



P SARAVANAN
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India is edging toward the next phase of airport monetisation, leasing 11 Airports Authority of India (AAI) airports to private operators through the PPP route. PPP blends the superior financial, construction, and operational capabilities of the private sector with value for consumers and the required return on equity.

If the previous round proved that private management could accelerate capacity upgrades at major gateways, this round would test something harder: can PPPs be used to strengthen the mid-tier and regional networks without pushing up costs for passengers or weakening competition?

What is different this time is not only the number of airports but also the structure being discussed. The government is expected to bundle relatively stronger airports with smaller, financially weaker ones. In principle, bundling is a pragmatic solution to a real problem. Many regional airports need sustained investment in terminals, apron capacity, passenger amenities, and reliability of operations; however,

their traffic base may not be large enough to fund upgrades quickly. Pairing them with busier airports can create a portfolio where cash flows from the stronger asset help underwrite improvements in the smaller one. However, the outcomes will depend far less on who wins the bid and far more on how the concession is written.

BIDDERS' ENTHUSIASM

Domestic and outbound travel from India has been expanding strongly, carriers have been adding capacity, and airport infrastructure has become one of the most attractive long-term operating assets in the country. For large operators, winning additional airports is not just about immediate revenue; it is about building an integrated platform, commercial real estate, retail, parking, cargo, and ground services across multiple cities. This enthusiasm is positive for the exchequer because it can strengthen competition and improve price discovery.

A tender can become a contest of optimism, where bidders price in the best-case traffic growth and commercial upside. If these assumptions are not met, the pressure shifts to cost-cutting, delayed investments, or attempts to stretch passenger charges within the regulatory framework. This is precisely why tender architecture must anticipate the incentive problems that follow an aggressive bid.

Airport concessions typically appear straightforward when framed as a single



Airport leasing: Why tender design is crucial

INFRA PUSH. In bundling airport contract bids, the tender architecture must reward delivery in terms of capex and service standards in smaller airports

number, revenue share, per-passenger fee, or upfront premium. The apparent simplicity of this approach is deceptive. A 'highest offer wins' approach is transparent, but it can unintentionally reward strategies that maximise the headline bid rather than the quality of outcomes.

In a bundled package, the risk increases sharply. A bidder may be willing to pay a high price largely for the stronger airport's cash generation while treating the smaller airport as a compliance obligation rather than a growth project. If the contract does not hardwire performance, the smaller airport may remain stuck with limited connectivity and incremental improvements in the future.

If bundling is the centerpiece of this round, then the contract must make the 'cross-subsidy logic' real, measurable, and enforceable. The most effective way is to define service and investment commitments airport-by-airport, especially for smaller locations. These commitments should not be vague statements.

They should be expressed as verifiable

A bidder may be willing to pay a high price largely for the stronger airport, while treating the smaller airport as a compliance obligation

milestones: terminal capacity and service benchmarks, timelines for key upgrades, airside maintenance standards, passenger processing times, availability of essential facilities, and operational-performance indicators.

Penalties must be meaningful enough that treating smaller airports as an afterthought becomes financially unattractive. A milestone-based mechanism, in which certain rights or commercial development permissions depend on completing agreed upgrades at smaller airports, can align incentives.

PROTECT THE PASSENGER

The second concern is the impact on travellers. Airport operations involve a mix of regulated aeronautical charges and non-aeronautical revenues. Airports have approximately 15 revenue streams, both aeronautical and non-aeronautical, such as retail, food and beverage, parking, and advertising streams.

Of these, passenger user charges constitute approximately 80 per cent of the aeronautical stream and approximately 40-50 per cent of the total revenue. The complexities increase with airport size. When bid commitments are stretched, the temptation is to lean harder on passenger-facing charges or to aggressively monetise captive footfalls. The concession should include a clear framework that ties any tariff-related claims to demonstrated capex delivery and to service outcomes.

The principle should be simple:

passengers should pay more only when they can see measurable improvements in capacity and their experience.

The third issue is the market structure. As the number of PPP airports grows, the concentration risk naturally increases. If too large a share of the network moves under a small set of operators, future auctions may see fewer serious bidders, weaker competition, and less disciplined pricing than before.

This is not a moral argument; it is an argument about competition economics. The solution is not to exclude strong bidders but to design bundles that remain contestable, prevent 'too-big-to-bid' packages, and retain enough future auction opportunities for multiple players to stay interested.

Bidding for the 11 AAI airports should not be treated as a routine infrastructure sale. This is an opportunity to build a model that strengthens India's regional aviation ecosystem, improves passenger experience, and keeps the system competitive. If the tender rewards delivery in terms of capex, service standards, and connectivity, then this round can become a template for sustainable airport development beyond the metros. Ten years later, travellers in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities should say that the airport got better and affordable because of the contract design.

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Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

25 JANUARY 2026

Flights resume at Srinagar airport

Srinagar, Jan. 24: After a day of widespread snowfall, gusty winds and rain, the weather improved in Kashmir on Saturday even though night temperatures were seen below the freezing point across the valley, officials said. Some areas, especially in the higher reaches of Kashmir, received intermittent snowfall and rains till late Friday night.

On Friday, most parts of Kashmir received a major snowfall, with the first snowfall of the season, though light, in parts of Srinagar. The officials said that in the past 24 hours, moderate to heavy snowfall was recorded at most places of the valley, especially



An Air India Express aircraft at the Srinagar airport on Saturday. — PTI

in the higher reaches, while the plains received light to moderate snow.

There has been an improvement in the weather since Saturday morning, the officials said. — PTI



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DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

25 JANUARY 2026

Rail link to airport running way too late

The recent 'final approval' for the Rs 4,000 crore suburban rail link to Kempegowda International Airport is a classic case of putting the cart before the horse. Cleared only now, after the airport began operations in 2008, the project highlights Bengaluru's enduring failure to align major infrastructure with the connectivity it demands. Reaching the airport today is a nightmare. In many cases, it takes longer to get to the airport from home than it does to fly from the airport to the final destination. The suburban rail line, originating at KSR Bengaluru, is expected to offer much-needed relief by integrating other modes of transport. That such a basic, affordable mass transit link is being green-lit only now speaks volumes about the city's planning paralysis.

