

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Govt mulls allowing airport operators to own airlines

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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,



Under the existing arrangements, operators of the Delhi and Mumbai airports can hold up to 10% in an airline.

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Navi Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Guwahati, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Jaipur.

Adani Enterprises chief financial officer Jugeshinder 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 context, Fairfax owns a majority stake in BIAL, which manages the Bengaluru airport.

The government is now examining whether a broader framework is needed to address potential conflicts while allowing greater integration between

airports and airlines. "Pros and cons are being looked at. And no final decision has yet been taken," the minister added.

India is expanding its airport network but faces a shortage of aircraft and airlines to connect smaller cities. Naidu has previously said the country needs at least five large airlines with 100 aircraft each, as well as more carriers to improve regional connectivity.

India doesn't have that many large carriers. Barring IndiGo (Interglobe Aviation Ltd) with over 400 planes and the Air India group that has over 290, no other airline in the country has even 50 aircraft in its fleet. The third largest, Akasa Air, has 43 aircraft.

However, the possibility of airport-airline cross-holding has drawn criticism from IndiGo. Its co-founder and managing director Rahul Bhatia had said allowing such ownership would be "without global precedent".

Meanwhile, an expert said the regulatory mechanism needs to be very clear. "The regulatory mechanism needs to be drafted first and looked into," said Gurmukh Singh Bawa, secretary general of the Air Travelers Association.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

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.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

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



—RAM MOHAN NAIDU | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

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

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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

Adani Airports aims to reduce user fees to 'bare minimum'

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

The Adani Group has drawn up a strategy to reduce passenger user fees at its airports to bare minimum by scaling up non-aeronautical business and city side development, CEO of its Airports Business Arun Bansal said on Wednesday.

The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) determines aeronautical tariffs at major airports including landing charges and user development fees. Under the current regulatory framework, 30 per cent of non-aeronautical income of airports is used to cross subsidise aeronautical tariff.

Aeronautical charges contributed to 60 per cent of the company's revenue at its eight airports, Bansal had said last year. By 2030, the revenue profile of the airports will change and 70 per

● TURNING TABLES

By 2030, the company is aiming to change its revenue mix, with non-aeronautical sources such as retail, food and beverage, and advertising accounting for 70 per cent of the top line

cent of revenue will come from non-aeronautical sources, he said at the SBI Banking and Economics Conclave 2026 on Wednesday.

AVIATION HUBS

Bansal remarked that the group's ambition is to bring regulatory charges for passengers so low that they become irrelevant.

Earlier this month, Adani group raised \$1 billion by selling 5.5 per cent stake in its airports business. Funds raised from share sale will be

used for expansion of Navi Mumbai and other airports. The group has drawn up \$10 billion capex plan to expand airports.

Bansal said the aim is to keep infrastructure ready considering massive aircraft orders placed by Indian carriers. The West Asia crisis that highlighted India's dependence on hubs like Dubai and Doha has also pushed the government to fast track India's ambitions to develop aviation hubs.

NAVI MUMBAI AIRPORT

The Navi Mumbai airport has the potential and is being planned as a hub, he said, adding that the group also wishes to have US immigration pre-clearance facilities there. "It has to be a government decision. If it agrees we will do necessary infrastructure works."

The group also wants airlines to shift 30 per cent of its international flights from Mumbai to Navi Mumbai airport.

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

CIAL strengthens Far East link with four more weekly services to Bangkok

Our Bureau
Kochi

Cochin International Airport's connectivity to key international and domestic destinations with new services marked in this year's winter schedule.

This includes four weekly services to Bangkok by Air India Express; daily link to Fujairah by IndiGo; and to Dubai, Dammam and Kuwait by Akasa Air.

On the domestic sector, IndiGo will operate daily services to Kolkata and Thiruvananthapuram.

The winter schedule commencing from October 26 to March 28, 2027 features a total of 1,766 scheduled weekly flight movements, comprising 885 arrivals and



The Bangkok service will be operated by Air India Express.

881 departures. The schedule connects Kochi with 32 airport destinations — 13 domestic and 19 international by 28 airlines, with an average of around 252 scheduled flight movements a day.

CIAL already has connectivity to Bangkok–Don Mueang, Kuala Lumpur,

Singapore, Male and Colombo, with the existing schedule providing 93 weekly arrivals from six South and Southeast Asian destinations.

REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY
S Suhas, Managing Director, CIAL, said, "We have plans to

further enhance the passenger experience, including services such as home baggage collection and improved facilities for passengers requiring special assistance," he said.

WINTER SCHEDULE

The airport's winter schedule will further connect Kochi with 13 airports across the Gulf region, including Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Doha, Kuwait, Riyadh, Muscat, Sharjah, Jeddah, Bahrain, Dammam, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah and Salalah, accounting for 327 weekly arrivals. CIAL's domestic network comprises 13 destinations and 465 weekly arrivals, with Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Chennai among the destinations by frequency.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

ओएजी मेगाहब्स इंडेक्स... 11 पायदान की छलांग दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट बना दुनिया का 28वां सबसे कनेक्टेड हब

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट ने दुनिया के प्रमुख विमानन केंद्रों में अपनी पकड़ और मजबूत कर ली है। 'ओएजी मेगाहब्स इंडेक्स 2026' में दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट ने एक ही साल में 11 पायदान की लंबी छलांग लगाकर वैश्विक स्तर पर 28वां स्थान हासिल किया है (2025 में यह 39वें स्थान पर था)। इसके साथ ही, 11,045 संभावित

कनेक्शनों के साथ दिल्ली दुनिया का शीर्ष लो-कोस्ट कैरियर मेगा हब बनकर उभरा है।

गौरतलब है कि वर्तमान में दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट 70 एयरलाइंस के नेटवर्क के साथ कुल 160 गंतव्यों (70 अंतरराष्ट्रीय और 90 घरेलू) को सीधे जोड़ता है। हवाई अड्डा रोजाना लगभग 50,000 और हर महीने करीब 15 लाख ट्रांसफर (ट्रांजिट) यात्रियों को संभाल रहा है।

- शेष पेज 12 पर

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट...

डायल के सीईओ प्रदीप पणिक्कर ने कहा कि 160 गंतव्यों के साथ हम भारत को दुनिया के करीब लाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं।

विशाल घरेलू ताकत के बल पर बना ग्लोबल हब: वैश्विक हब्स के विपरीत, दिल्ली का मॉडल मुख्य रूप से भारत के विशाल घरेलू विमानन बाजार पर आधारित है। जयपुर, लखनऊ, पटना, रांची, इंदौर, भुवनेश्वर और गुवाहाटी जैसे छोटे शहरों के यात्री दिल्ली के जरिए यूरोप, उत्तरी अमेरिका, दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, मध्य पूर्व और मध्य एशिया के लिए सीधी कनेक्टिविटी प्राप्त कर रहे हैं।



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DESHBANDHU

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

दिल्ली हवाई अड्डा ओएजी मेगाहब्स की रैंकिंग में 28वें पायदान पर

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली का इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा ओएजी मेगाहब्स की रैंकिंग में 11 पायदान चढ़कर 28वें स्थान पर पहुंच गया है। दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे से इस समय देश और विदेश के 160 शहरों के लिए उड़ानें उपलब्ध हैं। इस प्रकार यह एक वैश्विक विमानन हब के रूप में तेजी से अपनी स्थिति मजबूत कर रहा है। हर महीने 15 लाख यात्री इस हवाई अड्डे का इस्तेमाल ट्रांजिट के लिए करते हैं। एयरपोर्ट का प्रबंधन करने वाली कंपनी दिल्ली अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा लिमिटेड (खयल) ने बुधवार को बताया कि यहां से 70 विमान सेवा कंपनियां परिचालन कर रही हैं जो 70 अंतरराष्ट्रीय और 90 घरेलू गंतव्यों को जोड़ती हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

New York airport resumes flights

► 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, AP/PTI reports from New York.

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" despite the repairs.

The Newark airport showed about 40 delays and nearly 60 cancellations early Tuesday, according to Flightaware.com, a global flight tracking and aviation data site.

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

**विंटर शेड्यूल
में घरेलू
कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ेगी**

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर बदलेगा फ्लाइट शेड्यूल बैकॉक के लिए फिर शुरू होगी उड़ान

नवज्योति, जयपुर। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर 25 अक्टूबर से फ्लाइट संचालन का नया विंटर शेड्यूल लागू होने जा रहा है। इसके साथ ही जयपुर से देश के कई शहरों के लिए एयर कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ने की संभावना है। अभी जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से योजना औसतन 47 घरेलू फ्लाइट हैं, जबकि विंटर शेड्यूल में इनकी संख्या 60 के पार पहुंच सकती है। कुल फ्लाइट्स की संख्या 65 से अधिक रहने की संभावना है। पर्यटन सीजन शुरू होने के साथ एयर कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ने से यात्रियों को भी राहत मिलेगी। वर्तमान में जयपुर से मुंबई के लिए



सबसे अधिक 8 फ्लाइट संचालित हैं। विंटर शेड्यूल में मुंबई के लिए योजना 13 फ्लाइट होंगी। इनमें इंडिगो की 5, एयर इंडिया की 3, एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की 3, स्पाइसजेट और अकासा एयर की एक-एक फ्लाइट होगी। दिल्ली के लिए अभी 6 फ्लाइट हैं, जो बढ़कर औसतन 9 हो जाएंगी। इनमें इंडिगो की 5, एयर इंडिया की 2, एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और फ्लावेंस एयर की एक-एक फ्लाइट होगी। बेंगलुरु के लिए 7, हैदराबाद और कोलकाता के लिए 4-4 तथा अहमदाबाद के लिए 4 फ्लाइट संचालित होंगी। पुणे के लिए 2 फ्लाइट रहेंगी।

