ़ा खतरा : जौलीग्रॉंट में कैमरा ट्रैप और फोटो-कैप्चर के माध्यम से सियार, साही और खरगोश जैसे वन्यजीव दर्ज किए गए हैं। जो एयरपोर्ट परिसर में ही पहुंच गए, जिससे विमानों की लैंडिंग भी प्रभावित हुई। वहीं अमृतसर में सियार और साही की उपस्थिति काफी ज्यादा दर्ज की गई।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Govt studies airline role for operators of airports

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The government is considering whether airport operators can also enter the airline business, civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said on Tuesday, underlining the need to provide more alternatives for passengers in India's aviation market.

"The government is examining the pros and cons of allowing airport operators to have airlines, and would take a balanced approach," Naidu told reporters, while clarifying that the government had not taken a decision yet on the matter. The minister was responding to a question about the Adani group reportedly approaching the government about starting an airline.

Naidu pointed out the rules do not prevent operators of airports other than New Delhi or Mumbai from owning an airline. "If you look at it, as such, in the government, there is no clause or rule anywhere in the government that stops airport operators from having the airlines other than the OMDA (Operation, Management and Development Agreement) for Delhi and Mumbai," Naidu said. The agreement bars the New Delhi and Mumbai airport operators from owning more than a 10% stake in airlines.

The Adani group operates Mumbai and seven other air-



Naidu pointed out the rules do not prevent operators of airports other than New Delhi or Mumbai from owning an airline. HT

ports. GMR Airports manages New Delhi and five additional facilities. The Adani group's flagship company, Adani Enterprises, had on July 24 denied media reports that it is evaluating a proposal to enter the airline business.

The minister's remarks came after his address on the need for more airlines in the country during the signing of MoUs for the next phase of the regional connectivity programme UDAN.

"One of the challenges is to bring more aircraft. And the other challenge for us as an industry is to create more airlines in the industry...Because the duopoly is much talked about today. So I want to overcome this duopoly that has existed. We need to facilitate more airlines to come into the industry," Naidu said.

Between them, IndiGo and Air

India service 90% of passengers in India after a series of airline bankruptcies and mergers left them as the dominant players in the market.

Naidu later told the media that the government was clear that passengers need the option of more airlines. "And if there is someone who is interested in doing it, then the government supports the idea," he added.

The minister said the government has an ambition of having at least five airlines with 100 aircraft each, given the number of passengers and airports in the country. Naidu also said the government will not cap airfares for the upcoming festival season, but will advise airlines to keep the prices reasonable, pointing out that operating costs for aviation companies have risen due to higher fuel costs.

With inputs from Bloomberg

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

22 SEPTEMBER 2026

Digi Yatra all set for int'l departure trials from Oct

**Neha LM Tripathi and
Neeraj Chauhan**

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The government is working to extend Digi Yatra, the facial recognition-based system now used by domestic flyers, to international departures, with trials planned at Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Cochin between October and December, officials aware of the matter said.

"Delhi and Mumbai are likely to be the first airports to get the facility," an officer aware of the plans said, while confirming the push by the government to initiate the scheme as soon as possible.

Passengers will gain only on the departure side in the first phase. The initial rollout is expected to focus on less-sensitive points such as terminal entry, security and potentially boarding gates, while integration with immigration is likely to be taken up at a later stage, as the system is tested and its efficacy established, a second official said.

Emigration checks will continue as they are, and passengers on inbound flights will see no change.

The ministry of civil aviation's Digi Yatra policy document describes the immigration system as isolated from the Digi Yatra boarding system, with automated border control at departure and arrival envisaged as a subsequent phase. Unlike the domestic system, which uses Aadhaar-based enrolment, the international version will use electronic passports, the first official said.

A passenger holding an e-passport will be able to scan its first



Officials said emigration checks will continue as they are, and passengers on inbound flights will see no change.

MINT

page and use a phone to read the chip embedded in the document through near-field communication (NFC), the first officer said. The photograph stored on the chip will then be matched with a selfie to create the passenger's digital credential, which can subsequently be used for identity validation at different airport touch-points.

All e-passports conform to international standards and carry certain biometric details. Till July 30, 2026, a total of 17,316,144 e-passports have been issued, according to a government reply in Parliament in August.

In the domestic system, the app receives Aadhaar e-KYC data, extracts a reference face from it and matches that against a selfie taken with liveness detection, with the resulting credential stored in a wallet on the passenger's phone, according to the ministry's policy document.

Software upgradation work is under way, after which an audit by the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) will be conducted, before the trials begin, the second officer aware of

the developments said. The upgraded application is undergoing final testing, with a vulnerability assessment and penetration testing by CERT-In, as well as Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC), planned as part of the process, the officer cited above added.

Rules for air travel, which are introduced by the civil aviation ministry, home affairs ministry and bureau of civil aviation, will have to change as well. "A few rules need to be amended including the mandatory requirement of showing passports at the airport entry," the first officer said.

"International travel is a sensitive border-crossing process and every stakeholder needs to be satisfied that the new process is robust, safe and secure," Digi Yatra chief executive officer (CEO) Suresh Khadakhavi said.

Discussions with authorities have been initiated and are progressing well, with further talks being reinitiated under the guidance of the ministry, he added. "The long-term plan is to make the Digi Yatra ecosystem interoperable with participating overseas air-

ports and immigration authorities. Digi Yatra is also in discussions with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) ICAO and an EUDI pilot trials under the APTITUDE cohort, to explore such cross-border interoperability, although these discussions are at an early stage," Khadakhavi said.

The change will require procurement of some technology. At international checkpoints, e-gates would be required and would have to be integrated with Digi Yatra at the backend, a process that could take some time after the trials, a third officer said.

The move is among a host of steps the authorities are taking towards digitisation of air travel. The stamping of boarding passes at the security check is not mandatory. On September 1, the Bureau of Immigration (BoI) posted on X that passengers would have one less document to carry.

"Your boarding pass can now stay on your phone. E-Boarding Passes are accepted at all Immigration Counters, so you no longer need to carry a physical boarding pass to clear immigration," the post read. Boarding passes continue to be issued.

"The recent decision to do away with physical immigration stamps effective September 1 is an early step towards the larger transition," the first officer said.

The ministry of home affairs has for the past couple of years run a fast track immigration-trusted traveller programme (FTI-TTP), which speeds up immigration for pre-verified Indian nationals and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) card holders at multiple airports.

Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Govt weighs airport operators' plans to own airlines

Abhishek Lohia
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NEW DELHI

The Centre is considering whether airport operators such as Adani Airport Holdings Ltd should be allowed to own airlines, civil aviation minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu said on Tuesday, as India seeks to expand its regional air connectivity, while addressing potential conflicts of interest in the aviation sector.

"When an airport operator wants to operate an airline, we also have to examine the potential disadvantages. We need to create a system that addresses those concerns. There are several advantages, but the matter is under deliberation," Naidu said at a press conference to announce the launch of the revamped regional connectivity scheme, UDAN (*Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik*).

The issue came to the fore after Adani Airport, a subsidiary of the Ahmedabad-based conglomerate Adani Enterprises Ltd, wrote to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in June seeking relaxation of norms that could allow it to explore operating an airline.

Adani Airports operates eight airports, including Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Guwahati, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Jaipur.

Adani Enterprises chief financial officer Jagdishinder



Delhi airport operator can hold till 10% in an airline. **MINT**

Singh later said the group was not interested in starting an airline, but could explore taking a non-controlling stake in a regional carrier to improve connectivity across its existing and future airports.

Naidu said there is currently no general law preventing cross-holding between airport operators and airlines. Restrictions, however, exist under airport-specific agreements, including the Operations Management and Development Agreements (OMDAs) governing the Delhi and Mumbai airports.