The irony deepens when one considers the airport's own history. The idea of a new greenfield airport was first mooted in the early 1990s. After years of delay, redesign, and policy wrangling, it was finally commissioned in May 2008—nearly two decades after conceptualisation. Yet, despite this long gestation, the airport opened without even seamless surface connectivity. The most glaring example was the trumpet Interchange, meant to link the national highway to the airport. With the opening date looming and the project not even off the ground, the airport operator was forced to step in, take over construction, and rush it through to avoid chaos on inauguration day. The elevated corridor that now forms the backbone of access came up six years later, in 2014, long after the airport had settled into full-scale operations. Meanwhile, the alternative road through Hennur still languishes, awaiting a long-overdue upgrade. The Blue Line metro to the airport, now inching forward amid repeated deadline extensions, has become a symbol of infrastructure procrastination. Ideally, such a line should have been commissioned alongside the airport itself, not two decades later. Worse, its construction along the Outer Ring Road has narrowed carriageways and aggravated traffic congestion, imposing daily costs on commuters in the name of future relief.

The lesson is obvious: major aviation infrastructure cannot be conceived in isolation from the transport networks that sustain it. Expressways and rail links must be planned and executed in parallel, not added as an afterthought. As Karnataka plans a second international airport, the experience at Devanahalli must serve as a cautionary tale. Multimodal connectivity—both road and rail—should be treated as core infrastructure, with synchronised timelines, unified planning, and clear accountability. Bengaluru cannot afford another era of post-inauguration improvisation; the city deserves a gateway that is as accessible as it is ambitious.

Final okay for suburban train connectivity comes 18 long years after the airport began operations



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THE PIONEER

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

US airlines and airports brace for a brutal travel day amid a massive winter storm

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Las Vegas

A massive winter storm set the stage for a brutal travel day on Sunday, with airlines warning of widespread cancellations and delays at some of the nation's busiest airports.

Widespread snow, sleet and freezing rain threatened nearly 180 million people - more than half the US population - in a path stretching from the southern Rocky Mountains to New England, the National Weather Service said Saturday night. After sweeping through the South, forecasters said the storm



Vehicles moving on snow-covered Highway 67 2026 in Dallas

PTI

was expected to move into the Northeast, dumping about 1 to 2 feet (30 to 60 centimetres) of snow from Washington through New

York and Boston.

More than 13,500 flights have been cancelled across the US since Saturday, according to flight-tracking site

FlightAware. About 9,600 of those were scheduled for Sunday. Aviation analytics company Cirium says its data shows that Sunday will be the highest cancellation event since the pandemic, with over 29 per cent of all US departing flights axed. Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport warned travellers on its website of widespread flight cancellations. Nearly all of its departing flights scheduled for the day - 414 flights, or 97 per cent - have been cancelled.

Significant disruptions were also expected at major airport hubs in Dallas-Fort Worth, Charlotte, Philadelphia

and Atlanta, home to the nation's busiest airport, as well as New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport and LaGuardia Airport. American Airlines had cancelled over 1,400 flights for Sunday, according to FlightAware.

Delta Air Lines and Southwest Airlines each reported about 1,000 cancellations for the day, while United Airlines had more than 800.

JetBlue had more than 560 cancelled flights, accounting for roughly 70 per cent of its schedule for the day.

If you're already at the airport, get in line to speak to

a customer service representative. If you're still at home or at your hotel, call or go online to connect to your airline's reservations staff. Either way, it helps to also research alternate flights while you wait to talk to an agent.

Most airlines will rebook you on a later flight for no additional charge, but it depends on the availability of open seats. You can, but airlines aren't required to put you on another carrier's flight. Some airlines, including most of the biggest carriers, say they can put you on a partner airline, but even then, it can be hit or miss.

हिमाचल में 535 सड़कें बंद, श्रीनगर एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ानें रद्द

नई दिल्ली। जम्मू-कश्मीर से लेकर उत्तराखंड तक पहाड़ों पर जमकर बर्फबारी हो रही है। एक तरफ, पर्यटक इस बर्फबारी का लुत्फ उठा रहे हैं। वहीं स्थानीय लोगों के लिए

■ पहाड़ों में दो से तीन फुट तक जमी बर्फ

परेशानी बढ़ गई है। पहाड़ी इलाकों में दो से तीन फुट तक बर्फ जमने से सभी जरूरी सेवाएं बाधित हो गई हैं। जम्मू-कश्मीर के मैदानी इलाकों में करीब एक फुट बर्फबारी रिकॉर्ड की गई है, जबकि ऊपरी पहाड़ी इलाकों में लगभग दो से तीन फुट बर्फबारी हुई है। भूस्खलन, पेड़ गिरने और भारी बर्फ जमने की वजह से हाईवे और लिंक रोड समेत सड़कें बंद हैं।



कई इलाकों में तापमान शून्य के नीचे पहुंच गया है। भारी बारिश और बर्फबारी के कारण जम्मू-श्रीनगर नेशनल हाईवे (एनएच-44) बंद कर दिया गया और उधमपुर के जखानी चौक पर भी आवाजाही रोक दी गई।

बर्फबारी के चलते उड़ानें रद्द बारामूला, बडगाम और रामबन के

पहाड़ी रिसॉर्ट शहर बटोटे में भी काफी बर्फबारी हुई, जिससे पूरा इलाका सफेद चादर से ढका नजर आया। बर्फबारी की वजह से हवाई यात्रा भी बाधित हुई, श्रीनगर एयरपोर्ट और इंडिगो एयरलाइंस ने कई उड़ानों को अस्थायी रूप से सस्पेंड और कैसिल करने की घोषणा की है।