इन शहरों के लिए भी बढ़ेगी कनेक्टिविटी

उदयपुर, चंडीगढ़, लखनऊ और इंदौर के लिए 2-2 फ्लाइट संचालित होंगी। देहरादून, गुवाहाटी और जोधपुर के लिए एक-एक फ्लाइट रहेगी। जोधपुर की फ्लाइट का शेड्यूल फाइनल हो चुका है। इंडिगो की यह फ्लाइट जयपुर से सुबह 7.35 बजे रवाना होगी। एयरलाइंस की ओर से जैसलमेर, वराणसी, धर्मशाला और भोपाल जैसे शहरों के लिए भी फ्लाइट शुरू करने की तैयारी है। हालांकि इन रूटों का अंतिम शेड्यूल अभी जारी नहीं हुआ है। डीजीसीए स्तर पर प्रस्ताव पेश किए जा चुके हैं और अक्टूबर मध्य तक अंतिम मंजूरी मिलने की संभावना है।

बैकॉक के लिए 17 नवंबर से उड़ान

जयपुर से बैकॉक के लिए भी दोबारा इंटरनेशनल कनेक्टिविटी शुरू होगी। एयर एशिया की फ्लाइट 17 नवंबर से संचालित होगी। यह फ्लाइट जयपुर से रात 11.10 बजे बैकॉक के लिए रवाना होगी। यह फ्लाइट सप्ताह में चार दिनों रविवार, मंगलवार, बुधवार और शुक्रवार को संचालित होगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

22 SEPTEMBER 2026

उड़ान योजना के तहत बंगाल में बनेंगे चार नए हवाई अड्डे : अधिकारी

एजेंसी/पुरुलिया। पश्चिम बंगाल के मुख्यमंत्री शुभेंद्रु अधिकारी ने रविवार को घोषणा की कि केंद्र की क्षेत्रीय संपर्क योजना 'उड़ान' के तहत चार नए हवाई अड्डों के विकास के लिए राज्य सरकार 28 सितंबर को भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) के साथ समझौता पत्र (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर करेगी। ये प्रस्तावित हवाई अड्डे पुरुलिया के छर्रा, दक्षिण दिनाजपुर के बालुरघाट, अलीपुरद्वार के हसिमाग और पश्चिम मेदिनीपुर के कलाईकुंडा में बनाए जाएंगे। राज्य सरकार इन परियोजनाओं के लिए आवश्यक भूमि एएआई को सौंपेगी। पुरुलिया शहर के पास छर्रा

हवाई अड्डे के विकास के लिए 2,000 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश निर्धारित किया गया है। अधिकारी ने बताया कि परिवहन सचिव और एएआई के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी पहले ही स्थल का दौरा कर चुके हैं और प्रस्तावित घरेलू हवाई अड्डे को लेकर बैठकें कर चुके हैं। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा, यह नया विमानन बुनियादी ढांचा जिले में पर्यटन, व्यापार और औद्योगिक विकास को काफी बढ़ावा देगा। पुरुलिया में भाजपा सरकार की पहली प्रशासनिक बैठक को संबोधित करते हुए मुख्यमंत्री ने जिले के लिए कई विकास और पर्यटन पहलों की भी घोषणा की।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

Phased T1 shutdown to test Mumbai airport's capacity

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, September 23

MUMBAI AIRPORT'S PHASED Terminal 1 redevelopment is set to put pressure on available capacity with Adani Airports beginning the shutdown of sections of the terminal from January. Airlines will have the flexibility to shift operations to Mumbai Airport T2 if there is availability, Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) or other airports during the redevelopment.

Arun Bansal, CEO, Adani Airport Holdings, said the operator cannot delay the redevelopment as the existing terminal needs to be demolished and rebuilt. "From the beginning of January, one-third of T1 will be shut down. Two-thirds a little later and, further ahead, the entire T1 will be shut down and redeveloped," Bansal said.

The phased closure will require airlines to accommodate their operations elsewhere. Bansal said carriers could move to NMIA or other airports depending on their operational requirements. "They have a choice to go anywhere or stop operations. When the NOTAM is over, when the terminal is back, they can start," he said.

The airport operator will not dictate where airlines move their operations, Bansal said. "We can never tell airlines. Airlines have to make their own decisions based on their business logic," he said.

Adani Airports has given airlines advance notice to plan for the shutdown. "We have to tell them in advance. So, they have around six months of planning," Bansal said. He also ruled out delaying the demolition in response to airline requests. "They say, can you delay the T1 demolition? We say, sorry, can-

not," he said. Bansal said the redevelopment is necessary given the condition of the existing terminal and the need to create modern capacity at Mumbai airport. The operator has also told airlines that they can move to Navi Mumbai whenever they want, while feedback from carriers on infrastructure is being addressed. "We have told airlines that they can move to Navi Mumbai whenever they want," Bansal said.

MIAL has planned the first phase of T1 demolition for January 15, 2027, with traffic to be redistributed to T2 and NMIA ahead of the shutdown.

The capacity pressure will coincide with changes to Mumbai airport's cargo operations. Adani Airports expects all freighter operations to move to NMIA before October 15, however sources tell FE that this will see delays. The existing cargo terminal at Mumbai airport will also need to be rebuilt, with the redevelopment expected to take around three years. "We need to tear down cargo. We have to make a new cargo terminal, which will take three years," Bansal said.

ARUN BANSAL,
CEO, ADANI AIRPORT HOLDINGS

Airlines have a choice to go anywhere or stop operations. We've to tell them in advance. So, they have around six months of planning



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

State mulls clubbing FSI for rdvpt in Mumbai airport funnel zone

BMC to submit report on where additional FSI should be granted to developers and how it should be used

Saurabha Kulshreshtha

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MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government is mulling a proposal that would make the redevelopment of thousands of old buildings in the Mumbai airport's funnel zone financially viable for builders—by allowing the clubbing of FSI.

According to officials aware of the developments, the proposal involves allowing developers to club the unutilised floor-space index (FSI) from a funnel-zone redevelopment with another project. The state will decide on the proposal after receiving a report from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on where such additional FSI should be

granted and how it should be used, officials said.

The issue affects thousands of decades-old, dilapidated buildings in areas such as Vile Parle, Santacruz and Kurla, which are in the funnel zone or flight path of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA). Buildings in the funnel zone have height restrictions, which prevent developers from using the entire FSI otherwise available to a redevelopment project, making the projects financially unviable. FSI determines how much floor area can be constructed on a plot in relation to its size.

A policy decision on the matter has been pending for several years. Among the options discussed have been allowing the unutilised FSI to be converted into transferable development rights (TDR), which is essentially a tradable certificate, and concessions in the permissible height restrictions.

Now, the state government is mulling a proposal involving clubbing of FSI. "According to



Buildings in the airport funnel zone have height restrictions, which prevent developers from using the entire FSI otherwise available to a redevelopment project.

HT ARCHIVE

the proposal, a developer can use the balance FSI from the funnel zone elsewhere in Mumbai. This proposal is based on a similar concept used in the redevelopment of cessed Mhada buildings under Regulation 33(7), clause 22, which permits developers to integrate two or more separate projects into a single unified plan to maximise the viability of the project," said

an official aware of the developments.

For instance, if a redevelopment project is entitled to 10,000 sq ft of FSI but height restrictions allow the developer to construct only 7,000 sq ft, the remaining 3,000 sq ft can be used in another project outside the funnel zone.

"Legislators Parag Alavani and Amit Satam raised the issue

in a meeting with chief minister Devendra Fadnavis," said another official familiar with the matter. "Accordingly, the urban development department has sought a report from the BMC. As the BMC is the planning authority in Mumbai, it will give its opinion on where the FSI potential for buildings affected by funnel zone restrictions should be granted and how it should be utilised. It should also examine whether the additional FSI can be merged with adjoining or nearby developments," the official added.

Alavani, an MLA from Vile Parle, said the BMC's report is awaited. "Chief minister Fadnavis and deputy CM Eknath Shinde are positive on the issue of redevelopment of old buildings falling in the funnel zone of Mumbai airport. Various options were discussed so far. Now, I hope that the clubbing of FSI proposal would resolve this long pending issue once the BMC submits its report," he said.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

8 HELD AT DELHI'S IGI AIRPORT FOR SMUGGLING 6.5KG GOLD FROM DUBAI

Snehil Sinha

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NEW DELHI: Customs officials arrested eight passengers for allegedly smuggling around 6.5kg of gold worth nearly ₹9 crore from Dubai to Delhi, officials aware of the matter said on Wednesday.

According to officials, the customs department received a tip-off regarding the gold on Emirates flight EK 514, which arrived at Indira Gandhi International Airport from Dubai on September 21. A search of the flight was carried out, and gold was recovered in the form of chains concealed in three small bags placed under two flight seats, officials said. According to customs officials, the recovered chains had been sprayed with silver and black-coloured material, to alter their appearance.

"Our officers conducted a thorough search of the aircraft after it arrived from Dubai. The recovery of the gold led to the identification and subsequent arrest of eight passengers, including a woman who had travelled on the same flight," a customs official said.

Investigators said the arrested passengers allegedly followed a distinct modus operandi to transport gold from Dubai to India. The group frequently travelled to Dubai purportedly to attend exhibitions and would allegedly bring gold back by wearing it as chains or other jewellery. Investigators said they are now examining the travel history of those arrested, their links with other individuals and the source and intended destination of the seized gold. All accused were produced before the Patiala House court and sent to judicial custody for 14 days.

Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

CM PLEASED WITH WILDLIFE CONSERVATION WORK Suvendu announces tourism push, plans new airport for Alipurduar

MPOST BUREAU

Alipurduar/Cooch Behar/
Jalpaiguri, September 22

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Tuesday announced plans to develop Alipurduar as an international tourism destination, citing the region's immense potential.

Addressing a press conference at Madarihath, Adhikari announced that an MoU would be signed with Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram-mohan Naidu on September 28 for construction of a civil airport at Hasimara, which is expected to boost travel and tourism in the Dooars.

After visiting Jaldapara National Park, Adhikari said he was pleased with



Suvendu Adhikari at Jaldapara National Park

PTI

the wildlife conservation work there and directed authorities to complete reconstruction of the burnt Hollong Forest Bungalow by March 2027.