Under the existing arrangements, operators of the Delhi and Mumbai airports can hold up to 10% in an airline, he said. "For example, if BIAL or Bangalore International Airport Ltd, which is also a private operator, wants to operate an airline, there is no rule as such stopping it," Naidu said.

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



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

People stand as plane moves on runway at IGIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN a safety lapse, passengers on an Air India Express flight were seen standing as the aircraft taxied towards the parking bay at IGI Airport on Monday. Flight IX 1236, which took off from Indore at 10.44 am on September 21, reached IGIA at 12.32 pm, according to FlightAware. The Boeing 737 Max 8 had landed safely and was taxiing when some passengers were seen walking towards the exit.

An Air India spokesperson said, "We are aware of a social media post concerning an instance of non-adherence to standard on board safety instructions after landing. We are in touch with the guest and reviewing the incident with the relevant teams."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

USA

NY airport service resumes

Flights were taking off and landing at New York City-area airports Tuesday with some delays and cancellations, after hours of disruptions resulting from damaged communications lines at a key air traffic control facility in Philadelphia that were later repaired.

Hundreds of flights were cancelled throughout the US Northeast on Monday, including more than 600 into and out of Newark Liberty International Airport, as the outage hit every major airport in the New York City area.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy also said in an online post that "it will take some time to clear all existing delays". (AP)

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

22 SEPTEMBER 2026

KIA automated enquiry system set for upgrade

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Bengaluru: Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is all set to upgrade its on-premises Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) with a focus on improving passenger experience, automation and its scalability.

IVRS involves an automated phone-in technology that lets callers get flight details and airport information by listening to pre-recorded voice menus and pressing phone keys or speaking commands.



KIA currently operates an IVRS for passenger enquiries, flight information, lost-and-found routing, and general enquiries using agents through the phone numbers 080-6678555 and 080-47406666. According to airport operator BIAL, the upgrade is being considered mainly because of the increasing passenger volumes, expansion of terminals, and also to improve passenger engagement. The new system is also likely to reduce the current workload on call agents. **Currently, the airport has the capacity to handle a maximum of 400 inbound calls a day and 100 calls in peak hour. BIAL anticipates a 50% traffic growth over the next five years, highlighting the need for sufficient scalability.**

The upgraded smart IVRS is expected to increase this capacity, helping BIAL handle at least 600 calls per day in the next five years and also increasing the peak-hour capacity to 150 calls. The project will be carried out by an external partner who will initially conduct a detailed study about the requirements of the airport. Once the IVRS is upgraded, it will have the capability to resolve level-1 priority incidents within two hours. Critical incidents are expected to be solved in 15 minutes, while the least priority ones to be resolved within 48 hours.

Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

त्योहारी सीजन के दौरान हवाई यात्रा किराए पर कैप नहीं लगाएगी सरकार

नई दिल्ली। आगामी त्योहारी सीजन में हवाई किराए पर सरकार कोई अधिकतम सीमा तय नहीं करेगी। केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के. राममोहन नायडू ने मंगलवार को कहा, एयरलाइंस से किराया उचित रखने को कहा जाएगा, ताकि त्योहारों के दौरान यात्रियों पर ज्यादा बोझ न पड़े।

सरकार एयरलाइंस के साथ लगातार संपर्क में है और नियमित बैठकें कर रही है। इनमें कंपनियों से त्योहारी सीजन में किराए उचित रखने को कहा गया है। सरकार पहले भी त्योहारों के दौरान एयरलाइंस से किराए को लेकर चर्चा करती रही है। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने



बताया, पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संकट के कारण एविएशन टर्बाइन फ्यूल की कीमत बढ़ी है। इससे एयरलाइंस की परिचालन लागत बढ़ी है। उन्होंने कहा कि मौजूदा किराए की स्थिति केवल त्योहारी सीजन की वजह से नहीं है। एयरलाइंस के किराए में एटीएफ की हिस्सेदारी करीब 40 से 43 फीसदी है। व्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Centre signs MoUs with 21 States for next phase of UDAN

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Over 20 State governments have shown interest in the Centre's modified UDAN scheme, which aims to accelerate airport construction, expand helicopter connectivity and promote domestic aviation manufacturing.

Accordingly, the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with 21 States for the next phase of UDAN.

Speaking after the signing on Tuesday, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu

said the Centre will adopt a challenge-based approach to prioritise airport projects that could be taken up quickly.

Rather than pursuing all projects simultaneously, the Ministry intends to select priority airports and those that are relatively easier to execute.

EXPEDITING PROJECTS

"Earlier, it could take up to three years to complete these airports. We want to reduce this," Naidu said.

"From the day the project starts, we want to finish it within 18 months and give the public the opportunity to travel from there."

According to the Minister, the next phase incorporates lessons from the earlier scheme and follows workshops with States.

Further, Naidu said the remaining States were finalising their MoU documents, and the Ministry expected to complete the signing process within two-three weeks.

The scheme also envisages 200 heliports across the country, with a focus on improving access in the North-East, and remote locations.

Furthermore, Naidu said the Centre will spend almost ₹30,000 crore over the next 10 years under the next phase of UDAN. Contributions from States and other

stakeholders could take the overall scale to ₹60,000 crore, he added.

NEW ENTRANTS

The scheme could also encourage new airlines to enter the market and help existing operators strengthen their operations.

Additionally, Naidu said domestic aircraft manufacturing will be an important part of the next phase, in line with the government's Atmanirbharta and Make in India objectives.

Aviation manufacturing, he said, could generate highly skilled jobs and wider employment.

In addition, Naidu said

UDAN had supported the development of more than 90 airports over the past decade and benefited nearly 1.54 crore passengers through affordable air travel.

He said the next phase will cater to need for airports closer to tier-II and -III cities. "It is important for us to plan for Viksit Bharat 2047, when India should ideally have more than 350 airports," he said.

Last month, *businessline* had reported that the Centre was inviting nominations from States and Union Territories to select the first batch of 50 airports for development under the modified UDAN scheme.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

‘Financial, operational scrutiny of SpiceJet aimed at ensuring safety’

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The aviation safety regulator is undertaking operational as well as financial scrutiny of SpiceJet amid the airline's financial difficulties, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said on Tuesday.

According to Naidu, the scrutiny through the Directorate General of Civil Aviation is aimed at ensuring that safety is not compromised.

“We do not want any lapse in safety,” he said, responding to a question on the air-

line's financial position and pending funding under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

GOVT INTERVENTION

“For the future, we are continuously engaging with the airline and examining how best the Ministry can facilitate matters. But these are private airlines, and there are limits to what the government can do,” he said.

“Our main priority is to ensure that passengers do not face inconvenience, that safety is not compromised at any cost, and that smooth

operations are sustained,” Naidu said.

Besides, Naidu said SpiceJet had received ₹150 crore under the ECLGS, while the remaining funding has to be worked out between the airline and its bank.

Asked about the disbursement of a further ₹350 crore, the Minister said, “The remaining amount is something the organisation and the bank have to work out. The scheme is in place; they need to obtain the funds,” Naidu said.

The Minister did not indicate a timeline for further disbursement.