श्रीनगर एयरपोर्ट के सोशल मीडिया

हैंडल से यात्रियों के लिए एडवाइजरी जारी की गई है। इसमें जानकारी दी गई है, दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर नोटैम लागू होने और श्रीनगर में खराब मौसम की वजह से, श्रीनगर एयरपोर्ट से आने-जाने वाली कुछ फ्लाइट्स आज कैसिल कर दी गई हैं। यात्रियों को सलाह दी जाती है कि एयरपोर्ट जाने से पहले वे अपनी-अपनी एयरलाइंस से फ्लाइट का लेटेस्ट स्टेटस चेक करें। नैनीताल, उत्तरकाशी और टिहरी गढ़वाल जिलों के ऊंचाई वाले इलाकों में कई जगहों पर गाड़ियां और लोग फंस गए। पीडब्ल्यूडी ने बताया कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में भारी बर्फबारी के कारण चार नेशनल हाईवे समेत 535 सड़कें बंद हो गई हैं, जबकि बड़े पैमाने पर बर्फ हटाने का काम जारी है।



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

DIAL distributes safety gear to Delhi traffic police

New Delhi: Delhi International Airport Limited has distributed reflective jackets and UV-protected sunglasses to traffic police personnel as part of a corporate social responsibility initiative, an official said on Sunday. The programme was held in collaboration with Delhi Traffic Police on Jan 22 at the New Udan Bhawan Auditorium at Indira Gandhi International Airport. A total of 300 reflective jackets and UV-protected sunglasses each were handed over to the traffic personnel. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

Airport provides UV sunglasses, reflective jackets to traffic cops

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

In an effort to enhance the safety and efficiency of traffic personnel, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), in association with the Delhi Traffic Police, organised a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity at the New Udan Bhawan auditorium, IGI Airport, on January 22.

Under the initiative, DIAL distributed 300 reflective jackets and 300 UV-protected sunglasses to Delhi Traffic Police personnel deployed in the New Delhi range. The equipment is

aimed at improving visibility, safety and working conditions of traffic staff, particularly during field duties, adverse weather and high-traffic situations.

The event was attended by senior traffic police officers, including the Additional Commissioner of Police, Traffic (Zone-II), the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), New Delhi Range, ACP/Traffic South-West and the Traffic Inspector of IGI Airport. Senior DIAL officials, including CEO Videh Kumar Jaipurkar and Deputy CEO Manomai Rai, were also present.

Officials said the CSR ini-

tiative would strengthen the operational capabilities of traffic personnel, enabling smoother traffic management and quicker emergency response. The Delhi Traffic Police expressed their gratitude to DIAL for its continued support towards personnel welfare and road safety initiatives. Mementos were presented to DIAL officials as a token of appreciation.

The programme concluded with a reaffirmation of continued collaboration between DIAL and the Delhi Traffic Police to promote road safety and ensure uninterrupted traffic flow in the national capital.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

भारत में ए-320 बेड़े के 323 विमानों में सॉफ्टवेयर अपडेट

नई दिल्ली। भारतीय उड़ान नियामक डीजीसीए ने रविवार को कहा कि सोलर रेडिएशन के खतरे के मद्देनजर ए-320 विमानों में शुरू किया गया सॉफ्टवेयर अपडेट का काम लगभग पूरा हो गया है। देश में एअर इंडिया, एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और इंडिगो के कुल 338 विमानों में से 323 में सॉफ्टवेयर अपडेट कर लिया गया है।

डीजीसीए के मुताबिक, ए-320 बेड़े में 323 विमान संचालन में और 6 बेस मेंटेनेंस में थे। बाद में पता चला कि एअर इंडिया के बेड़े के नौ विमानों में सॉफ्टवेयर अपडेट की जरूरत ही नहीं थी। इंडिगो ने अपने सभी 200 विमान शनिवार को ही अपग्रेड कर लिए थे। एयरबस ने शुक्रवार को कहा था कि तीव्र सौर विकिरण की वजह से ए-320 श्रेणी के काफी विमानों में उड़ान नियंत्रण के लिए जरूरी डाटा खराब हो सकता है और इस समस्या को ठीक करने के लिए सॉफ्टवेयर अपडेट करने के दौरान परिचालन में बाधा आएगी। व्यूत



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

दुबई से हैदराबाद आ रहे विमान में एयर होस्टेस से छेड़छाड़ सॉफ्टवेयर कर्मचारी गिरफ्तार

हैदराबाद। दुबई से हैदराबाद आ रही एक उड़ान में एयर होस्टेस से बदसलूकी का मामला सामने आया है। पुलिस ने आरोपी सॉफ्टवेयर कर्मचारी को गिरफ्तार किया है। आरोपी केरल का रहने वाला है और वह शुक्रवार को दुबई से हैदराबाद की उड़ान में सवार था।

नशे में बदसलूकी, सीट से एयरपोर्ट पुलिस अश्लील नोट मिला, आरोपी स्टेशन के इम्पेक्टर को न्यायिक हिरासत में भेजा कंकैया सम्पाधी के अनुसार, केबिन क्रू की

शिकायत में कहा गया कि यात्री ने एयर होस्टेस को गलत तरीके से छुआ। क्रू सदस्यों ने यह भी बताया कि करीब 30 साल का यह यात्री नशे में था। मामले की जानकारी कप्तान और ग्राउंड स्टाफ को फ्लाइट के लैंड होते ही दे दी गई। विमान की लैंडिंग के बाद यात्री ने दावा किया कि उसका पासपोर्ट सीट पर खो गया था। जब स्टाफ उसे ढूँढ़ने गया, तो सीट से एक नोट मिला जिसमें क्रू के लिए अश्लील और अपमानजनक टिप्पणियां लिखी थीं। इसके बाद आरोपी के खिलाफ यौन उत्पीड़न सहित अन्य धाराओं में मामला दर्ज किया गया। पुलिस ने आरोपी को गिरफ्तार कर कोर्ट में पेश किया, जहां से उसे न्यायिक हिरासत में भेज दिया गया। एजेंसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

‘India, UAE, Saudi Arabia to drive aviation growth’

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

India, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are emerging as engines of growth for the global aviation sector, with over 900 plane deliveries slated over the next three years, said Avolon, the world's third-largest aircraft lessor, in its 2026 outlook.