He arrived at Cooch Behar Airport by helicop-

ter and offered prayers at the historic Madan Mohan Temple. He later said the district administration had prepared a budget of around Rs 2 crore for its development.

On Cooch Behar Air-

KEY POINTS

- » The proposed Hasimara airport is expected to boost travel and tourism in the Dooars
- » After visiting Jaldapara National Park, Adhikari praised wildlife conservation efforts and ordered reconstruction of the burnt Hollong Forest Bungalow by March 2027
- » The district administration has prepared a budget of around Rs 2 crore for development of the Madan Mohan Temple

port, Adhikari said he would meet Naidu on September 28 to discuss its development and infrastructure. "I want to develop Cooch Behar. Give me a year. Cooch Behar will witness

CONTINUED ON P8

Suvendu

all-round development," he said.

He chaired an administrative meeting at Rabindra Bhavan, where law and order, the border situation, infrastructure and development issues were discussed. He directed the police to be more active and stressed the need to provide land to the BSF for border security.

"Land must also be provided to the BSF to secure the borders," he said.

In Jalpaiguri, Adhikari inaugurated the Murti Bridge and announced Rs 330 crore for various development projects, including initiatives linked to the tea industry. He also said efforts were underway to reopen closed tea gardens. Adhikari said he would return to Alipurduar to inaugurate the new district court building and visit Buxa on October 2 for the release of a tiger.

Meanwhile, on World Rhino Day, around 142 kg of seized rhino horns and other wildlife body parts were destroyed at a Forest Department programme at the Subhashini Tea Garden ground in Kalchini. Elephant tusks, deer antlers, leopard skins and other wildlife parts were also destroyed in the presence of school students.

"Wildlife must be protected from poachers. Wildlife body parts seized in connection with poaching will be destroyed through incineration," Adhikari said. He later undertook a jeep safari at Jaldapara National Park and named two elephant calves 'Chaitanya' and 'Sulakshana'. Three rhinos, including a calf, along with bison and deer were sighted at the Hollong glade. Rain, however, forced him to cut short the safari.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

City airport boosts standing as global aviation hub, placed at 28th position

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE Indira Gandhi International Airport, operated by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), has strengthened its position as India's principal global aviation gateway by connecting 160 destinations, including 70 international ones. An official release on Wednesday said that a network of 70 airlines, including six domestic carriers, operate at IGIA with 15 lakh passengers transferred every month.

An international index, Megahubs 2026, which assessed 201 airports across the world, has ranked Delhi airport 28th. IGIA is the only Indian airport to figure in the list and is placed even ahead of Dubai when it comes to the top 30 connected airports in the world.

According to the release, "The airport's growing hub strength is reflected in the OAG Megahubs Index 2026, where Delhi Airport has climbed 11 places to 28th globally, from 39th in 2025 in just one year."

Delhi's hub model is distinctly Indian - a vast domestic network feeding an expanding international network. The airport handles approximately 50,000 transfer passengers eve-



Flight from London turns back amid snag

A Delhi-bound IndiGo flight with over 250 passengers from London made an air turnback shortly after take-off early on Wednesday due to a technical issue detected on board. An emergency was declared, following which the aircraft was given a priority landing at London Heathrow Airport and all passengers disembarked safely. IndiGo attributed the incident to a technical issue.

ry day, or nearly 1.5 million a month, highlighting its growing role as the connecting bridge between India's cities and the world.

The Airport has recently added international connectivity to Beijing and Namangan, Uzbekistan, while strengthen-

ing its domestic network with new connections to Bareilly, Daman, Ambikapur, Halwara (Ludhiana) and Kishangarh.

Delhi's network increasingly brings India's metros, Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities into the global aviation system. Passengers from cities such as Jaipur, Lucknow, Patna, Ranchi, Indore, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati can use Delhi as a gateway to markets across Europe, North America, Southeast Asia, Australia, the Middle East and Central Asia.

Delhi is simultaneously expanding its international footprint towards the East and West. Philippine Airlines is expected to launch Delhi-Manila services by mid-November 2026, making Delhi its first Indian destination. EVA Air will commence Delhi-Taipei services from December 1, 2026, establishing Delhi's first direct connectivity to Taiwan. "Discussions are underway with airlines from Russia and Mongolia for potential direct connectivity," the release added.

DIAL CEO Pradeep Panicker said, "Our model connects India's cities with the world while bringing global destinations closer to India's vast and growing passenger base."

Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

160 गंतव्यों से जुड़ा आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट ग्लोबल एविएशन हब के रूप में हुआ मजबूत

नई दिल्ली, 23 सितम्बर (नवोदय टाइम्स): इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल (आईजीआई) एयरपोर्ट ग्लोबल एविएशन हब के रूप में अपनी स्थिति लगातार मजबूत कर रहा है। एयरपोर्ट अब 70 एयरलाइंस के जरिए 160 गंतव्यों से जुड़ा हुआ है। इनमें 70 अंतरराष्ट्रीय और 90 घरेलू गंतव्य शामिल हैं। एयरपोर्ट की बढ़ती कनेक्टिविटी का असर उसकी वैश्विक रैंकिंग में भी दिखाई दिया। ओएजी मेगाहब्स इंडेक्स-2026 के अनुसार दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट 2025 के 39 वें स्थान से 11 पायदान ऊपर चढ़कर इस साल दुनिया में 28वें स्थान पर पहुंच गया है।

आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट का संचालन करने



ओएजी मेगाहब्स-2026 में 28वें स्थान पर पहुंचा

वाली दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल) के सीईओ प्रदीप पणिकर के अनुसार एयरपोर्ट से रोजाना करीब 50 हजार ट्रांसफर यात्री आते जाते हैं। यानी हर महीने लगभग 15 लाख यात्री यहां से दूसरी उड़ानों के लिए कनेक्शन लेते हैं। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट का हब मॉडल देश के बड़े घरेलू विमानन बाजार पर आधारित है। इसके जरिए देश के

मेट्रो शहरों के साथ टियर-2 और टियर-3 शहरों को भी अंतरराष्ट्रीय नेटवर्क से जोड़ा जा रहा है। हाल में दिल्ली से बीजिंग और उज्बेकिस्तान के नमनगन के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ाई गई है। वहीं बरेली, दमन, अंबिकापुर, हलवारा और किशनगढ़ जैसे घरेलू गंतव्य भी नेटवर्क में जुड़े हैं। आने वाले समय में दिल्ली से मनीला और ताइपेई के लिए सीधी उड़ानें शुरू होने की उम्मीद है। फिलीपीन एयरलाइंस नवंबर के मध्य तक मनीला सेवा शुरू कर सकती है। रूस, मंगोलिया और अफ्रीकी देशों के लिए भी सीधी कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ाने को लेकर बातचीत चल रही है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Govt weighs airport stakes in airlines

New Delhi: Civil aviation minister K. Rammohan Naidu on Tuesday said the government will assess the "pros and cons" of the proposal for airport operators owning stakes in airlines and decide on a balanced approach.

As the government on Tuesday signed agreements for the next phase of the regional connectivity programme UDAN, Naidu said India aims to become a global aviation hub while ensuring the safety of passengers and reasonable airfares.

To make full use of the strong travel demand, India's aviation sector needs at least five airlines operating with 100 aircraft each, he said, adding the ministry supports the ambition given the country's size and growing airport network.

"So, it is important for us to plan not only for the aspirations today, but for Viksit Bharat 2047 also," he said.

To a query on the Adani group seeking to own a stake in an airline, Naidu said one thing from the government is clear: the country needs more airlines. "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 said, 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, adding that there is no clause or rule that stops airport operators from having airlines other than the OMDA



K. Rammohan Naidu

(operation, management and development agreement).

"So, DIAL, which is still a private operator, if it wants to operate an airline, then there is no rule as such that is stopping them. So, that is why we have to see; we have to take a balanced approach," he said.

SpiceJet's woes

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is carrying out operational and financial scrutiny of budget carrier SpiceJet to ensure that passengers do not face any inconvenience, Naidu said.

As SpiceJet grapples with multiple headwinds leading to frequent flight delays and operational issues, Naidu also made it clear that the ministry has limitations in intervening in the affairs of a private carrier.

Reasonable airfares

The government will not cap airfares for the upcoming festival season, but will advise airlines to keep the prices reasonable, Naidu said.

Operating costs for aviation companies have risen due to higher fuel costs, he added.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

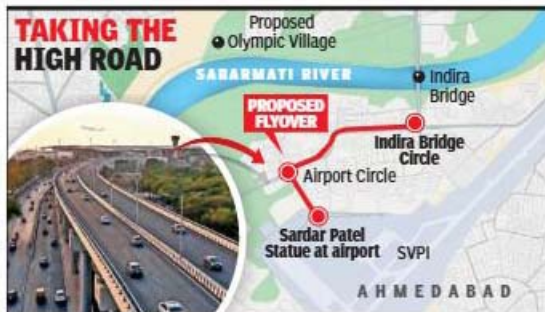
Elevated corridor planned for dedicated airport access

Niyati.Parikh
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Ahmedabad: On the lines of international airports in Mumbai and Delhi, the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) Airport in Ahmedabad is set to get dedicated entry and exit routes. Sources privy to the development said an elevated corridor has been proposed from Indira Bridge Circle to Flag Circle at the airport to bypass city traffic at Ummed Circle while entering the airport premises.

The proposed corridor will separate airport-bound vehicles from traffic on the busy airport road. A detailed road network plan has been prepared by the airport operator, following which initial rounds of meetings were held with civic body officials, a source confirmed.

The corridor has been divided into three stretches — one within the airport boundary and another from Flag Circle to Indira Bridge Circle. Finalisation of the third stretch is still under way and



is expected to comprise two bridges across Sabarmati and ramps extending towards Indira Circle on the Gandhinagar side.