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

डीजीसीए कर रहा स्पाइसजेट की जांच

नागर विमानन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू ने मंगलवार को कहा कि नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) एयरलाइन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट के कामकाज और वित्तीय स्थिति की जांच कर रहा है, ताकि यात्रियों को किसी तरह की परेशानी न हो। स्पाइसजेट को कई तरह की मुश्किलों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, जिसके कारण उड़ानों में लगातार देरी और अन्य परिचालन संबंधी समस्याएं सामने आ रही हैं। ताजा आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार, जुलाई में स्पाइसजेट की घरेलू बाजार हिस्सेदारी घटकर 1.6 प्रतिशत रह गई, जो जून में 1.9 प्रतिशत थी। राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में एक कार्यक्रम के दौरान नायडू ने अलग से बातचीत में स्पाइसजेट से जुड़े सवाल पर कहा, 'स्पाइसजेट के संबंध में मंत्रालय की ओर से अभी डीजीसीए के माध्यम से परिचालन और कुछ हद तक वित्तीय स्थिति की भी जांच की जा रही है।

भाषा

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

अभी एक-दूसरे के ही यात्री बांट रही कंपनियां एअर इंडिया में 'एक्सप्रेस' को मर्ज करने की तैयारी

भास्कर न्यूज | नई दिल्ली

एअर इंडिया के नए सीईओ टेवोल्ले गेलेमरियम टाटा ग्रुप की इस कंपनी में बड़े बदलाव की तैयारी कर रहे हैं। वह लो-कॉस्ट सहयोगी कंपनी एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस को मुख्य ब्रांड एअर इंडिया में मर्ज पर विचार कर रहे हैं, ताकि भारी घाटा और दोहरे प्रशासनिक ढांचे की परेशानियां कम की जा सकें।

अभी दोनों एयरलाइंस अलग-अलग ऑपरेटिंग परमिट, मैनेजमेंट और कर्मचारियों के साथ काम करती हैं। प्लान के तहत दोनों अपने-अपने ब्रांड अलग रखेंगी, लेकिन एक ही ऑपरेटिंग परमिट के तहत उड़ानें भरेंगी। एंविषन कंसल्टेंसी एयरोइंटेलेक्ट के डायरेक्टर अमित मित्तल के मुताबिक, इससे पायलट, क्रू और मटेनेंस स्टाफ का अभी के मुकाबले बेहतर इस्तेमाल हो सकेगा। अभी सबसे बड़ी परेशानी यह है कि ग्रुप की दोनों एयरलाइंस एक जैसे रूटों पर 10-15 मिनट के अंतर पर उड़ानें भरकर एक-दूसरे के यात्री ही आपस में बांट रही हैं।



मैनेजमेंट और कर्मचारियों के साथ काम करती हैं। प्लान के तहत दोनों अपने-अपने ब्रांड अलग रखेंगी, लेकिन एक ही ऑपरेटिंग परमिट के तहत उड़ानें भरेंगी। एंविषन कंसल्टेंसी एयरोइंटेलेक्ट के डायरेक्टर अमित मित्तल के मुताबिक, इससे पायलट, क्रू और मटेनेंस स्टाफ का अभी के मुकाबले बेहतर इस्तेमाल हो सकेगा। अभी सबसे बड़ी परेशानी यह है कि ग्रुप की दोनों एयरलाइंस एक जैसे रूटों पर 10-15 मिनट के अंतर पर उड़ानें भरकर एक-दूसरे के यात्री ही आपस में बांट रही हैं।

प्लान • 4 एयरलाइंस से दो हुए, अब एक की तैयारी

2022 में टाटा ग्रुप की तरफ से अधिग्रहण के बाद 'विहान.A1' योजना के तहत चार एयरलाइंस को दो में मिलाया गया था- विस्तारा को एअर इंडिया में, एयरएशिया इंडिया को एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस में। उसी दौरान सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस ने एअर इंडिया में 25.1% हिस्सेदारी ली थी। अब इन दोनों को मिलाकर एक एयरलाइन बनाने की तैयारी दिख रही है।

असर • मर्ज के मुख्य रूप से दो फायदे नजर आ रहे

1. मर्ज की सफलता कई सबलों पर टिकी है। मसलन, मर्ज से बनी कंपनी फुल-सर्विस होगी या लो-कॉस्ट, और चेक-इन, शेड्यूलिंग सिस्टम कैसे जुड़ेंगे।
2. मर्ज के बाद बड़ी फ्लीट से विमानों की फाइनेंसिंग-लीजिंग में मोलभाव की ताकत बढ़ सकती है। इससे एअर इंडिया की ऑपरेशन लागत घटने और ऑपरेशन बेहतर होने की संभावना है।

अभी भारी घाटे में, 1 साल में दोगुना 22,238 करोड़... • वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 में एअर इंडिया ग्रुप को ₹22,238 करोड़ का घाटा हुआ। यह 1 साल पहले के ₹10,859 करोड़ से दोगुना से भी ज्यादा है, जबकि कुल आय ₹71,870 करोड़ रही।

Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

देश में 100 विमानों वाली कम से कम पांच विमान सेवा कंपनियों की जरूरत: नाथडू

■ 'उड़ान-2' के तहत 21 राज्यों तथा केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के साथ सहमति पत्र (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर

नई दिल्ली, 22 सितम्बर (एजेंसियां)। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री किंजरापू राम मोहन नाथडू ने मंगलवार को कहा कि देश के विमानन क्षेत्र केवल दो एयरलाइंस का दबदबा सही नहीं है और भविष्य की मांग को देखते हुए 100 विमानों वाली कम से कम पांच विमान सेवा कंपनियों की जरूरत है।

देश के छोटे हवाई अड्डों को विमानन नेटवर्क से जोड़ने के लिए शुरू की गई क्षेत्रीय संपर्क योजना उড়ে देश का आम नागरिक 'उड़ान-2' के तहत 21 राज्यों तथा केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के साथ सहमति पत्र (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर के बाद श्री नाथडू ने कहा कि पिछले 12 साल में 'उड़ान' के तहत 95 नये हवाई अड्डे, 17 हेलीपोर्ट और



देश के विमानन क्षेत्र में केवल दो एयरलाइंस का दबदबा सही नहीं है और भविष्य की मांग को देखते हुए 100 विमानों वाली कम से कम पांच विमान कंपनियों की जरूरत है : किंजरापू राम मोहन नाथडू, नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री

दो वाटर एयरोड्रम बने हैं। अगले 10 साल में 'उड़ान-2' के तहत 100 नये हवाई अड्डे बनाने की योजना है।

उन्होंने कहा, 'एक बड़ी चुनौती यह है कि इन मार्गों पर परिचालन के लिए देश में विमानों की उपलब्ध संख्या अपर्याप्त है।' उन्होंने राज्यों से विमान सेवा कंपनियों के

स्पाइसजेट की वित्तीय और परिचालन स्थिति पर सरकार की कड़ी नजर, सुरक्षा मानकों से कोई समझौता नहीं : नागर विमानन मंत्री

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री के. राम मोहन नाथडू ने मंगलवार को कहा कि सरकार और नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) स्पाइसजेट की वित्तीय और परिचालन स्थिति पर लगातार नजर बनाए हुए हैं। उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि किसी भी परिस्थिति में यात्री सुरक्षा से समझौता नहीं किया जाएगा। स्पाइसजेट की स्थिति पर सरकार की निगरानी को लेकर पूछे गए सवाल के जवाब में मंत्री ने कहा कि डीजीसीए को एयरलाइन के परिचालन और वित्तीय प्रदर्शन दोनों की समीक्षा करने का निर्देश दिया गया है, ताकि सुरक्षा मानकों का पूरी तरह पालन सुनिश्चित किया जा सके। नाथडू ने कहा कि नियामक लगातार स्पाइसजेट के प्रदर्शन की निगरानी कर रहा है और एयरलाइन के साथ नियमित संवाद बनाए हुए है। सरकार भी कंपनी के साथ बातचीत कर रही है और उसे अपनी परिचालन क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित कर रही है, ताकि वह अपने कारोबार को स्थिर कर सके।