China drove aviation's growth in the past decade, growing its total fleet from 1,200 aircraft in 2009 to 3,300 in 2019, increasing its share of the global fleet from 9 per cent to 16 per cent.

Avolon said in the next decade, the baton will be passed on to India, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Together, the three countries have an order backlog of around 3,000 aircraft, which is nearly double their current in-service fleet.

Currently, Indian carriers have a fleet of over 800 aircraft. Air India, Akasa Air and IndiGo have an order backlog of over 1,600 planes with deliveries of 2,035.

LOWER FUEL PRICES

Last year, the three Indian airlines received 79 aircraft, and are expected to take de-



Air India, Akasa Air and IndiGo have an order backlog of over 1,600 planes, with deliveries stretching to 2,035. NAGARA GOPAL

liveries of over 100 planes in 2026. "Demand for air travel increased 5.2 per cent in 2025, but the rate of growth is slowing down after the rapid rebound experienced from 2021 through 2024. New aircraft delivery delays and engine-driven groundings continue to constrain capacity increases, resulting in global demand exceeding supply," said Avolon.

Global airlines are expected to post \$41 billion in net profit in 2026, driven by low fuel prices and economic growth. Low fuel price gave a fillip to aviation globally and the trend is expected to continue in 2026, helping airlines further repair their balance sheets.

नरम तीसरी तिमाही के बावजूद इंडिगो मजबूत राह पर तीसरी तिमाही में इंडिगो का मुनाफा एक साल पहले के मुकाबले घटा

तन्मय तिवारी

मुंबई, 25 जनवरी

इंटरग्लोब एविएशन (इंडिगो) ने वित्त वर्ष 2026 की दिसंबर तिमाही में कमजोर नतीजे दर्ज किए हैं। परिचालन संबंधी समस्याओं और विदेशी मुद्रा नुकसान की वजह से कंपनी के मुनाफे पर दबाव पड़ा, भले ही मांग और मुख्य परिचालन संबंधित हालात अनुकूल बने रहे।

ब्रोकरों ने भले ही अल्पावधि के अनुमानों को घटा दिया है, फिर भी वे बैलेंस शीट और अंतरराष्ट्रीय विस्तार को ध्यान में रखते हुए एयरलाइन की लंबी अवधि की संभावनाओं पर सकारात्मक बने हुए हैं।

वित्त वर्ष 2026 की तीसरी तिमाही में इंडिगो का मुनाफा एक साल पहले के मुकाबले तेजी से घट गया, जिसका मुख्य कारण नए श्रम कानूनों से जुड़े असाधारण खर्च और दिसंबर की शुरुआत में व्यवधानों के दौरान यात्री मुआवजा, साथ ही लगभग 1,100 करोड़ रुपये का विदेशी मुद्रा नुकसान था।

मोतीलाल ओसवाल रिसर्च ने कहा कि इंडिगो का किराये की लागत से पूर्व परिचालन लाभ 5,860 करोड़ रुपये था, जो सालाना आधार पर लगभग स्थिर और अनुमानों के अनुरूप था, जबकि समायोजित मुनाफा अपेक्षाओं से थोड़ा कम रहा। क्षमता वृद्धि और स्थिर यातायात के कारण राजस्व 6 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 23,470 करोड़ रुपये हो गया, हालांकि ऊंचे आधार पर यील्ड मामूली रूप से कम हो गया।

इलारा कैपिटल ने कहा कि आय में गिरावट अंतर्निहित प्रदर्शन को कम करके आंकती है। उसने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि दिसंबर तिमाही मांग या मार्जिन में किसी भी बड़ी कमजोरी की तुलना में एकमुश्त घटनाओं से अधिक प्रभावित हुई थी। दिसंबर में व्यवधानों के कारण यात्री लोड फैक्टर और यील्ड में गिरावट आई। ब्रोकरेज फर्मों के बीच एक मुख्य



मुद्दा लागत परिदृश्य था। मैनेजमेंट ने वित्त वर्ष 2026 में ईंधन और विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च को छोड़कर, प्रति उपलब्ध सीट किलोमीटर (सीएसके) लागत में मध्यम एक अंक वृद्धि का अनुमान लगाया है। इसकी वजह कमजोर रुपया, एयरक्राफ्ट लीज और मेंटेनेंस जैसे डॉलर में होने वाले खर्चों में बढ़ती और क्षमता में कमी के बाद निर्धारित लागत का कम समायोजन है।

इंडिगो ने विंटर शेड्यूल के दौरान कुछ घरेलू परिचालन कम कर दिए, क्योंकि उसे फ्लाइट ड्यूटी टाइम लिमिटेशन (एफडीटीएल) मानकों के हिसाब से बदलाव लाना था और वैश्विक इंजन आपूर्ति की कमी से जुड़ी एयरक्राफ्ट-ऑन-ग्राउंड समस्याओं का प्रबंधन करना था। एयरलाइन ने परिचालन बनाए रखने के लिए डैम्प और वेट लीज पर भी ज्यादा भरोसा किया है, जिससे अल्पावधि में लागत दबाव बढ़ा है।