“The approach road from Airport Circle carries significant traffic, not just that of people moving from Gandhinagar and Hansol towards Shahibaug but also the other way round. This is over and above regular passenger traffic towards the airport. The existing arrangement results in airport-bound and through traffic converging on the same road,” the source told TOI.

Conservative estimates

suggest that at least 14,000 cars move in and out of SVPI airport campus daily. Sources told TOI that the plan also involves land currently under the ministry of defence.

In Oct 2025, TOI reported that AMC and airport authorities were examining probable elevated corridors and alternative approach roads to address congestion around the airport.

However, a more detailed road network plan is now being worked out, which also includes provisions for an airport cargo logistics centre and connections towards Indira Circle.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

T3 demolition marks start of SVPI's biggest expansion

Niyati Parikh
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Ahmedabad: Demolition of the T3 building at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) Airport has begun to make way for a new integrated terminal building (NITB), marking the start of the airport's biggest terminal infrastructure expansion.

The NITB is part of a phased redevelopment plan to expand Ahmedabad airport's passenger-handling capacity to 2 crore passengers annually, compared with the combined capacity of around 1 crore

at the existing T1 and T2 terminals. The facility is expected to become operational by 2029-2030.

"The first phase is being built on the site adjoining the existing domestic terminal and extending from the T3 side. Demolition of T3



and excavation work are now under way as the site is cleared for construction," said a source familiar with the development.

The NITB is designed to bring domestic and international operations under one roof.

The plans include larger check-in areas, additional security checkpoints, bigger lounges and DigiYatra infrastructure to facilitate faster passenger movement.

The project cost is esti-

mated at more than Rs 3,000 crore, according to submissions made by the airport operator to Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA). The final estimate, however, may vary.

AERA officials recently met at SVPI Airport to review the ongoing work and plans for the NITB.

The redevelopment will also require changes to some existing airport facilities. The GujSAIL terminal is proposed to be shifted to another location to free up space for the NITB. The relocation, however, will be undertaken in the second phase, a source familiar with the development said.

The airport expansion aims to meet projected passenger growth and support Ahmedabad's long-term international connectivity needs.

The city is also scheduled to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Flight makes emergency landing in city

Chennai: A VietJet Airlines flight from Ho Chi Minh City to Colombo with 143 passengers on board made an emergency landing at Chennai airport on Tuesday night after an engine of the A320 aircraft failed.

There were no reports of injuries to the 143 passengers and crew on board. A full emergency was declared here at 9.55pm and all measures under the Airport Emergency Plan were activated. The aircraft, operating as VJC1875, landed safely at 10.27pm and taxied under its own power to parking stand 44, airport officials said.

The full emergency was withdrawn at 10.35pm. The aircraft would be inspected to ascertain the cause of the engine failure, said airport sources. **TNN**

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

TAKE A GANDER

L R Shankar



FLIGHT MODE: Pallikaralai's Narayanapuram lake, cleared of invasive water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and other aquatic weeds, is witnessing an increase in bird activity, offering a healthier habitat for waterbirds



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

'7,563 ATROCITY CASES AGAINST SC & ST SINCE 2023'

Warangal & Adilabad airports to reflect T heritage, says CM

Roushan.Ali@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Chief minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday directed officials to ensure that the upcoming airports at Warangal and Adilabad, as well as the new Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi, reflect Telangana's rich culture and heritage. He instructed officials to study the architectural and sculptural styles of the Kakatiya Kala Thoranam, Ramappa Temple and Pillalamarri Temple, which embody the state's history and culture, and incorporate elements of Telangana's heritage into the new constructions.

The CM held a review meeting on the proposed construction of the Adilabad and Warangal airports and the Telangana Bhavan in Delhi. Officials briefed the CM on various logistical issues at the airport sites, including the shifting of power lines, diversion of streams and roads, and the relocation of BSNL lines and drinking water supply pipelines.

AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday urged CM A Revanth Reddy to name the Mamnoor airport in Warangal after freedom fighter Moulvi Syed Alauddin, a native of the erstwhile Warangal district. In a letter to the CM, Owaisi stated that the Mamnoor airport was built in the 1930s under the rule of the Nizams for the benefit of the paper industry in Warangal.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

We don't want to compete with customers: Adani Airports CEO

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Adani Airports CEO Arun Bansal said the company does not want to compete with its airline customers and has enough opportunities in the airport business, a day after govt said it was examining the pros and cons of allowing airport operators such as Adani Group to run airlines.

"As airport CEO, I would not like to compete with my own customers. My hands are full," Bansal said at SBI Banking and Economics Conclave. Bansal said the growth opportunity in India's aviation sector was large enough for Adani Airports to focus its bandwidth on ex-

panding its airport operations rather than entering the airline business.

"India will be the fastest-growing aviation market in

Adani Airports is the second-largest airport operator globally by passenger traffic, according to Bansal

the world over the next 10 years and will be among the top two markets," he said. Adani Airports currently handles about 100 million passengers and Bansal said the company expected India's aviation sector to grow substantially over the next two decades.

With GDP potentially growing eightfold in 20 years and aviation growing faster than GDP, the sector could expand about tenfold, he said. "If we are able to capture that, we will be number one in the world," Bansal said.

Adani Airports is already the second-largest airport operator globally by passenger traffic, according to Bansal. The company operates airports including Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Jaipur, Guwahati and Navi Mumbai.

Bansal said the company planned to invest about \$11 billion in airport infrastructure in India over the next five years.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

घरेलू हवाई यातायात में 6.34% की गिरावट 121 लाख से ज्यादा यात्रियों ने किया सफर

नई दिल्ली। देश में घरेलू हवाई यात्री यातायात अगस्त में सालाना आधार पर 6.34 प्रतिशत घटकर 121.26 लाख रह गया जबकि पिछले साल इसी अवधि में यह आंकड़ा 129.47 लाख यात्रियों का था। नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने यह जानकारी दी गई।

डीजीसीए ने कहा, जनवरी-अगस्त 2026 अवधि के दौरान घरेलू एयरलाइन कंपनियों ने 1,105.30 लाख यात्रियों को यात्रा कराई, जबकि पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि में यह

संख्या 1,107.26 लाख थी। इस तरह सालाना वृद्धि दर -0.18 प्रतिशत और मासिक (अगस्त 2026 की तुलना में अगस्त 2025) वृद्धि दर -6.34 प्रतिशत रही।

समीक्षाधीन महीने में इंडिगो की बाजार हिस्सेदारी जुलाई के 67.4 प्रतिशत से घटकर 65% रह गई। वहीं, संकटग्रस्त स्पाइसजेट की बाजार हिस्सेदारी भी जुलाई के 1.6 प्रतिशत से घटकर 1.2% रह गई। इसके विपरीत, एयर इंडिया समूह की बाजार हिस्सेदारी अगस्त में बढ़कर 26.7 प्रतिशत हो गई। एजेंसी



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

दिल्ली आ रहे इंडिगो के विमान में 24 हजार फीट पर खराबी, लंदन वापस

नई दिल्ली। लंदन से दिल्ली आ रहा इंडिगो का ड्रीमलाइनर विमान तकनीकी खराबी के कारण मंगलवार रात लंदन के हीथ्रो हवाईअड्डे पर वापस लौट गया। इंडिगो ने यात्रियों को हुई परेशानी के लिए खेद जताया है और कहा कि उनके रहने तथा उन्हें अगली फ्लाइट में समायोजित करने की व्यवस्था की गई है। लंदन के हीथ्रो से दिल्ली के लिए संचालित उड़ान संख्या 6ई04 का बोइंग

787-9 विमान करीब 78 मिनट तक हवा में रहने के बाद वापस लौट गया। विमान ने मंगलवार रात भारतीय समयानुसार करीब 12 बजकर 40 मिनट पर उड़ान भरी थी और लगभग दो बजे हीथ्रो लौट गया।

चालक दल को विमान में तकनीकी खराबी का एहसास उस समय हुआ जब फ्लाइट 24 हजार फीट की ऊंचाई पर थी और इंग्लिश चैनल पार करने की कोशिश कर रही थी। एजेंसी

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

IndiGo's market share slips in August, Air India Group gains

FLIGHT PATH. Overall domestic air traffic falls 6.3% on year to 1.21 crore passengers

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Airline major IndiGo's share of domestic air passenger market slipped in August, while the Air India Group gained ground, even as overall passenger traffic declined y-o-y.

According to data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), IndiGo carried 78.87 lakh passengers during August 2026, accounting for 65 per cent of the market, down from 67.4 per cent in July.

The Air India Group, comprising Air India and Air India Express, increased its combined market share to 26.7 per cent from 24 per cent in July after carrying 32.32 lakh passengers.

Meanwhile, Akasa Air held its market share steady at 5.5 per cent after carrying 6.68 lakh passengers, while SpiceJet's share fell further to 1.2

Market share & passenger traffic

(August 2026)

Airline	Market share (%)	Passengers carried (lakh)
IndiGo	65.0	78.87
Air India Group	26.7	32.32
Akasa Air	5.5	6.68
SpiceJet	1.2	1.40
Star Air	0.7	0.84
Fly91	0.5	0.58
Alliance Air	0.5	0.57
IndiaOne Air	0.0	0.01
Total	100	121.26

Source: DGCA | Total passengers: 1.21 crore
Figures rounded; individual entries may not add up to the total



per cent. Star Air, Fly91 and Alliance Air accounted for 0.7 per cent, 0.5 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively.

AIRLINE PERFORMANCE

Overall, scheduled domestic airlines carried around 1.21 crore passengers during August, compared with around 1.29 crore passengers during

the corresponding period of last year, a y-o-y decline of about 6.3 per cent. On a sequential basis, traffic rose marginally from around 1.20 crore passengers in July.

For the January-August 2026 period, domestic airlines carried around 11.05 crore passengers, compared with 11.07 crore passengers

during the corresponding period of last year, a marginal decline of 0.18 per cent.

Industry observers told *businessline* that traffic remained largely flat sequentially during the lean monsoon travel season, with passenger load factors declining across most airlines during August compared with July.