साथ मिलकर काम करने की अपील की। दूसरी बड़ी चुनौती के रूप में उन्होंने नई विमान सेवा कंपनियों बनाने की वकालत की और राज्यों से क्षेत्रीय एयरलाइंस को प्रोत्साहित करने का अनुरोध किया।

उन्होंने कहा कि देश में सिर्फ दो विमान

सेवा कंपनियों का दबदबा अच्छा नहीं है। उनका इशारा इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया की ओर था जिनकी यात्रियों की संख्या के हिसाब से संयुक्त बाजार हिस्सेदारी 90 प्रतिशत के करीब है। इसमें अकेले इंडिगो की हिस्सेदारी 65 प्रतिशत से अधिक है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

एयरलाइनों को चेतावनी-त्योहारी सीजन में किराया वाजिब रखें

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : त्योहारी सीजन से पहले केंद्र ने एयरलाइनों को साफ संदेश दिया है कि हवाई किराये वाजिब स्तर पर रखे जाएं। नागरिक विमानन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने मंगलवार को कहा- 'त्योहारों-बड़े मौकों पर मंत्रालय एयरलाइनों से बात करता है और नियमित बैठकें होती हैं। सरकार का अनुरोध है कि जो यात्री इन दिनों घर जाना चाहते हैं, उन्हें ऊंचे किराये की मार न झेलनी पड़े।'

नायडू उड़ान-दो योजना की घोषणा करते हुए मीडिया से बात कर रहे थे। उड़ान के नए चरण के लिए 21 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों से समझौता हुआ है। बिहार, छत्तीसगढ़, हिमाचल प्रदेश, असम, राजस्थान, ओडिशा, आंध्र प्रदेश जैसे राज्यों के साथ समझौता किया गया है। छोटे शहरों को हवाई मार्ग से जोड़ने के उद्देश्य से शुरू की गई उड़ान योजना का विस्तार अब दस साल के लिए किया गया है। उड़ान के तहत देश में 90 से ज्यादा हवाई अड्डे बने हैं।

अदाणी एयरलाइन पर अभी फैसला नहीं, मंत्रालय कर रहा विचार

नायडू ने कहा कि अदाणी समूह के एयरलाइन शुरू करने संबंधी प्रस्ताव पर सरकार ने अभी कोई फैसला नहीं लिया है। हवाई अड्डे और एयरलाइन एक साथ चलाने के नफा-नुकसान पर विचार चल रहा है। देश में और एयरलाइंस होनी चाहिए ताकि यात्रियों के पास विकल्प बढ़ें। अगर कोई इसमें दिलचस्पी रखता है तो सरकार उस विचार का समर्थन करती है।



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23 SEPTEMBER 2026

हब-एंड-स्पोक उड़ानों की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था मजबूत की गई : नायडू

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस : उड़्डयन मंत्री नायडू ने बताया कि हब-एंड-स्पोक माडल के तहत संचालित फ्लाइटों की सुरक्षा को मजबूत किया गया है ताकि आगे चूक न हो। चार सितंबर को अमृतसर से एअर इंडिया की उड़ान से दिल्ली पहुंचे तीन इतालवी यात्री इमिग्रेशन प्रक्रिया पूरी किए बिना लुपत्तांसा की उड़ान से म्यूनिख चले गए थे। इस माडल में अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्री अपने शुरुआती हवाई अड्डे पर औपचारिकताएं पूरी करते हैं। इसके बाद निर्धारित 'हब' हवाई अड्डे से वे बगैर प्रक्रियाओं से गुजरे आगे की उड़ान में सवार हो सकते हैं।

Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

त्योहारी सीजन में किराया वाजिब रखें एयरलाइन कंपनियां : केंद्र

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली

त्योहारी सीजन से पहले केंद्र ने एयरलाइनों को साफ संदेश दिया है कि हवाई किराये वाजिब स्तर पर रखे जाएं। नागरिक विमानन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने मंगलवार को कहा- 'त्योहारों-बड़े मौकों पर मंत्रालय एयरलाइनों से लगातार बात करता है और नियमित बैठकें होती हैं। सरकार का अनुरोध है कि यात्रियों इन दिनों ऊंचे किराये की मार न झेलनी पड़े।'

नायडू उड़ान-दो योजना की घोषणा करते हुए मीडिया से बात कर रहे थे। उड़ान के नए चरण के लिए 21 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों से समझौता हुआ है। बिहार, छत्तीसगढ़, हिमाचल प्रदेश, असम, राजस्थान, ओडिशा, आंध्र प्रदेश जैसे राज्यों के साथ समझौता किया गया है। देश के दूर-दराज के इलाकों और छोटे शहरों को हवाई मार्ग से जोड़ने के उद्देश्य से शुरू की गई उड़ान योजना का विस्तार अब दस साल के लिए किया गया है। उन्होंने बताया कि उड़ान-दो के तहत केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से 30 हजार करोड़ रुपये का निवेश होगा, राज्यों की तरफ से भी इतनी ही राशि का निवेश की

- ▶ केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री ने कहा, उड़ान-दो फेज के लिए 21 राज्यों ने किया समझौता
- ▶ एक दशक में उड्डयन सेक्टर पर केंद्र और राज्य मिल कर करेंगे 60 हजार करोड़ रुपये का निवेश



राम मोहन नायडू।

फाइल

संभावना है। इस प्रकार, एविएशन सेक्टर में 60 हजार करोड़ रुपये के निवेश का रास्ता खुलेगा। इससे देश में 100 और हवाई अड्डे बनाए जाएंगे और 200 आधुनिक हेलीपैड का निर्माण होगा।

हवाई किराया के ज्यादा बने रहने के बारे में विमानन मंत्री ने कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया संकट के बाद से हवाई ईंधन काफी महंगा हो चुका है, यह हवाई सेवा

अदाणी एयरलाइन पर फैसला नहीं, मंत्रालय कर रहा विचार

नायडू ने कहा कि अदाणी समूह के एयरलाइन शुरू करने संबंधी प्रस्ताव पर सरकार ने अभी कोई फैसला नहीं लिया है। हवाई अड्डे और एयरलाइन एकसाथ चलाने के नफा-नुकसान पर विचार चल रहा है। देश में और एयरलाइंस होनी चाहिए ताकि यात्रियों के पास विकल्प बड़े। अगर कोई इससे दिलचस्पी रखता है तो सरकार उस विचार का समर्थन करती है। लेकिन जब वही कंपनी हवाई अड्डा भी चलाए और एयरलाइन भी तो संभावित नुकसान की समीक्षा करनी होगी और उसे संभालने की व्यवस्था बनानी होगी।

संचालन में 43 प्रतिशत तक हिस्सा रखता है। मंत्रालय कोशिश करता है कि किराये में भारी बढ़ोतरी न हो, लेकिन आमतौर पर एयरलाइनों पर बहुत ज्यादा अंकुश नहीं लग पाता। असलियत यह है कि निजी एयरलाइनों पर कानूनी तौर पर किराये को लेकर सरकार एक सीमा तक ही दबाव बना सकती है। मांग बढ़ते ही टिकट महंगे हो जाते हैं।

हब-एंड-स्पोक उड़ानों की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था को मजबूत किया गया

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के, राममोहन नायडू ने बताया कि हब-एंड-स्पोक मॉडल के तहत संचालित फ्लाइटों की सुरक्षा की व्यापक समीक्षा कर उसे मजबूत किया गया है ताकि आगे कोई चूक न हो। चार सितंबर को दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर हुई सुरक्षा चूक के मामले में एअर इंडिया को कारण बताओ नोटिस दिया गया है और संबंधित कर्मचारियों को निलंबित किया गया है। इस घटना में अमृतसर से एअर इंडिया की उड़ान से दिल्ली पहुंचे तीन इतालवी यात्री इमिग्रेशन प्रक्रिया पूरी किए बिना लुफ्थान्सा की उड़ान से म्यूनिख चले गए थे। आइएएनएस के अनुसार, नायडू ने यह भी कहा कि सरकार और नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय स्पाइसजेट के वित्तीय और परिचालन प्रदर्शन की करीबी निगरानी कर रहे हैं। एयरलाइन को कई चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि यात्रियों की सुरक्षा सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता है।

Adanis' Proposal to Start Airline Under Deliberation, Says Naidu

Aviation minister flags cross-ownership concerns despite push for more carriers

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The government will be cautious in allowing the Adani Group to start an airline, even though it wants to break the duopoly of IndiGo and Air India, as it is wary of the conflict of interest caused by cross ownership of airlines and airports, civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said on Tuesday.