निकट भविष्य में आने वाली चुनौतियों के बावजूद, ब्रोकरेज ने इंडिगो की रणनीतिक पहलों को प्रमुख सकारात्मक कारकों के रूप में उजागर किया। एयरलाइन को मार्च तिमाही में लगभग 10 प्रतिशत क्षमता वृद्धि की उम्मीद है, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्गों से जुड़ी हुई है, जबकि घरेलू परिचालन उसके नेटवर्क की रीढ़ बना हुआ है। प्रबंधन ने विदेशी मुद्रा जोखिम को प्रबंधित करने और स्वामित्व वाली संपत्तियों के निर्माण की एक व्यापक रणनीति के तहत विमानन संपत्ति अधिग्रहण के लिए अपनी गिफ्ट सिटी इकाई के माध्यम से 82 करोड़ डॉलर के निवेश की घोषणा की है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

IndiGo cancels flights to Tbilisi, Almaty amid tensions in Iran

IndiGo on Sunday said it had cancelled services to Tbilisi and Almaty, and some flights might halt at Doha for refuelling on Monday due to developments related to Iran. The flights scheduled to operate on January 25 from Delhi to Tbilisi (Georgia) and from Mumbai to Almaty (Kazakhstan) and return have been cancelled, the airline said in a post on X. According to the airline, it is making certain proactive changes to flight schedules as part of its continued focus on safety.

PH



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

US FLIGHT CHAOS

Airlines Cancel 14,000+ Flights



Las Vegas: A massive winter storm set the stage for a brutal travel day Sunday, with airlines warning of widespread cancellations and delays at some of the nation's busiest airports.

More than 14,100 flights have been cancelled nationwide since Saturday, according to FlightAware. More than 10,000 of those were scheduled for Sunday.

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport warned travellers of widespread cancellations. Nearly all departing flights scheduled for the day – 420 flights, or 99% – were cancelled.

American Airlines cancelled more than 1,400 flights for Sunday, about 45% of its schedule, FlightAware said. **AP**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

Airbus CEO warns staff of new risks



THE HEAD OF Airbus has warned staff that the plane maker must

be ready to adapt to unsettling new geopolitical risks after facing "significant" logistical and financial damage. **REUTERS**

HIGHLIGHTS TENSIONS BETWEEN US AND CHINA

Airbus CEO warns of new risks after trade damage

REUTERS

Paris, January 25

THE HEAD OF Airbus has warned staff that the plane maker must be ready to adapt to unsettling new geopolitical risks after facing "significant" logistical and financial damage from US protectionism and US-China trade tensions last year.

"The beginning of 2026 is marked by an unprecedented number of crises and by unsettling geopolitical developments. We should proceed in a spirit of solidarity and self-reliance," CEO Guillaume Faury said in an internal letter seen by Reuters.

"The industrial landscape in which we operate is sown with difficulties, exacerbated by the confrontation between the US and China."

Airbus declined comment on internal communications.

Faury did not identify geopolitical developments in the memo, which was circu-

GUILLAUME FAURY,
AIRBUS CEO

The beginning of 2026 is marked by an unprecedented number of crises and by unsettling geopolitical developments



lated last week against the backdrop of disunity between Washington and allies over Greenland and the role of NATO.

Airbus is a major European defence supplier.

He said multiple trade pressures had already "caused significant collateral damage, logistically and financially."

Last April, US President Donald Trump announced sweeping tariffs, prompting Chinese restrictions on rare earth exports. Washington later temporarily froze exports

of engines and other key components to China, which uses them for its C919 jet.

US parts are also needed for Airbus jets assembled in China.

Aerospace has won a partial reprieve from US tariffs.

Despite trade upheaval, Faury congratulated the group's 160,000 staff for what he termed "good results" overall in 2025 without elaborating. Airbus publishes results on February 19.

Airbus Defence and Space "is now on a much stronger footing thanks to its deeper

restructuring," he said. Airbus Helicopters is "remarkably consistent in the strength of its performance."

Faury said it was "imperative" that Airbus learn from its biggest ever recall in November, involving a software upgrade.

Days later, Airbus was forced to cut delivery goals due to flawed fuselage panels but maintained financial goals - due in part, Faury said, to progress on a commercial cost-cutting plan.

"We must be more rigorous in managing our systems and products in general," Faury said.

The chief executive said post-COVID supply chains had improved but remained a source of disruption.

"Our most serious difficulties have been with the Pratt & Whitney and CFM engines," he said.

Faury signalled a focus on the bottom line for the rest of this decade.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

25 JANUARY 2026

IndiGo vacates 717 slots after DGCA curbs flights

PTI
MUMBAI

IndiGo has vacated 717 slots at domestic airports after aviation watchdog DGCA curtailed the airline's winter schedule by 10 per cent following major operational disruptions in early December, sources said.

Of the 717 slots, 364 are from

six metro airports: Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Most of the vacated slots among these cities are from Hyderabad and Bengaluru, the sources added.

Data shared by the sources show that the vacant slots are spread over the January to March period. As many as 361 slots have been vacated for

March, compared to 43 for February, while 361 slots have been vacated for January.

Against this backdrop, the civil aviation ministry on Thursday asked other airlines to submit their requests for operating domestic flights on the vacated slots.

"IndiGo has submitted a list of 717 slots to the ministry, which it has vacated after the

domestic winter schedule was reduced by 10 per cent in early December last year," one of the sources said.

The airline generally operates over 2,200 flights daily, trimmed services following the DGCA directive.