On the other hand, Akasa Air recorded the highest passenger load factor during August 2026 at 87.6 per cent, followed by SpiceJet (79.9 per cent), IndiGo (79.2 per cent) and the Air India Group (77 per cent). Besides, Fly91 and IndiaOne Air were the only carriers to improve their load factors during the month, at 75.0 per cent and 47.5 per cent, respectively.

CANCELLATION RATE

Overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines during August 2026 stood at

1.04 per cent, with technical reasons accounting for about half of all cancellations at 50.2 per cent, followed by operational reasons (20.4 per cent), miscellaneous reasons (17.4 per cent) and weather-related disruptions (8.5 per cent).

SpiceJet recorded the highest cancellation rate at 20.92 per cent, followed by IndiaOne Air (10.60 per cent) and Alliance Air (4.58 per cent), while Akasa Air recorded the lowest at 0.07 per cent. In all, 67,462 passengers were affected by cancellations during the month, with airlines spending around ₹93.78 lakh on facilitation and compensation.

For on-time performance at 10 major airports, IndiGo led at 91.5 per cent, followed by Akasa Air (90.5 per cent) and the Air India Group (83.9 per cent), while Alliance Air stood at 71.8 per cent and SpiceJet trailed at 17.9 per cent.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

Delhi-bound IndiGo plane faces technical issue

A Delhi-bound IndiGo Dreamliner aircraft returned to London Heathrow early Wednesday due to a technical issue, according to a source. The Boeing 787-9 aircraft, operating flight 6E4 from London Heathrow to Delhi, was airborne for around an hour before turning back, as per the information available on flight tracking website [Flightradar24.com](https://www.flightradar24.com). The source said the aircraft suffered a technical issue and landed back safely at London Heathrow.

PTI

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

घरेलू उड़ानें 47 से बढ़कर 60 पार होंगी; जोधपुर की फ्लाइट फाइनल, धर्मशाला-भोपाल सहित नए शहर भी **25 अक्टूबर से उड़ानों का 'विंटर जंप'; मुंबई की 8 से 13, दिल्ली की 6 से 9 होंगी 17 नवंबर से बैकॉक भी जुड़ेगा**

शिवांग चतुर्वेदी | जयपुर

नए शेड्यूल में ये बदलाव भी होंगे

बढ़ेगी एयर कनेक्टिविटी

जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर 25 अक्टूबर से लागू होने वाला विंटर शेड्यूल इस बार बड़ा बदलाव लेकर आएगा। फिलहाल रोजाना औसतन करीब 47 फ्लाइट्स संचालित हो रही हैं, जबकि नए शेड्यूल में डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइट्स की संख्या 60 से अधिक और कुल फ्लाइट्स 65 से अधिक पहुंचने की संभावना है। सबसे बड़ा फायदा मुंबई, दिल्ली और बेंगलुरु जैसे व्यस्त रूटों पर मिलेगा, जबकि इंटरनेशनल कनेक्टिविटी में बैकॉक की वापसी खास रहेगी। मुंबई रूट पर अभी रोजाना 8 फ्लाइट्स हैं, जो विंटर शेड्यूल में बढ़कर 13 हो सकती हैं। दिल्ली के लिए मौजूदा 6 फ्लाइट्स बढ़कर औसतन 9 होंगी।

एयरलाइंस ने डीजीसीए के स्तर से विंटर शेड्यूल में नई फ्लाइट शुरू करने के प्रस्ताव भेज दिए हैं, लेकिन अंतिम मंजूरी अक्टूबर मध्य तक मिलने की संभावना है। जयपुर से जोधपुर की फ्लाइट का शेड्यूल फाइनल हो चुका है। यह रोजाना संचालित होगी।



जैसलमेर, वाराणसी, धर्मशाला और भोपाल जैसे शहरों के लिए भी फ्लाइट ऑपरेट हो सकती हैं। हालांकि इनका शेड्यूल अभी फाइनल नहीं हुआ है। विंटर शेड्यूल में जयपुर पर घरेलू फ्लाइट्स में स्पाइसजेट की फिर एंट्री होगी। मध्य रात्रि में जयपुर से मुंबई के लिए फ्लाइट संचालित करेगी। जयपुर में 12 अक्टूबर से अकासा एयर नई एयरलाइन के रूप में आएगी, जो मुंबई और बेंगलुरु के लिए एक-एक फ्लाइट शुरू करेगी।

जोधपुर के लिए फ्लाइट 6ई-7713 फाइनल है। यह जयपुर से सुबह 7:35 बजे जाएगी। इसी प्रकार 17 नवंबर से बैकॉक के लिए इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट शुरू होगी। फ्लाइट एफडी-131 जयपुर से रात 11:10 बजे जाएगी। यह सप्ताह में चार दिन रविवार, मंगलवार, बुधवार और शुक्रवार को चलेगी।

- **मुंबई** : अभी 8 फ्लाइट, विंटर शेड्यूल में 13 फ्लाइट चलेगी। इनमें 5 इंडिगो, 3 एयर इंडिया, 3 एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, 1 स्पाइसजेट और 1 अकासा एयर की होगी।
- **दिल्ली** : अभी 6 फ्लाइट, विंटर में औसतन 9 फ्लाइट चलेगी। इनमें 5 इंडिगो, 2 एयर इंडिया और 1-1 एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस व एलायंस एयर की होगी।
- **बेंगलुरु** : 7 फ्लाइट- 4 इंडिगो, 2 एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, 1 अकासा एयर।
- **हैदराबाद** : 4 फ्लाइट- सभी इंडिगो की।
- **कोलकाता** : 4 फ्लाइट- सभी इंडिगो की।
- **चेन्नई** : इंडिगो की 1 फ्लाइट।
- **अहमदाबाद** : 4 फ्लाइट- सभी इंडिगो की।
- **पुणे** : 2 फ्लाइट- 1 एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, 1 इंडिगो।
- **उदयपुर, चंडीगढ़, लखनऊ, इंदौर** : 2-2 फ्लाइट- सभी इंडिगो की।

Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

भारत में घरेलू हवाई यातायात अगस्त में 6.34 प्रतिशत घटा

नई दिल्ली, 23 सितम्बर (एजेंसियां)। भारत में घरेलू हवाई यात्री अगस्त में सालाना आधार पर 6.34 प्रतिशत घटकर 1.21 करोड़ रह गया। इस दौरान परिचालन संबंधी चुनौतियों का सामना कर रही स्पाइसजेट की बाजार हिस्सेदारी जुलाई के 1.6 प्रतिशत से घटकर अगस्त में 1.2 प्रतिशत रह गई। यह जानकारी नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीसीसीए) द्वारा बुधवार को जारी आंकड़ों में दी गई। समीक्षा अवधि में प्रमुख एयरलाइंस की बाजार हिस्सेदारी में भी मिला-जुला रुख देखने को मिला।

एयर इंडिया की बाजार हिस्सेदारी जुलाई के 24 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर अगस्त में 26.7 प्रतिशत हो गई, जबकि इंडिगो की हिस्सेदारी जुलाई के 67.4 प्रतिशत से घटकर पिछले महीने 65 प्रतिशत रह गई। अकासा एयर की बाजार हिस्सेदारी पिछले महीने 5.5 प्रतिशत पर स्थिर रही।



स्पाइसजेट और इंडिगो की बाजार हिस्सेदारी कम हुई

अगस्त में हिस्सेदारी गंवाने के बावजूद इंडिगो घरेलू विमानन बाजार में सबसे आगे रहा। एयरलाइन में अगस्त में 78.87 लाख यात्रियों ने सफर किया।

इसके बाद एयर इंडिया समूह रहा, जिसकी बाजार हिस्सेदारी 26.7 प्रतिशत रही और इस दौरान 32.32 लाख यात्रियों ने उड़ान भरी। अकासा एयर ने 5.5 प्रतिशत बाजार हिस्सेदारी के साथ तीसरा स्थान बरकरार रखा और अगस्त में 6.68 लाख यात्रियों को सफर कराया।

Govt not to cap airfares for festive season, says Naidu

Adds airlines to be advised to keep rates reasonable

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Union Government will not cap airfares for the upcoming festive season, but will advise airlines to keep the prices reasonable, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram-mohan Naidu said on Tuesday, even as he mentioned that operating costs for aviation companies have risen due to higher fuel costs.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of signing 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.

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 40-43% of airfares and even a small rise in fuel costs directly pushes up ticket prices.

Growing network

Separately, he said the govern-



FUTURE FLIGHT

- Centre won't cap festive-season fares, but will urge airlines to keep prices reasonable
- ATF accounts for 40-43% of airfare, pushing up airline operating costs
- Government eyes at least 5 airlines with 100 aircraft each

350+ airports planned, as India seeks to expand its airport network, including smaller towns

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.

K Ram-mohan Naidu
Civil Aviation Minister

ment will assess the "pros and cons" of the proposal for airport operators owning stakes in airlines and decide on a balanced approach.

He added that to make full use of today's strong travel demand, India's aviation sector needs at least five airlines op-

erating 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.

"So, it is important for us

to plan not only for the aspirations today, but for Viksit Bharat 2047 too," he said, adding that India should ideally have more than 350 airports.

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 said, is to provide the passenger with more airlines as an option.

Meanwhile, Naidu informed that the DGCA is carrying out the operational and financial scrutiny of budget carrier SpiceJet to ensure that passengers do not face any inconvenience.

As SpiceJet grapples with multiple headwinds resulting in frequent flight delays and operational issues, Naidu made it clear that the Civil Aviation Ministry has limitations in intervening in the affairs of a private carrier.