"When an airport operator wants to operate an airline, we also have to examine the potential disadvantages. We need to create a system that addresses those concerns. There are several advantages, but the matter is under deliberation," Naidu said in response to a query from **ET** on the sidelines of an event where he stressed that India should have more airlines.

JUNE LETTER BY ADANI GROUP

In June, the Adani Group, which owns a 74% stake in Mumbai airport, wrote to the government seeking the removal of a clause that restricts the operator of Delhi and Mumbai airports from holding more than a 10% stake in any scheduled carrier.

In the letter dated June 4, Adani Airports chief executive officer Arun Bansal said that group firm Adani Defence & Aerospace was evaluating starting an airline as a natural extension of the group's



ON CROSS-OWNERSHIP

When an airport operator wants to operate an airline, we also have to examine the potential disadvantages. We need to create a system that addresses those concerns

RAM MOHAN NAIDU

Union civil aviation minister

existing aviation ecosystem.

Government officials **ET** spoke to said removing such a clause could be seen as a restrictive benefit given to a single company and would come under scrutiny.

The clause was part of the agree-

ment when Delhi and Mumbai airports were privatised in 2006, and any amendment would require Union Cabinet approval.

The officials also said that while it is encouraging that a cash-rich group wants to start an airline, cross ownership of airlines and airports may prove detrimental for customers in the long run.

"While we talk of airline duopoly, airports are a natural monopoly as they are the single gateway in a city. Hence, allowing a company which owns one of the largest airports in the country to start an airline has to be cautiously weighed," according to one senior government official.

AIRLINES AGAINST CLAUSE RELIEF

Airlines have opposed any relaxation of the clause. Rahul Bhatia, managing director of IndiGo, on Thursday said any move allowing cross ownership would create a "massive conflict of interest" and ultimately hurt consumers.

"It typically would reflect a massive conflict of interest, and over a period of time, it would actually be against the interest of consumers," he said.

In 2019, approval for an ₹8,000-crore investment by the Tata Group in GMR Airports, which then operated Delhi and Hyderabad airports, was denied after solicitor general Tushar Mehta opposed it.

Naidu instead said that Ude

Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN), the scheme that subsidised airlines to operate on unprofitable remote routes, would catalyse entrepreneurs to start regional airlines.

"We want at least five airlines to operate with 100 planes each. There should be airlines which operates in specific regional geographies like someone should think of an airline which connects the north east," the minister added.

First launched in 2017, the ambitious UDAN scheme was aimed at fuelling a nationwide expansion of air travel in one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets. Under the scheme, the government caps airfares and, in lieu, offers incentives, including subsidies, to attract airlines to less-traversed routes. The second phase of the scheme boosted the outlay sixfold to ₹28,840 crore.

STRICT CRITERIA

Naidu said strict criteria would govern airport selection in the second phase of the scheme aimed at boosting regional connectivity.

This will be done through the 'challenge mode', where proposed airports will be scored on multiple criteria, including proximity to tourist spots, industrial corridors or major airports; infrastructure readiness such as runways and terminal buildings; land availability; and state government commitment to financial contribution.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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Assessing pros & cons of GMR, Adani owning airlines: Naidu

NITIN KUMAR

New Delhi, September 22

THE GOVERNMENT IS assessing the pros and cons of allowing the operators of Delhi and Mumbai airports to enter the airline business, Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammo-han Naidu said on Tuesday.

Deliberations are underway and no final decision has been taken, he told reporters on the sidelines of an event to sign agreements with states for the next phase of the UDAN regional connectivity scheme.

The operations, management and development agreements (OMDAs) for Delhi and Mumbai airports restrict their operators from holding more than a 10% stake in an airline. The Adani Group operates Mumbai and seven other airports while GMR Airports manages New Delhi and four others.

"We need to create a system where the cons (of allowing such a move) are taken care of. Pros we know. As such...there is no clause or rule anywhere which stops airport operators from having airlines other than the OMDAs for Delhi and Mumbai. If let us say BIAL (Bengaluru airport operator), which is still a private operator, wants to operate an airline, there is no rule stopping it," Naidu said.

On UDAN 2.0, Naidu said the Centre expects to complete the signing of agreements with all states in the next two to three weeks. He said 21 states have already signed pacts, while West Bengal will do so on September 28. Other states will finalise the agreements very soon, he said.



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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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DGCA monitoring SpiceJet situation

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, September 22

AS SPICEJET GRAPPLES with headwinds resulting in frequent flight delays and operational issues, Union Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said on Tuesday that the airline continues to be monitored by the Directorate Gen-

eral of Civil Aviation (DGCA), including on operational and, to some extent, financial matters. He said the government remains in discussions with the airline but has to operate within the statutory framework applicable to private carriers.

On the recent security lapse involving Air India, Naidu said the ministry had taken correc-

tive actions, including issuing a show-cause notice and suspending the personnel.

He also addressed the issue of dominance of Indigo and Air India, noting that the government aims to support at least five airlines with fleets of over 100 aircraft each, and referred to the steady growth of airlines such as Akasa and Fly 91.



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HARI BHUMI

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026



एयर इंडिया पेश करेगी नया मनोरंजन मंच

नई दिल्ली। एयर इंडिया अपनी उड़ानों में एक नए मंच की पेशकश करने जा रही है, जो यात्रियों के लिए मनोरंजन, लायल्टी, वाणिज्य और यात्रा सेवाओं को एक साथ जोड़ेगा। यात्रियों के डिजिटल अनुभव को बेहतर बनाने की तैयारी के साथ ही यह नया इन-फ्लाइट एंटरटेनमेंट (आईएफई) मंच एयरलाइन के अतिरिक्त राजस्व को बढ़ाने में भी मदद करेगा। एयर इंडिया के मुख्य डिजिटल एवं प्रौद्योगिकी अधिकारी सत्य रामास्वामी ने बताया कि एयरलाइन द्वारा विकसित इस नए मंच को 2027 की दूसरी छमाही से चरणबद्ध तरीके से लागू किया जाएगा।

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

हवाई किराये पर सरकार की नजर

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता।
त्योहारों के बीच हवाई किराए में
बढ़ोतरी को लेकर सरकार ने विमानन
कंपनियों को किराया
उचित दायरे में रखने
के निर्देश दिए हैं।
नागरिक उड्डयन
मंत्री राममोहन नायडू
ने मंगलवार को कहा



कि सरकार हवाई किराए को लगातार
निगरानी कर रही है और यात्रियों पर
अनुचित आर्थिक बोझ न पड़े, इसके
लिए जरूरी कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं।
उन्होंने कहा कि देश में हवाई यात्रियों
की संख्या लगातार बढ़ रही है। ऐसे में
विमानन कंपनियों के बेड़े का विस्तार