Meanwhile, Air India will operate its newly inducted Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner with certain limitations as appro-

vals from the US Federal Aviation Administration are awaited for sliding privacy doors in business class and 18 economy class seats. The aircraft will begin commercial operations on the Mumbai-Frankfurt route from February 1. The airline said other seat features are available and approvals are expected soon.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

एहतियात: इंडिगो ने ईरान से गुजरने वाली उड़ानें रद्द कीं

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। निजी विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो ने रविवार को कहा कि उसने ईरान में पैदा हुए हालात के मद्देनजर त्विलिसी, अल्माटी, ताशकंद और बाकू के लिए अपनी उड़ानें 28 जनवरी तक के लिए रद्द कर दी हैं।

दरअसल, ईरान और अमेरिका के बीच तनाव बढ़ गया है। आशंका है कि स्थिति सैन्य संघर्ष में तब्दील हो सकती है। इसे ध्यान में रखते हुए एयरलाइंस ने यह कदम उठाया है।

इंडिगो ने सोशल मीडिया मंच 'एक्स' पर एक पोस्ट में कहा कि 25 जनवरी को दिल्ली से त्विलिसी (जॉर्जिया) और मुंबई से अल्माटी (कजाकिस्तान) और वापसी के लिए निर्धारित उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं।

- जॉर्जिया, कजाकिस्तान के लिए सेवाएं रद्द कीं
- ईरान-अमेरिका में तनाव को देखते हुए फैसला लिया

एयरलाइंस अधिकारियों के अनुसार, ईरान के आसपास के हालिया घटनाक्रमों के मद्देनजर सुरक्षा चिंताओं को देखते हुए वह उड़ान समय-सारणी में कुछ बदलाव कर रही है।

इसके अलावा 26 जनवरी को त्विलिसी (जॉर्जिया), अल्माटी (कजाकिस्तान), बाकू (अजरबैजान) और ताशकंद (उज्बेकिस्तान) से आने-जाने वाली उड़ानें ईंधन भरने के लिए दोहा में संक्षिप्त समय के लिए रुक सकती हैं। > बेरहमी से मारा P23



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

INDIGO CANCELS FLIGHTS TO BAKU, ALMATY AMID IRAN TENSIONS

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: IndiGo on Sunday announced the cancellation of its flights to and from Tbilisi (Georgia), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Baku (Azerbaijan), and Tashkent (Uzbekistan) from January 26 (Monday) to January 28 in view of recent developments around Iran. It also cancelled flights to and from Tbilisi and Almaty scheduled on Sunday (January 25).

"In view of the prevailing situation and after careful assessment, IndiGo flights scheduled to operate on 26, 27 and 28 January 2026 to and from Tbilisi, Almaty, Tashkent and Baku have been cancelled," the airline posted on X on Sunday night. "We remain vigilant to developments in the region around Iran and are proactively reviewing flight operations..."

Earlier in the day, the airline announced that some of their flights were expected to experience longer travel times or cancellations due to the ongoing situation in Iran. It had said that precautionary and proactive measures were being taken to ensure safety of all. Tensions have escalated between Iran and the US amid strong crackdown on protesters in the middle eastern country and President Donald Trump's warnings against the government action, and there are apprehensions that the situation could result in a military conflict.

Several other airlines, including Air France, Lufthansa and KLM, have announced change in operations around the region. Air India officials said that it is flying through safe routes for its ultra-long haul flights and is conducting regular safety assessments.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

25 JANUARY 2026

Air India cancels flights to New York and Newark

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Air India has cancelled its flights to New York and Newark for January 25 and 26 due to a severe winter storm forecast in the U.S. East Coast.

The airline operates daily flights from Delhi and Mumbai to New York. There are daily flights from Delhi to Newark, while services between Mumbai and Newark are operated on certain days of the week.

Severe winter storm

Air India on Saturday said a severe winter storm with heavy snow is forecast for New York, New Jersey and adjoining areas on the U.S. East Coast from early Sunday morning to Monday, which will have a significant impact on flight operations.



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

इंडिगो ने ईरान के हालात की वजह से त्विलिसी और अल्माटी की उड़ानें रद्द कीं

नई दिल्ली, 25 जनवरी (ब्यूरो)।

निजी विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो ने रविवार को कहा कि उसने ईरान में पैदा हुए हालात के त्विलिसी और अल्माटी के लिए अपनी सेवाएं रद्द कर दी हैं। साथ ही कहा, सोमवार को कुछ उड़ानें ईंधन भरने के लिए दोहा में रुक सकती हैं।

उधर, एअर इंडिया ने भी अमेरिका में सर्दियों के तूफान की वजह से दो दिन के लिए न्यूयार्क और नेवार्क आने जाने वाली सभी उड़ानें रद्द कर दी हैं।

विमानन कंपनी ने सोशल मीडिया मंच 'एक्स' को जारी पोस्ट में कहा, 25 जनवरी को दिल्ली से त्विलिसी (जार्जिया) और

मुंबई से अल्माटी (कजाकिस्तान) और वापसी के लिए निर्धारित उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गई हैं।

इंडिगो ने बताया कि ईरान के आसपास के घटनाक्रमों के मद्देनजर सुरक्षा पर निरंतर ध्यान केंद्रित करने के तहत वह उड़ान समय-सारणी में कुछ बदलाव कर रही है। इसमें कहा गया है कि 26 जनवरी को त्विलिसी (जार्जिया), अल्माटी (कजाकिस्तान), बाकू (अजरबैजान) और ताशकंद (उज्बेकिस्तान) से आने-जाने वाली उड़ानें ईंधन भरने के लिए दोहा (कतर) में संक्षिप्त समय के लिए रुक सकती हैं। ईरान और अमेरिका के बीच तनाव बढ़ गया है, और आशंका है कि स्थिति सैन्य संघर्ष में तब्दील हो सकती है।

एअर इंडिया ने भी अमेरिका में तूफान की वजह से दो दिन के लिए न्यूयार्क और नेवार्क आने जाने वाली सभी उड़ानें रद्द कर दी हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

इंडिगो ने 717 फ्लाइट स्लॉट्स छोड़े, मुंबई में 236 और दिल्ली में 150 उड़ानें कम हुईं

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्या।

अगले कुछ दिनों में अगर आप इंडिगो से कहीं जाने का प्लान कर रहे हैं तो आपको फ्लाइट के ऑप्शन कम मिलेंगे। क्योंकि, देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो ने भारत के अलग-अलग डोमेस्टिक एयरपोर्ट्स पर अपने 717 स्लॉट्स सरेंडर कर दिए हैं।