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

तकनीकी खराबी के चलते लंदन लौटा विमान, 300 यात्री थे सवार

जाब, नई दिल्ली : लंदन के हीथ्रो एयरपोर्ट से नई दिल्ली आ रही इंडिगो की उड़ान संख्या 6ई4 में तकनीकी खराबी आ गई, इससे विमान वापस हीथ्रो एयरपोर्ट लौट गया। इस बीच करीब एक घंटे तक विमान हवा में रहा। इससे विमान में मौजूद 300 यात्रियों की घड़कनें बढ़ी रहीं। सूत्रों के मुताबिक विमान में किसी वस्तु के जलने की गंध आई थी। बोईंग 787-9 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान ने लंदन से बुधवार को उड़ान भरी थी। जैसे ही विमान ने इंग्लिश चैनल के ऊपर 24,000 फीट की ऊंचाई हासिल की, पायलटों ने आगे चढ़ाई रोक दी। इसके तुरंत बाद क्रू ने एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोल को आपातकालीन संदेश भेजा, ताकि विमान को तुरंत

इंडिगो की उड़ान में जिस समय तकनीकी खराबी का पता चला 24 हजार फीट की ऊंचाई पर था विमान, करीब एक घंटे हवा में रहा

प्रिवारिटी लैंडिंग मिल सके। एटीसी से हरी झंडी मिलने के बाद विमान को सुरक्षित लंदन हीथ्रो एयरपोर्ट पर उतार लिया गया। इंडिगो का कहना है कि उड़ान में तकनीकी खराबी की पहचान होते ही एहतियातन विमान को वापस लंदन मोड़ने का फैसला लिया गया। एयरलाइंस ने कहा कि प्रभावित यात्रियों के लिए होटल में ठहरने की व्यवस्था की गई है और उन्हें वैकल्पिक उड़ानों के जरिए दिल्ली भेजने के इंतजाम किए जा रहे हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

अगस्त में घरेलू हवाई यात्री संख्या 6.34 प्रतिशत घटी

मुंबई: भारत में घरेलू हवाई यात्री यातायात अगस्त में सालाना आधार पर 6.34 प्रतिशत घटकर 121.26 लाख रह गया। सभी एयरलाइन कंपनियों ने अगस्त 2025 में कुल 129.47 लाख यात्रियों को हवाई यात्रा कराई थी। शेर्जीसोए ने कहा, 'जनवरी-अगस्त 2026 में कंपनियों ने 1,105.30 लाख यात्रियों को यात्रा कराई, जबकि पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि में यह 1,107.26 लाख थी। इस तरह सालाना वृद्धि दर -0.18 प्रतिशत और मासिक (अगस्त 2026 की तुलना में अगस्त 2025) वृद्धि दर -6.34 प्रतिशत रही।' (एट)



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

घरेलू हवाई यात्री संख्या अगस्त में 6.34% घटकर 121.26 लाख रही

मुंबई, ग्रेट : भारत में घरेलू हवाई यात्री यातायात अगस्त में सालाना आधार पर 6.34 प्रतिशत घटकर 121.26 लाख रह गया। सभी भारतीय एयरलाइन कंपनियों ने अगस्त 2025 में कुल 129.47 लाख यात्रियों को हवाई यात्रा कराई थी।

नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने कहा, 'जनवरी-अगस्त 2026 अवधि के दौरान घरेलू एयरलाइन कंपनियों ने 1,105.30 लाख यात्रियों को यात्रा कराई, जबकि पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि में यह संख्या 1,107.26 लाख थी।'

समीक्षाधीन महीने में इंडिगो की बाजार हिस्सेदारी जुलाई के 67.4 प्रतिशत से घटकर 65 प्रतिशत रह गई। वहीं, संकटग्रस्त स्पाइसजेट की बाजार हिस्सेदारी भी जुलाई के 1.6 प्रतिशत से घटकर 1.2 प्रतिशत रह गई।

▶ जनवरी-अगस्त 2026 अवधि के दौरान घरेलू एयरलाइन कंपनियों ने 1,105.30 लाख यात्रियों को यात्रा कराई

इसके विपरीत, एयर इंडिया समूह की बाजार हिस्सेदारी अगस्त में बढ़कर 26.7 प्रतिशत हो गई, जो जुलाई 2026 के मुकाबले 2.7 प्रतिशत अधिक है। डीजीसीए के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, अकासा एयर की बाजार हिस्सेदारी अगस्त में जुलाई के समान 5.5 प्रतिशत रही।

अगस्त 2026 में 10 प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों पर समय पर उड़ान संचालन (ओटीपी) के मामले में इंडिगो 91.5 प्रतिशत के साथ सबसे आगे रही। इसके बाद अकासा एयर 90.5 प्रतिशत और एयर इंडिया समूह 83.9 प्रतिशत के साथ क्रमशः दूसरे और तीसरे स्थान पर रहे।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

ET GRAPHICS

Domestic Air Travel Loses Momentum, Traffic Falls 6.3% in a Year to 12.1 m

August domestic air passenger traffic fell 6.34% from a year earlier to 12.12 million, according to DGCA data. Passenger traffic for the first eight months of 2026 stood at 110.53 million, marginally below the 110.72 million recorded in the same period last year. Text: FORUM GANDHI



Domestic air passenger traffic down **0.18%** year-on-year in Jan-Aug 2026

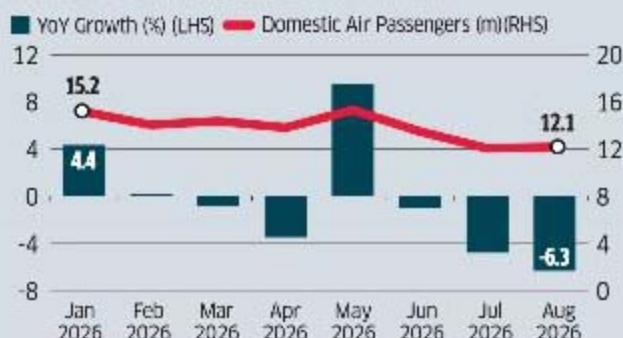


In August, **1.04%** of the domestic flights were cancelled



Airlines reported **2,132 complaints** (or 1.76 per 10,000 passengers), with baggage claims making up the largest share (**29.5%**)

DOMESTIC AIR PASSENGERS GROWTH



Source: Directorate General of Civil Aviation

Any prolonged continuation or further escalation of the West Asian conflict could result in downside risks to ICRA's traffic growth forecasts, yields and profitability, owing to potential persistence of elevated fuel prices, airspace restrictions and inflationary pressures. – ICRA

MARKET SHARE (%)

	IndiGo	Air India Group
Jul 26	67.4	24.0
Aug 26	65.0	26.7

SHARE OF FLIGHTS WITH ON-TIME PERFORMANCE* (%) (AUG 2026)

IndiGo	91.5
Akasa Air	90.5
Air India Group	83.9
Alliance Air	71.8
SpiceJet	17.9

*This data is for 10 major airports





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

Religious Travel Dominates Local Overnight Trips

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Pilgrimage and religious travel comprised nearly half of domestic overnight trips, followed by health and medical purposes, showed a report released by the statistics ministry Wednesday. Religious travel accounted for the largest share of overnight trips undertaken during the last

365 days, at 47.7%. This was followed by health and medical travel at 29.6%, holidaying, leisure and recreation at 22.1%, and shopping at 0.6%.



Religious travel was the most common purpose in both rural and urban areas, accounting for 48.4% and 46.6% of overnight trips, respectively.

However, health and medical travel was the second-largest category in ru-

ral areas, with a 38.4% share, while holidaying, leisure and recreation ranked second in urban areas, accounting for 36.4% of trips, as per Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey (DTES).

The survey was conducted from July 2025 to June 2026. Among households that undertook at least one such overnight trip during the year, rural tourist households made 127 trips per 100 households, up from 118 in 2014-15.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

DOMESTIC AIR TRAFFIC FALLS 6.3% IN AUG; INDIGO, SPICEJET LOSE SHARE

DOMESTIC AIR TRAFFIC fell 6.34% YoY to 12.13 million in August, from 12.95 million a year ago, the sharpest decline in recent months. Traffic had fallen 1.03% in June and 4.8% in July.

IndiGo's market share slipped to 65% from 67.4% in July, while Air India Group's share rose to 26.7% from 24%. SpiceJet saw its share falling to 1.2% from 1.6%.

— FE BUREAU

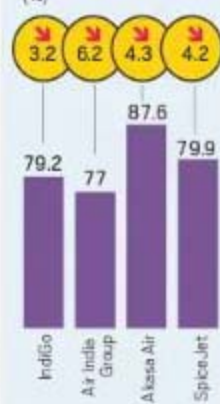
Air traffic (in million)



Who gained, who lost?



Passenger load factor (%)



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

SpiceJet ordered to pay for missed flight

Pranali Lotlikar

MUMBAI

The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Mumbai Suburban, has directed SpiceJet to refund ₹1,614 to a Peddar Road resident who missed a flight in 2016 after the airline brought forward its departure time without providing sufficient advance notice.

The complaint was filed nine years ago. The commission also ordered the airline to pay ₹5,000 each towards litigation costs and mental harassment.

Dr DP Kasbekar had booked SpiceJet flight SG-703 from Mumbai to Hyderabad for December 30, 2016. The flight was originally scheduled to depart at 10.45pm but was later advanced to 8.45pm.

Kasbekar said the change was communicated only through an SMS. He noticed the message later while travelling to the airport and

reached around 8pm, by which time he could not board the flight. After being unable to reschedule the ticket, he purchased another ticket for ₹4,290 for the following day.

SpiceJet argued that the passenger had received the SMS and said it was not feasible to individually call passengers about schedule changes. It also relied on its terms of carriage.

The commission, however, referred to Directorate General of Civil Aviation rules stating that airlines bear the burden of proving whether and when passengers were informed about flight delays or changes.

It noted that SpiceJet had not provided evidence showing when the SMS was delivered. The commission therefore held that sufficient advance notice had not been established and found the airline deficient in its service.

The complaint was filed nine years ago.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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MUMBAI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Govt signs MoUs with 21 states to extend UDAN scheme for 10 yrs

Informist

NEW DELHI

Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said on Tuesday that his ministry has completed memoranda of understanding with 21 states to implement the next phase of its regional connectivity scheme Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik, popularly known as UDAN. "21 states have entered into the MoU today and more states are also engaging with us so that we can do the MoUs as soon as possible," the minister stated at a press conference.