हब-एंड-स्पोक उड़ानों की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था मजबूत

बिना आव्रजन प्रक्रिया पूरी किए तीन यात्रियों के अमृतसर से दिल्ली होते हुए
लुपथांसा एयरलाइंस के जरिए विदेश जाने के मामले में मंत्री ने कहा कि भविष्य में
इस तरह की किसी भी लापरवाही को रोकने के लिए जरूरी कदम उठाए गए हैं।
हब-एंड-स्पोक मॉडल के तहत संचालित उड़ानों की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था की पूरी तरह
समीक्षा कर उसे मजबूत किया गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि हवाईअड्डों के संचालन में
सुरक्षा से किसी भी तरह का समझौता नहीं किया जा सकता लेकिन अंतरराष्ट्रीय
यात्रियों को अधिक सुविधाजनक यात्रा उपलब्ध कराना भी जरूरी है।

जरूरी है। सरकार का लक्ष्य कम से कम
पांच घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों के पास
100-100 विमानों का बेड़ा सुनिश्चित
करना है। इससे प्रतिस्पर्धा बढ़ेगी।
योजना 'उड़ान' के अगले चरण के
लिए अगले दो-तीन सप्ताह में सभी
राज्यों के साथ समझौते पूरे किए जाएंगे।

अब तक 21 राज्य मंत्रालय के साथ
एमओयू कर चुके हैं। पश्चिम बंगाल के
साथ 28 सितंबर को समझौता होने की
उम्मीद है। अदाणी समूह को किसी
एयरलाइन में हिस्सेदारी से जुड़े सवाल
पर नायडू बोले, स्पष्ट है कि देश में
अधिक एयरलाइंस आनी चाहिए।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

स्पाइसजेट विमानों की देरी की जांच शुरू

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। विमानन क्षेत्र की निगरानी करने वाली संस्था डीजीसीए विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट के संचालन और वित्तीय स्थिति की जांच कर रही है। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के, राममोहन नायडू ने मंगलवार को कहा कि हमारी कोशिश है कि यात्रियों को किसी तरह की परेशानी नहीं होनी चाहिए।

स्पाइसजेट को कई तरह की मुश्किलों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, जिसके कारण उड़ानों में बार-बार देरी और संचालन से जुड़ी समस्याएं सामने आ रही हैं। नायडू ने यह भी स्पष्ट किया कि किसी निजी कंपनी के कामकाज में सरकार के हस्तक्षेप की सीमा होती है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

{ BUSINESS } SAYS AVIATION MIN

SpiceJet finances, ops under DGCA scrutiny



The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is carrying out operational and financial scrutiny of SpiceJet, civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said on Tuesday even as the airline grapples with flight cancellations and delays. "The immediate activity in the ministry regarding SpiceJet is that we have operational and, to a certain extent, financial scrutiny also being done from the ministry through the DGCA because we don't want any lapse in safety," Naidu said. As per the latest DGCA monthly data, SpiceJet's domestic market share dropped to 1.6% in July from 1.9% in June. Naidu said the ministry was continuously engaging with the airline. "In terms of the future, we are continuously engaging and seeing how best we can facilitate the ministry side," the aviation minister said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

DGCA REVIEWS SPICEJET'S OPERATIONS, FINANCES

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is carrying out operational and financial scrutiny of SpiceJet, civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said on Tuesday even as the airline continues to grapple with flight cancellations and delays.

"The immediate activity in the ministry regarding SpiceJet is that we have operational and, to a certain extent, financial scrutiny also being done from the ministry through the DGCA because we don't want any lapse in safety," Naidu said.

As per the latest DGCA monthly data, SpiceJet's domestic market share dropped to 1.6% in July from 1.9% in June.

Naidu said the ministry was continuously engaging with the airline. "In terms of the future, we are continuously engaging and seeing how best we can facilitate the ministry side," the aviation minister said.

"Our major priority right now is to ensure the passengers shouldn't face any inconvenience. The safety shouldn't be compromised at any cost in terms of operations. And then smooth operations are sustained within the airlines," Naidu said.

He however, clarified that the government had certain restrictions while dealing with private airlines. "...But you also see that these are private airlines. There are certain limits with which the government also can operate with them," he said, adding, "It is with this idea that the airlines might face problems, especially during the West Asia crisis, that the government has extended the scheme of ECGLS (Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme)," Naidu said.

The minister declared that SpiceJet too had been given ₹150 crore under the scheme.

"The rest is something the organization along with the bank have to work out so that the scheme is in place. They need to get the money," the minister said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

22 SEPTEMBER 2026



Flight to Frankfurt diverted, terminated due to smell

A direct flight from Bengaluru to Frankfurt in Germany on Sunday was diverted to Mumbai and terminated due to an unusual smell emanating from the aircraft cabin. German carrier Lufthansa, which operates the daily non-stop flight, was scheduled to depart from the Kempegowda International Airport around 3 a.m. on Sunday. However, the departure was delayed by three-and-a-half hours. On the way, the flight was diverted to Mumbai due to the smell and later terminated.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Centre places SpiceJet under operational & financial scrutiny

Reuters

Bengaluru, September 22

INDIA'S AVIATION ministry has placed troubled carrier SpiceJet under operational and financial scrutiny following its long-running cash flow troubles, worsened by the ongoing West Asia conflict, a government official said on Tuesday.

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said the government was closely monitoring SpiceJet's operations and finances through the aviation regulatory body to ensure safety is not compromised.

The ministry's focus comes amid heightened attention on aviation safety in India after recent industry disruptions, with regulators keen to ensure financial stress does not affect operations or passenger safety. Naidu said there were limits to how far the government could intervene in privately run businesses, but noted that authorities had extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, under which SpiceJet has received 1.5 billion rupees in support.

The remarks at a press conference comes months after Reuters reported that the company was actively pursuing government funding.

Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

नागर विमानन मंत्री राममोहन नायडू ने कहा हवाई किरायों की सीमा तय नहीं करेगी सरकार

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 22 सितंबर।

नागर विमानन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू ने मंगलवार को कहा कि सरकार आगामी त्योहारी मौसम की व्यस्त मांग के बीच हवाई किराये पर किसी तरह की सीमा नहीं लगाएगी। इससे किराये में बढ़ोतरी हो सकती है। लेकिन सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया कि एअरलाइन कंपनियों को टिकट के दाम उचित स्तर पर रखने की सलाह देगी। नायडू ने क्षेत्रीय हवाई संपर्क को बढ़ावा देने वाली 'उड़ान' योजना के अगले चरण के लिए समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर के मौके पर संवाददाताओं से यह बात कही। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार त्योहारी मौसम और महत्वपूर्ण आयोजनों के दौरान हवाई किराये की स्थिति पर नजर रखती है और एअरलाइन कंपनियों के साथ लगातार संपर्क में रहती है।

नागर विमानन मंत्री इस सवाल का जवाब दे रहे थे कि क्या सरकार आगामी त्योहारी मौसम को देखते हुए हवाई किराये पर किसी तरह की सीमा लगाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संकट के कारण विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमतें चढ़ गई हैं। यह ईंधन किसी भी एअरलाइन के परिचालन खर्च का बड़ा हिस्सा होता है। उन्होंने कहा कि एटीएफ हवाई किराये का 40 से 43 प्रतिशत होता है और ईंधन की कीमत में मामूली बढ़ोतरी भी टिकट के दाम को सीधे प्रभावित करती है। नायडू ने कहा कि यह जरूरी नहीं कि त्योहारी समय या किसी अन्य वजह से हो, बल्कि मौजूदा संकट की स्थिति भी इसका कारण है।