यह कदम डायरेक्टोरेट जनरल ऑफ सिविल एविएशन (DGCA) के उस फैसले के बाद उठाया गया है, जिसमें ऑपरेशनल दिक्कतों और सर्दियों में कोहरे के कारण होने वाली देरी को देखते हुए इंडिगो के विंटर शेड्यूल में कटौती की गई थी। एविएशन मिनिस्ट्री ने संसद में यह डेटा शेयर किया है।

● मुंबई और दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर सबसे ज्यादा असर

इंडिगो ने कुल 16 एयरपोर्ट्स पर अपने स्लॉट्स छोड़े हैं। इसमें सबसे

इंडिगो ने कहा- नियमों का पूरी तरह पालन कर रहे हैं

स्लॉट्स सरेंडर करने पर इंडिगो के प्रवक्ता ने कहा, "हमने रेगुलेटर्स के सभी निर्देशों का पालन किया है और सलाह के अनुसार स्लॉट्स सरेंडर कर दिए हैं। एयरलाइन ने यह भी कहा कि वे एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर्स और एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोल के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं, ताकि उपलब्ध स्लॉट्स का सही इस्तेमाल हो सके और ऑपरेशंस सुचारू रूप से चलें।

ज्यादा 236 स्लॉट्स मुंबई एयरपोर्ट पर कम हुए हैं। इसके बाद दिल्ली का नंबर आता है, जहां 150 स्लॉट्स सरेंडर किए गए हैं। बेंगलुरु में 84, हैदराबाद में 68 और पुणे में 48 स्लॉट्स छोड़े गए हैं।

मंत्रालय के मुताबिक, गोवा, अहमदाबाद, चेन्नई, कोलकाता और जयपुर जैसे बड़े शहरों के साथ-साथ श्रीनगर, पटना, रांची और रायपुर जैसे छोटे एयरपोर्ट्स पर भी फ्लाइट्स कम हुई हैं।

● कोहरा और उड़ानों में देरी की वजह से शेड्यूल में कटौती

DGCA ने इंडिगो के विंटर शेड्यूल में कटौती का फैसला सर्दियों के दौरान उत्तर भारत में छाने वाले घने कोहरे को देखते हुए लिया था। कोहरे की वजह से अक्सर विजिबिलिटी कम हो जाती है, जिससे उड़ानों में भारी देरी और ऐन वक्त पर कैंसिलेशन होता है।

रेगुलेटर का मानना है कि शेड्यूल में कमी करने से एयरलाइन के 'ऑन-टाइम परफॉर्मेंस' (OTP) में सुधार होगा और यात्रियों को होने वाली असुविधा कम की जा सकेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

700

THE NUMBER of airport slots IndiGo surrendered after the DGCA ordered a 10% reduction in its winter flight schedule due to operational instability.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026



CEO Guillaume Faury said multiple trade pressures had already caused major collateral damage. REUTERS

Airbus CEO warns of risks on trade damage

The head of Airbus has warned staff that the plane maker must be ready to adapt to unsettling new geopolitical risks after facing "significant" logistical and financial damage from US protectionism and US-China trade tensions last year.

"The beginning of 2026 is marked by an unprecedented number of crises and by unsettling geopolitical developments. We should proceed in a spirit of solidarity and self-reliance," chief executive officer Guillaume Faury said in an internal letter seen by *Reuters*. "The industrial landscape in which we operate is sown with difficulties, exacerbated by the confrontation between the US and China."

Airbus declined comment on internal communications.

Faury did not identify geopolitical developments in the memo, which was circulated last week against the backdrop of disunity between Washington and allies over Greenland and the role of North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Airbus is a major European defence supplier.

He said multiple trade pressures had already "caused significant collateral damage, logistically and financially". REUTERS

AWAITS CERTAIN FAA APPROVALS

Air India to operate its new Dreamliner with limitations

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Air India will operate its new Boeing 787-9 aircraft with certain limitations as the Tata Group-owned airline is awaiting approvals from the US watchdog FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) for the sliding privacy doors in the plane's business class suites and for 18 economy class seats, sources said.

The aircraft, also the first custom-made Dreamliner to join the Air India fleet, will enter commercial operations on the Mumbai-Frankfurt route from February 1. The plane has 296 seats, comprising 30 business class, 28 premium economy and 238 economy class seats. Out of them, 18 economy class seats will not be available for use till the FAA give its approval, the sources said.

An airline spokesperson said the new B787-9 will enter commercial operations on February 1 with certain limitations.

"The sliding privacy doors in our business class suites will remain securely fixed in the open position and unavailable for passenger use, as this specific seat feature awaits regulatory approval. We expect to receive the necessary approval in the near future. All other seat features are available for passenger use," the spokesperson said.

Separately, a total of 18 specific economy class seats are blocked from sale and are also physically blocked from use.



The plane has 296 seats, comprising 30 business class, 28 premium economy and 238 economy class seats

"The seat product itself (RECARO 3710) is fully certified and in regular operation on many airlines worldwide; however, there is a regulatory interpretation affecting the 18 specific seats that we are working with the manufacturer and regulator to resolve.

"The 18 specific seats will only be offered for sale once full certification is received," the spokesperson said.

In 2026, five more wide-body aircraft — three Boeing 787-9s and 2 A350-1000s — are set to join the Air India fleet. The airline, currently, has 188 planes, and the legacy Boeing 787s are undergoing retrofit progressively. According to the spokesperson, the product limi-

tations due to pending certification apply only to the new B787-9 aircraft, and not to the retrofitted B787-8 planes.

These are two different variants, and their interior fitout undergoes a separate certification process. The certifications for seats and features on the B787-8 are complete and have been approved by relevant regulators and will be available for customer use, the spokesperson added.