The UDAN scheme was in force for 10 years and has achieved its objective, benefiting over 15.4 million passengers across the country, the minister noted. The scheme has been extended for 10 years by working together with states, he added.

Corporate Communications Directorate

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MUMBAI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Govt to assess airport operators' airline ownership proposal: Min

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 Ramamohan 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. "So, it is important for us to plan not only for the aspirations today, but for Viksit Bharat 2047 also," he said, adding that India should ideally have more than 350 airports.

'Govt not to cap airfares for festive season'

The government will not cap



airfares for the upcoming festive season but will advise airlines to keep the prices reasonable, Naidu said, even as he mentioned that operating costs for aviation companies have risen due to higher fuel costs. The minister said that in the past also, the government has handled the price situation in terms of festivals or important events. Meanwhile, Naidu said the security ecosystems for the hub-and-spoke model flights have been thoroughly revised and strengthened to prevent any lapses in the future. The ministry has issued a show cause notice to Air India and the airline staff concerned have been suspended, he said briefing about the security lapse at the Delhi airport on Sep 4. -PTI

Govt closely monitoring SpiceJet's fincl, operational health

The DGCA is carrying out the operational and financial scrutiny of budget carrier SpiceJet to ensure that passengers do not face any inconvenience, Naidu said on Tuesday. As SpiceJet grapples with multiple headwinds resulting in frequent flight delays and operational issues, Naidu also made it clear that the civil aviation ministry has limitations in intervening in the affairs of a private carrier. "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.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Air India to roll out new IFE platform in second-half of 2027

Air India is set to introduce a new platform that will bring together entertainment, loyalty, commerce and travel services to passengers through the connected in-flight entertainment system.

As it prepares to enhance the digital experience for passengers, the new in-flight entertainment platform will also help in boosting the airline's ancillary revenues.

The airline will start deploying the new platform, developed in-house, progressively from the second

half of 2027, Chief Digital and Technology Officer Satya Ramaswamy stated.

The Vista Digital Platform will be rolled out on new wide-body aircraft that will be delivered next year.

Gradually, the upgraded in-flight entertainment platform will be introduced across the airline's wide-body fleet and also in Airbus A321 XLRs, which are narrow-body planes with a longer range.

Currently, in-flight entertainment platforms operate largely as closed standalone systems.

-PTI

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

घरेलू उड़ानों के निरस्त होने की 50 फीसदी से अधिक वजह विमान में खराबी, लेटलतीफी से भी दो महीने में सवा लाख यात्री परेशान हर दूसरी उड़ान रद्द होने की वजह तकनीकी खामी

आफत

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों की उड़ानों के प्रभावित होने को लेकर तकनीकी कारण सबसे बड़ी वजह है। अगस्त की यातायात रिपोर्ट से पता चलता है कि रद्द हुई घरेलू उड़ानों में 50.2 फीसदी मामले तकनीकी कारणों से जुड़े रहे। यानी उड़ानों के रद्द होने के हर दो मामलों में करीब एक मामला तकनीकी वजह से था। भारत ही नहीं, दुनिया भर में तकनीकी कारणों के चलते उड़ानें व्यापक स्तर पर प्रभावित हो रही हैं।

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय की तरफ से बुधवार को जारी आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि उड़ान रद्द होने के पीछे परिचालन संबंधी कारण 20.4 फीसदी और अन्य कारण 17.4 फीसदी रहे हैं। इसी तरह से मौसम की वजह से 8.5 फीसदी और वाणिज्यिक कारणों से 3.5 फीसदी उड़ानें रद्द हुईं।

बोते महीने घरेलू उड़ानों के रद्द होने की कुल दर 1.04 फीसदी रही। उड़ान रद्द होने के कारण बोते महीने यात्रियों को उड़ान सेवा के देरी से संचालित होने की समस्या का भी सामना करना पड़ा है, जिसके पीछे तकनीकी कारणों के साथ उड़ानों में देरी के मामले में सबसे बड़ी वजह रिएक्शनरी रही। इसका मतलब है कि किसी विमान को पिछली



इंडिगो की सेवा पिछले साल खूब प्रभावित हुई

बीते वर्ष एक से सात दिसंबर के बीच 2,000 से ज्यादा उड़ानें रद्द हुईं। हजारों यात्रियों को एयरपोर्ट पर लंबा इंतजार करना पड़ा और कई यात्रियों की यात्रा रद्द या पुनर्निर्धारित हुई। इसके पीछे मुख्य वजह पायलटों की उपलब्धता और इयूटी सेक्टर थी। 8 दिसंबर को इंडिगो ने बताया था कि उड़ान रद्द होने के पीछे कई कारण रहे। इनमें नए पायलट इयूटी/आराम नियमों के साथ कुछ छोटी तकनीकी गड़बड़ियां भी शामिल थीं।

लंदन से उड़ान भरने के बाद लौटा इंडिगो विमान

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। लंदन से दिल्ली उड़ान भरने के बाद इंडिगो विमान में तकनीकी खराबी के कारण बीच रास्ते से लौटना पड़ा। उड़ान के एक घंटे बाद विमान को आपात स्थिति में लंदन के हीथ्रो एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षित उतारा गया। एयरलाइंस के एक प्रवक्ता ने जारी बयान में बताया कि उड़ान संख्या 6ई4

का बोइंग 787-9 विमान लंदन से दिल्ली आ रहा था। उड़ान भरने के कुछ ही समय बाद पायलट को विमान में तकनीकी खराबी का पता चला। पायलट ने विमान को तुरंत वापस मोड़ने का फैसला किया।

इंग्लिश चैनल के ऊपर विमान में धुआं: सूत्रों के मुताबिक, विमान ने

भारतीय समयानुसार मंगलवार देर रात करीब एक बजे उड़ान भरी थी। विमान जब इंग्लिश चैनल के ऊपर था तभी विमान में धुआं देखा गया। इसके बाद, आपात स्थिति को घोषणा करते हुए विमान लगभग दो बजे लंदन हीथ्रो लौट आया। यात्रियों को दूसरी फ्लाइट से भेजने की व्यवस्था की गई।

उड़ान में देरी होने का असर उसकी अगली उड़ान पर पड़ा। देरी के कारणों में इसकी हिस्सेदारी 65 फीसदी रही। परिचालन संबंधी कारण आठ फीसदी, तकनीकी कारण छह, हवाई यातायात

निबंधन छह और मौसम संबंधी समस्या के चलते पांच फीसदी उड़ानें समय पर संचालित नहीं हो सकीं।

1.39 फीसदी उड़ानें दो घंटे से ज्यादा देर से चलीं: बोते महीने करीब

1.39 फीसदी उड़ानें दो घंटे से अधिक देर से चलीं। इस देरी से कुल 124550 यात्री प्रभावित हुए। यात्रियों की सुविधा के लिए विमान कंपनियों ने 286.49 लाख रुपये खर्च किए।

सामान से जुड़ी शिकायतें सबसे ज्यादा

अगस्त में विमान कंपनियों को यात्रियों से कुल 2,132 शिकायतें मिलीं। इनमें 2,123 यानी 99.6 फीसदी शिकायतों का निपटारा कर दिया गया।

एयर इंडिया समूह के खिलाफ 790 शिकायतें मिलीं, जो कुल शिकायतों का 37.1 फीसदी है। इनमें 783 शिकायतों का निपटारा हो गया, सात लंबित रही।

शिकायतों में सबसे ज्यादा 29.5 फीसदी मामले सामान से जुड़े थे। इसके बाद उड़ान समस्या 26.3 फीसदी और रिफंड से जुड़ी शिकायतें 17.3 फीसदी रही।

विमानन कंपनियों ने यात्रियों की सुविधा, रिफंड या री-बुकिंग और अन्य मुआवजों से जुड़ी मद पर करीब 4.23 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए।

दुनिया भर की कंपनियों के लिए मुसीबत

■ दुनिया भर की विमानन कंपनियों के लिए तकनीकी खराबी बड़ी समस्या बन गई है। विमान के साथ एयर ट्रेफिक कंट्रोल, सॉफ्टवेयर और संचार प्रणालियों में गड़बड़ी के कारण भी बड़े पैमाने पर उड़ानें प्रभावित हो रही हैं।

■ 8 सितंबर को ब्रिटेन की राष्ट्रीय हवाई यातायात सेवा एनएटीएस के सिस्टम में सॉफ्टवेयर की खराबी से देश भर में विमान परिवहन बुरी तरह प्रभावित हुआ। जांच में सॉफ्टवेयर खामी बताई। इससे करीब दो हजार उड़ानें रद्द हुईं।

21 सितंबर: अमेरिका के एक हिस्से में एटीसी टप

21 सितंबर को अमेरिका के उत्तर-पूर्वी हिस्से में फ्लोरिडा स्थित संघीय विमानन प्रशासन के एयर ट्रेफिक कंट्रोल केन्द्र में संचार व्यवस्था टप हो गई। इससे करीब 9,500 उड़ानों में देरी हुई या उन्हें रद्द किया गया और 100 से ज्यादा उड़ानों को दूसरे हवाई अड्डों पर भेजना पड़ा। नेवादा हवाई अड्डे पर ही 600 से ज्यादा उड़ानें रद्द हुईं।

19 सितंबर: स्पाइसजेट की दिल्ली से उड़ानों में देरी

दो सप्ताह के अंदर दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे से स्पाइसजेट की कई उड़ानें परिवालन संबंधी समस्या के कारण प्रभावित हुईं। केन्द्र में संचार व्यवस्था टप हो गई। इससे करीब 9,500 उड़ानों में देरी हुई। उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार 500 से अधिक यात्री प्रभावित हुए। लेह की कुछ उड़ानों में चेक-इन प्रक्रिया प्रभावित हुई। एक लेह उड़ान चार घंटे से अधिक देरी से रवाना हुई।



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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

DOMESTIC AIR PASSENGER TRAFFIC FALLS FOR SECOND MONTH IN A ROW

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Domestic air passenger traffic fell 6.34% in August this year compared to the same month in 2025, while IndiGo's market share declined and Air India Group's increased, according to the aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation report. Scheduled domestic airlines carried 12.13 million passengers in August, down from 12.95 million in the same month last year, the report said.