उधर नायडू ने कहा कि 'हब एंड स्पोक' मॉडल के तहत संचालित उड़ानों की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था की व्यापक समीक्षा कर उसे मजबूत किया गया है, ताकि भविष्य में कोई चूक न हो।



नागर विमानन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू ने कहा कि एअरलाइन कंपनियों को टिकट की कीमत उचित रखने को कहेंगे। कहा एटीएफ हवाई किराये का 40 से 43 फीसद होता है और ईंधन की कीमत में मामूली बढ़ोतरी भी टिकट के दाम को सीधे प्रभावित करती है।

दो-तीन हफ्ते में सभी राज्यों के साथ होंगे उड़ान योजना के समझौते : नायडू

नई दिल्ली, 22 सितंबर (ब्यूरो)।

केंद्र सरकार क्षेत्रीय हवाई संपर्क योजना 'उड़ान' के अगले चरण के लिए सभी राज्यों के साथ अगले दो-तीन सप्ताह में समझौते पूरा करने की तैयारी में है। केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने मंगलवार को कहा कि अब तक 21 राज्य नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय के साथ समझौता कर चुके हैं। पश्चिम बंगाल 28 सितंबर को समझौता कर सकता है।

जबकि अन्य राज्य इन समझौते के दस्तावेज को अंतिम रूप देने में जुटे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि 'उड़ान' योजना ने पिछले दस वर्षों में देश में क्षेत्रीय हवाई संपर्क को मजबूत किया है। योजना के तहत पिछले एक दशक में 90 से अधिक हवाई अड्डों को परिचालन में लाया गया और

करीब 1.54 करोड़ यात्रियों को रियायती हवाई संपर्क का लाभ मिला। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार ने 'उड़ान' योजना को अगले दस वर्षों के लिए आगे बढ़ाया है। इसके लिए करीब 30 हजार करोड़ रुपए के सरकारी निवेश की योजना है। राज्यों और अन्य भागीदारों के योगदान को शामिल करने पर यह राशि करीब 60 हजार करोड़ रुपए तक पहुंच सकती है। उन्होंने कहा कि मिछले चरण से मिले अनुभवों के आधार पर नए चरण में हवाई अड्डों के निर्माण को

गति देने के लिए 'चैलेंज मॉडल' अपनाया गया है। इसके तहत प्राथमिकता वाले हवाई अड्डों का चयन किया जाएगा। पहले जहां हवाई अड्डों के निर्माण में औरतन करीब तीन वर्ष लगते थे, अब काम शुरू होने के बाद इसे 18 महीने में पूरा करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है।

**'उड़ान'
योजना को
अगले दस वर्षों
के लिए आगे
बढ़ाया गया।**

Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026



SpiceJet continues to grapple with cancellations, delays. [ANI](#)

SpiceJet under DGCA scrutiny: minister

Nehal M Tripathi
letters@hindustantimes.com
NEW DELHI

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"The immediate activity in the ministry regarding SpiceJet is that we have operational and, to a certain extent, financial scrutiny also being done from the ministry through the DGCA because we don't want any lapse in safety," Naidu said.

As per latest DGCA monthly data, SpiceJet's domestic market share dropped to 1.6% in July from 1.9% in June.

"In terms of the future, we are continuously engaging and seeing how best we can facilitate the ministry side," the aviation minister said.

"Our major priority right

Hindustan Times

now is to ensure the passengers shouldn't face any inconvenience," Naidu said, adding that safety shouldn't be compromised at any cost, in terms of operations, and smooth operations need to be sustained within the airlines.

He however, clarified that the government had certain restrictions while dealing with private airlines.

"...But you also see that these are private airlines. There are certain limits with which the government also can operate with them," he said, adding, "It is with this idea that the airlines might face problems, especially during the West Asia crisis, that the government has extended the scheme of ECLGS (Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme)," Naidu said.

The minister declared that SpiceJet, too, had been given ₹150 crore under the scheme.

"The rest is something the organization along with the bank have to work out so that the scheme is in place. They need to get the money," the minister said.

Industry officials said that SpiceJet employees have not been given salaries for close to four months.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Expect high festive airfares as govt rules out price caps

OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, September 22

Come festive season and air travellers will have to brace for high airfares, as the government said it will not cap airfares but will advise airlines to keep the prices reasonable, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoan Naidu said on Tuesday.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of sign-



ing pacts for the next phase of Udaan, the minister said that in the past also, the government has handled the price situation in terms of festivals

or important events.

"We engage with the airlines continuously; we also have regular meetings with them. And we definitely point it to them that during this festive season, you have to ensure that the fair prices are kept at a reasonable level so that the people who want to travel, especially in these important times, get to see the benefit," the minister said.

CONTINUED ON P4

Airfares

He was responding to a question if government would impose a cap on airfares during the forthcoming festive season.

He further said that the ongoing West Asia crisis has driven the ATF prices forward.

Fuel accounts for a massive portion of an airline's operating expense structure. "This is not necessarily because of the festive season or anything, but there is an ongoing crisis situation," he said. Naidu said ATF makes up 40 to 43 per cent of airfares and even a small rise in fuel costs directly pushes up ticket prices.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

AI staff suspended for immigration lapse: Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

UNION Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Tuesday said that Air India personnel responsible for the immigration lapse involving an Air India flight from Amritsar to Munich have been suspended. Government rules do not bar an airport operator from running an airline, he said with reference to the recent interest shown by the Adani Group to enter airline operations.

Naidu was briefing the media after signing MoUs in connection with expansion of the UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme). The immigration breach occurred on the intervening night of September 3 and 4 and involved a flight operated to Munich under the hub and spoke model, which permits all clearances at the airport of origin itself. Three Italians who travelled from Amritsar to Delhi on flight AI-1115 later departed on a Lufthansa flight LH-763 without the mandatory immigration clearance.

Responding to a query, the



Officials step up checks on transfer passengers

Under direction from immigration authorities, flight operators and airport officials have stepped up checks on transfer passengers, as these are being carried out at transfer points to establish the nature of passengers' onwards journeys and ensure that those required to undergo immigration do not bypass the process, sources said.

minister said, "The Air India personnel who were there to escort the domestic or the international passengers through the respective pathways were found to be at fault, and they were suspended."

Referring to the convenience the hub-and-spoke model offered international passengers, Naidu said, "We have done three cities, and it was going on comfortably until one lapse



there. We have now created a robust ecosystem. All the lapses have been cleared and a stronger ecosystem has been created." Air India refused to share details. A source said an AI SATS employee and an airline staff were suspended.

To a query on the Adani Group expressing its interest in starting an airline, he said, "In the government, there is no clause or rule anywhere that

stops the airport operator from owning an airline."

The only rules that exist are the OMDA (Operation, Management and Development Agreement) for the Delhi and Mumbai airports, he pointed out. "If BIAL (which operates Bengaluru airport), a private operator, wants to operate an airline, then there is no rule stopping them," he added.

Meanwhile, under direction from immigration authorities, flight operators and airport officials have stepped up checks on transfer passengers, as these are being carried out at transfer points to establish the nature of passengers' onwards journeys and ensure that those required to undergo immigration do not bypass the process, sources in the know of the development said.

Sources said, "As an interim measure, airline staff have been instructed to pay closer attention to the 'T' and 'D' indicators printed on passengers' boarding passes. The markings identify whether a passenger is travelling on an international or domestic sector."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Aviation regulator DGCA launches operational and financial audit of SpiceJet

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AVIATION regulator DGCA is carrying out operational and financial scrutiny of cash-starved SpiceJet to ensure that passengers do not face any inconvenience and safety-related issues, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said on Tuesday.

"The immediate activity in the ministry regarding SpiceJet is that we have operational and, to a certain extent, financial scrutiny also being done from the ministry through the DGCA as we don't want any lapse in safety," Naidu said on the sidelines of signing pacts with states for next phase of Udaan in the national capital.

The remarks by the aviation minister come as the loss-making airline continues to face multiple headwinds resulting in frequent flight delays and operational issues. The airline's

domestic market share dropped to 1.6% in July 2026 from 1.9% in June, as per the latest official data. Naidu said the ministry was continuously engaging with the airline, but there were limits to how far the government could intervene in a privately-run airline. "There are certain limits with which the government also can operate with them," he said.

Naidu added that the government has extended the ECLGS (Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme) to help airlines that might face problems due to the West Asia crisis. SpiceJet has been given ₹150 crore under the ECLGS scheme. "Our major priority right now is to ensure the passengers shouldn't face any inconvenience, the safety shouldn't be compromised at any cost in terms of operations, and then smooth operations are sustained within the airline," he said.

Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

दशहरा, दिवाली के लिए हवाई टिकट के दाम चढ़े दिल्ली-दरभंगा रूट पर किराया 6 हजार से बढ़कर 17 हजार रुपये तक पहुंचा

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

दुर्गा पूजा, दशहरा, दिवाली और छठ पर घर जाने की तैयारी कर रहे लोगों के लिए हवाई सफर नेब पर भारी पड़ सकता है। दिल्ली से दरभंगा, पटना, बेंगलुरु समेत कई शहरों की फ्लाइटों के किराये में तेज बढ़ोतरी देखी जा रही है। कुछ रूट पर किराया सामान्य दिनों के मुकाबले दो से तीन गुना तक पहुंच गया है। घरेलू उड़ानों के विकल्प कम होने को किराये बढ़ने की बड़ी वजह माना जा रहा है। एयरलाइंस ने कुछ घरेलू रूट पर उड़ानों की संख्या घटाई है। वहीं, स्पाइसजेट की उड़ानों में भी लगातार कमी आई है।



File

किराया 70% बढ़ा

दिल्ली-मुंबई रूट पर हवाई किराया करीब 40% बढ़ा है। ट्रेवल एजेंसियों के मुताबिक, दिल्ली-हैदराबाद में 60-70%, जबकि दिल्ली-गोवा और दिल्ली-कोलकाता रूट पर 40% से ज्यादा बढ़ोतरी हुई है। दुर्गा पूजा के दौरान कोलकाता जाने वाली उड़ानों की बड़ी मांग भी इसकी वजह है।

दिल्ली-बेंगलुरु रूट का किराया में भी बढ़ोतरी

दिल्ली-दरभंगा रूट पर फिलहाल किराया करीब 6 हजार रुपये है, लेकिन 7 नवंबर को यही किराया 17 हजार रुपये से ज्यादा पहुंच रहा है। दिल्ली-पटना रूट पर मौजूदा किराया करीब 7,602 रुपये है, जो 7 नवंबर को बढ़कर 14,269 रुपये तक पहुंच रहा है। छठ के दौरान दिल्ली-बेंगलुरु रूट का किराया भी करीब 8,500 रुपये से बढ़कर 12,699 रुपये तक पहुंच रहा है।

किराये की सीमा तय नहीं कर सकते: मंत्री

नागर विमानन मंत्री के. राममोहन नायडू ने कहा कि मंत्रालय और DGCA एयरलाइंस के संपर्क में है, ताकि त्योहारी सीजन में किराया बहुत ज्यादा न बढ़े। हालांकि, सरकार एयरलाइंस के किराये पर ऊपरी सीमा तय नहीं कर सकती। एयर फेयर में 40-43% हिरसा एटीएफ का होता है। उन्होंने उड़ान योजना का नया 'चैलेज मोड' धरण भी लॉन्च किया। इसके तहत 21 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के साथ समझौते हुए।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

No airfare cap for festive season, govt asks airlines to keep fares reasonable

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 22 September

The government is not planning to impose a cap on airfares during the upcoming festive season, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said on Tuesday. Instead, the Centre will continue to engage with airlines and advise them to keep ticket prices at reasonable levels during the period of high travel demand.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the signing of agreements for the next phase of the regional connectivity scheme UDAN, Naidu said the government has previously addressed concerns over high fares during festivals and major events through discussions with airlines.

"Government maintains regular communication with airlines and will again take up the issue ahead of the festive travel period. The objective, he said, is to ensure that passengers travelling during important occasions are not faced with unreasonable ticket prices," he said.

Responding to a question on whether the government would introduce a formal airfare ceiling, Naidu said there was currently no plan to impose such a cap. Instead, airlines would be encouraged to maintain fares at reasonable levels.

Naidu also linked the pressure on airfares to the ongoing crisis in West Asia, which has pushed up the cost of aviation turbine fuel (ATF).

"The current increase in operating costs was not necessarily linked to the festive season, but was also a result of the wider geopolitical situation," he said.

"Fuel is one of the largest expenses for airlines, and higher ATF prices can have a direct impact on the cost of air travel. ATF accounts for around 40-43 per cent of airfare, making ticket prices particularly sensitive to movements in fuel costs," he added.

With the festive season expected to generate stronger passenger demand, the government is therefore relying on engagement with airlines rather than a regulatory price cap to address concerns over airfare increases.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

No rule stops airport cos from having airlines: Govt

Weighing Pros & Cons, No Decision Is Taken Yet: Naidu

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt is weighing the pros and cons of allowing airport operators such as Adani Group, which operates Mumbai Airport, to run an airline, although no decision has been taken yet. The Delhi and Mumbai airports went the PPP way in 2006 and their "operation, management and development agreement" (OMDA) does not allow the operators to have beyond 10% stake in an airline. Recently, the Adani Group had sought an amendment to the same.

"Govt is clear that India needs more airlines, given the number of airports going to come up in India and the demand. Our ambition is to have at least five airlines with at least 100 aircraft each. So, if someone wants to start an airline, govt supports the idea. The issue is an airport (Mumbai and Delhi) doing so. We are examining the pros and cons of the same," civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said



here Tuesday.

Naidu said no decision on the Adani request has been taken so far. "We need to create a system where the cons (of allowing such a move) are taken care of. Pros we know. As such in govt there is no clause or rule anywhere which stops airport operators from having airlines other than the OMDA agreement for Delhi and Mumbai. If BIAL (Bengaluru operator), which is a private operator, wants to operate an airline, there is no rule stopping him. That's why we have to take a balanced approach," said Naidu.

Adani's request has divided the airline industry with

suffer delays running in several hours. "We are closely monitoring SpiceJet's operations and finances through the aviation regulatory body to ensure safety is not compromised," Naidu said.

Dope test on pilots

"The intention of the ministry is that all pilots must get tested within a year. The framework for the same has to be issued by the regulator DGCA," said the minister.

No fare caps this festive season

Airfares will not be capped this festive season and the aviation ministry will advise airlines to keep the same at reasonable levels, said Naidu. The recent hike being seen is not due to spike in demand but due to increased jet fuel prices. "We definitely make a point to them (airlines) that during this festive season, you have to ensure that fair prices are kept at a reasonable level so that people who want to travel, get to see the benefit," the minister said.

IndiGo promoter Rahul Bhatia opposing the move and Akasa founder Vinay Dube being in favour of the same.

The minister spoke about other issues at an UDAN event. "Aviation ministry Airports Authority of India and 21 States and UTs (have) come together and sign MoUs to put a greater focus on speed, sustainability and long-term viability of projects in the next phase of UDAN... 100 airports will be developed under challenge mode over the next 10 years," Naidu said.

SpiceJet

The cash-strapped airline's woes have been mounting and its passengers often