This was the second straight month of decline. DGCA's data showed domestic passenger traffic fell 4.80% to 12 million in July this year from 12.6 million in the same month in 2025.

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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

Domestic air passenger traffic falls 6.3% in August

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Domestic air passenger traffic fell 6.34% in August this year compared to the same month in 2025, while IndiGo's market share declined and Air India Group's increased, according to the aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) report.

Scheduled domestic airlines carried 12.13 million passengers in August, down from 12.95 million in the same month last year, the report said.

Passenger traffic from January to August was 110.53 million, marginally lower than the 110.73 million in the corresponding period last year, registering a year-on-year decline of

0.18%. This is the second consecutive decline in passenger numbers. DGCA's data showed domestic passenger traffic fell 4.80% to 12 million in July this year from 12.6 million in the same month in 2025.

IndiGo's market share declined to 65% in August from 67.4% in July. Air India Group's share increased to 26.7% from 24% during the same period. Akasa Air's market share was 5.5%, the same as in July. SpiceJet's share declined to 1.2% from 1.6%.

The report said the passenger load factor, or the percentage of an airline's available seating capacity filled with paying passengers, declined in August compared with July. IndiGo's load factor fell from 82.4% in July to 79.2% in August. Air



The report said 1.39% of flights were delayed by more than two hours in August.

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India Group's load factor declined from 83.2% to 77%. Akasa Air's load factor fell from 91.9% to 87.6% during the period. The DGCA report said airlines received 2,132 passenger complaints during the

month, the highest being baggage-related issues accounting for 29.5%, followed by flight problems at 26.3% and refund-related complaints at 17.3%. It added that 2,123 of the total 2,132 complaints had been addressed.

The report said that among the major carriers, IndiGo recorded the highest timely flight operations at 91.5% across the 10 major airports, followed by Akasa Air (90.5%) and Air India Group (83.9%). Only 17.9% of SpiceJet's flights operated on time in the months. The On-Time Performance of regional carrier Alliance Air was 71.8%.

The report said 1.39% of flights were delayed by more than two hours in August. SpiceJet recorded the highest share

of such delays at 48.05%, followed by Fly91 at 3.46% and Alliance Air at 2.47%.

"August is traditionally a softer travel month. With schools and colleges reopened, monsoons impacting leisure travel and families generally waiting for the festive season, demand tends to moderate. Inbound tourism also remains subdued during this period. *This year, geopolitical uncertainties, higher operating costs and some rationalisation of airline capacity have added to the softness. I would therefore view the decline in perspective, with festive and VFR travel expected to bring back momentum," said Jay R. Bhatia, director of Tulasidas Khimji Holidays and member of Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI).

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DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

Air India flies higher on Express wings

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NEW DELHI

Air India clawed back some lost ground in India's domestic aviation market in August as the Tata group expanded operations, largely through budget carrier Air India Express. Its market share rose 2.7 percentage points to 26.7%, while that of market leader IndiGo fell to 65% from its July peak of 67.4%, as per Directorate General of Civil Aviation data.

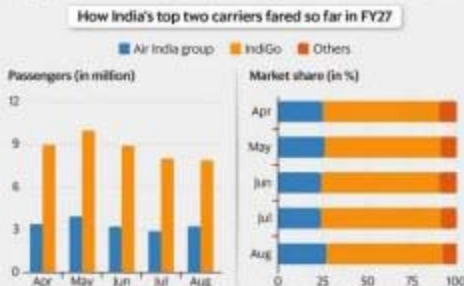
The rebound was driven by additional capacity rather than a broader pickup in demand, with Air India Express stepping up flights as the group continued to redraw the roles of its two airlines, a strategy taking shape just as Tewolde Gebremariam prepares to take charge of Air India this month.

Tata group's domestic market share was at 24% in July.

The Tata airlines carried 3.23 million passengers in August, up 12.4% from 2.9 million in July, reversing a decline that saw passenger traffic fall 18.1% in June from May, followed by a further 10.8% fall in July. Its market share dipped

Air share

Tata group's Air India regained some lost ground in August, largely due to more flights by its budget arm Air India Express.



Source: Directorate General of Civil Aviation

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PRATEEK KUMAR/MINT

from 25.6% in May to 24% in June and remained flat in July.

Ethiopian Airlines' former chief Gebremariam, will take charge as Air India's chief executive and managing director, succeeding Campbell Wilson, later this month. He comes in at a critical stage, when the Air India group posted a net loss of ₹22,000 crore in FY26. He will, however, not directly run Air India Express, which operates separately within the group.

The group has been reshaping

the roles of its two carriers, with Air India focusing on overseas, long-haul and major metro routes, positioning itself as a full-service carrier. Air India Express, meanwhile, is taking a larger role in smaller-city and regional markets.

Air India Express operated 9,460 domestic flights in August, up 13% from 8,366 in July. Air India's own flying was flat at 14,472 flights, compared with 14,476 in July. Together, they operated 23,932 domestic flights, up 5% from 22,842

in July, as per DGCA data.

Experts said Air India has added new capacity with retrofits, or refurbished aircraft from its existing fleet.

"They added new planes with retrofits. Also, Air India Express's bookings are now possible from the Air India website and app," said Mark D. Martin, aviation expert and founder and chief executive at risk advisory firm, Martin Consulting. "So, for a particular route, people now know there's an Air India Express offering too. This revamp is a couple of months old, and has helped Air India group showcase their additional capacity."

Jainam Shah, aviation analyst at Equirus Securities, said this is more a normalization from Air India's "temporarily depressed capacity than a structural shift in landscape".

Overall domestic aviation saw a weak momentum. Even as the Air India group and IndiGo—with total 92% market share—increased flights by over 1,450, passenger traffic fell 6.3% on-month to 12.13 million in August versus 12.95 million a year ago.

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

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THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

DGCA data: Domestic air passenger traffic falls 6.34% in August

MPOST BUREAU

Mumbai, September 23

India's domestic air passenger traffic declined 6.34 per cent year-on-year to 121.26 lakh in August, according to DGCA data released on Wednesday.

All Indian airlines together carried a total of 129.47 lakh passengers in August 2025.

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-August 2026 were 1,105.30 lakh as against 1,107.26 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of -0.18 per cent and monthly (August 2026 vs August 2025) growth of -6.34 per cent," Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said.

During the month under review, IndiGo's market share dropped sequentially by 2.4 per cent to 65 per cent from 67.4 per cent in July, while crisis-ridden SpiceJet's share declined to 1.2 per cent from 1.6 per cent in July this year, according to DGCA data.

However, Air India Group's market share climbed to 26.7 per cent in August, gaining 2.7 per cent over July 2026.

Akasa Air's market share remained unchanged at 5.5



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

INSIGHT

- » India's year-on-year domestic air passenger traffic declined to 121.26 lakh in Aug
- » All Indian airlines together carried a total of 129.47 lakh passengers in August 2025
- » In July, IndiGo's market share dropped sequentially by 2.4% to 65%, while SpiceJet's share declined to 1.2% from 1.6%

per cent during the month under review vis-a-vis July, DGCA data showed.

In terms of On Time Performance (OTP) at the 10 major airports in August 2026, IndiGo topped the list at 91.5 per cent, followed by Akasa Air and Air India Group at 90.5 per cent and 83.9 per cent, respectively.

The overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines stood at 1.39 per cent in the previous month.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

6.3% dip in August domestic air traffic, tech reasons cited, says DGCA report

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THERE has been a dip in domestic flyers both on a monthly as well as annual basis, reveals the aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The recurring problems faced by SpiceJet also come to the fore, with over 20% of its flights cancelled during August. The regulator released its 'Air Traffic Report' for January-August 2026 as well as the passenger traffic for the month of August alone. In the first eight months of this year, scheduled domestic airlines carried 11.05 crore passengers as against 10.07 crore during the previous year, marking a dip of (minus) -0.18%.

Last month saw 1.29 crore passengers take to the skies versus 1.21 crore in August 2025, marking a dip of (minus) -6.34%. The report states that the overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines for August stood at 1.04%. SpiceJet topped the list of airlines which played havoc with passenger



Major decline

Last month saw 1.29 crore passengers versus the 1.21 crore who travelled in August 2025, marking a dip of (minus) -6.34%.

The report states that the overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines for August stood at 1.04%.

plans, with 20.92% of its flights cancelled. Akasa Air had the minimum flight cancellations of 0.07%, while Air India Group (Air India and Air India Express) recorded 1.14% cancellations, and IndiGo, the largest domestic operator, had a can-

cancellation rate of a mere 0.33%.

Technical issues were the reason behind 50.2% of the cancellations recorded across airlines. Commercial, operational, weather-related and miscellaneous issues were the other contributors.

IndiGo continues its formidable domestic dominance in the domestic market by flying 7.15 crore passengers from January to August 2026, giving it a market share of 64.7%, while the Air India group came a far second with 2.82 crore flyers during the period. Fly91, India's youngest airline, has touched 31.37 lakh passengers, showing a steady increase month-on-month with its highest ever passenger count - 58,000 - transported in August.

A total of 2,132 passenger complaints have been received for August from passengers. Of these, 2,123 have been redressed, the report states. IndiGo has the best on-time performance at the major airport with 91.5%, while the Air India group has an OTP of 83.9%.



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THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

Delhi-bound flight returns to London after tech issues

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

An IndiGo Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner flying from London to New Delhi was forced to turn back to Heathrow after the pilots detected a technical issue shortly after take-off and declared a mid-air emergency, triggering priority handling by air traffic control. Flight 6E 04, operating from London Heathrow to Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on September 22, landed safely back at Heathrow, IndiGo confirmed. — TNS