The sources also said that some global airlines are awaiting certain regulatory approvals for their business class seats. These include Lufthansa, which is awaiting regulatory certification nod for some of the business class seats in their new Boeing 787-9 aircraft, they added.

At present, Air India has 33 Boeing 787s — 26 legacy Boeing 787-8s and 7 Boeing 787-9s, including 6 from Vistara and the new one.

In 2025, Boeing delivered 14 Boeing 787s to various airlines, including 12 Boeing 787-9s.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

25 JANUARY 2026

IndiGo vacated 717 slots at domestic airports after DGCA curtailed winter flights

Out of the 717 slots, as many as 364 are from six key metro airports — Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad

MUMBAI: IndiGo has vacated more than 700 slots at various domestic airports, following aviation watchdog DGCA curtailing the country's largest airline's winter flights by 10 per cent after massive operational disruptions in early December, according to sources.

Generally, slots refer to a particular time period given to an airline for takeoff and landing of aircraft. In simple terms, it is about operating flights at the given time.

Out of the 717 slots, as many as 364 are from six key metro airports — Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

Among these cities, most of the vacated slots are from Hyderabad and Bengaluru, the sources said.

As per data provided by the sources, the number of slots vacated by IndiGo is spread over the January-March period. A total of 361 slots have been vacated for March compared

to just 43 for February, and this month, the count of vacated slots is at 361.

Against this backdrop, the civil aviation ministry on Thursday asked other airlines to submit their requests for operating domestic flights on the slots vacated by IndiGo.

"IndiGo has submitted a list of 717 slots to the ministry, which it has vacated after the domestic winter schedule was reduced by 10 per cent in early December last year," one of the

CLOSER LOOK

- » IndiGo, which generally operates over 2,200 flights daily, has trimmed the number following DGCA directive
- » A 10 per cent reduction has brought this down to 1,930 domestic flights per day
- » As per data provided by the sources, the number of slots vacated by IndiGo is spread over the Jan-March period

sources said.

The airline, which generally operates more than 2,200 flights daily, has trimmed the number

of services following the directive from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) that was aimed at preventing

last-minute cancellations and ensuring operational stability.

As part of its winter schedule for 2025-26, IndiGo was allowed to operate 15,014 flights per week, which comes to 2,144 flights per day.

A 10 per cent reduction has brought this down to 1,930 domestic flights per day. It may be noted here that IndiGo, in its summer schedule, operated on an average of 2,022 flights a day.

Between December 3 and 5 last year, IndiGo cancelled

2,507 flights and 1,852 flights were delayed, impacting over 3 lakh passengers at airports across the country.

Following the massive disruptions, DGCA reduced IndiGo's winter schedule by 10 per cent, which meant the airline had stopped operating services in various slots.

"Going by the slots vacated by IndiGo, it is clear that they can be operated by other airlines only till the end of March. After that, they might go back

to IndiGo. No one can do the network planning at such short notice. No one is going to open a sector at such short notice, operate it only to close after a month," an airline industry executive said.

Another airline industry executive said airlines might not be keen to take the slots vacated by IndiGo, as most of them are for red-eye flights.

Generally, red-eye flights are those operated late at night or in the wee hours.

Russia eyes India's regional aviation market, showcases civil aircraft at 'Wings India 2026'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, 25 January

Russia's decision to showcase its civil aircraft, the Ilyushin IL-114-300 and the Superjet SJ-100, at Wings India 2026 in Hyderabad marks a new phase in India-Russia economic cooperation, with a clear focus on civil aviation, a report has said.

The move signals Moscow's intent to tap into India's fast-growing regional aviation market through long-term industrial partnerships rather than a simple aircraft sales push, according to The Sunday Guardian report.

So far, India's aviation growth has largely been driven by massive aircraft orders placed by Indian airlines with Airbus and Boeing.

However, beyond these headline deals lies a fast-expanding regional aviation segment that connects tier-two and tier-three cities.



Supported by airport expansion and the government's UDAN connectivity scheme, this segment carries an estimated 18 to 36 million passengers every year and represents a multi-billion-dollar opportunity across aircraft purchases, leasing, maintenance, training and operations.

Russia is now aiming squarely at this market. Given the long-standing defence and industrial ties between India and Russia, experts

believe New Delhi could be open to allowing Russian manufacturers to set up local production and assembly lines under the "Make in India" programme.

The IL-114-300 is a 68-seat turboprop aircraft designed for short runways and challenging operating conditions.

It is positioned as a competitor to aircraft such as the ATR 72-600 and the Dash-8Q400, which currently dominate India's regional routes.

Industry estimates suggest the aircraft could be priced between \$20 million and \$35 million once mass production stabilises, broadly in line with existing turboprop options.

The Superjet SJ-100, which can seat around 87 to 98 passengers, targets the higher end of the regional jet market.

It competes with smaller aircraft from Embraer's E-Jet family and is expected to be priced in the \$30 million to \$36 million range.

While the pricing of both Russian aircraft is not significantly lower than Western alternatives, their real appeal lies in the industrial opportunities they offer.

Russian manufacturers are pitching the aircraft along with proposals for local manufacturing, assembly and sourcing in India.

Industry experts say this shifts the decision from being a pure import choice to a broader industrial one.



THE STATESMAN

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

Wings India-2026 to showcase India's rise as a global aviation hub

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 25 January

India's civil aviation sector, among the fastest-growing in the world, is set to take centre stage at Wings India 2026, Asia's largest civil aviation event, scheduled to be held from 28-31 January at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad.

The mega four-day event will be formally launched by Minister of Civil Aviation Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu in the presence of senior dignitaries from India and abroad.

"The launch will mark the beginning of a landmark global aviation gathering that will showcase India's transformation into a major aviation hub for connectivity, manufacturing, services, innovation and sustainability," the Ministry of Civil Aviation said on Sunday.



Anchored around the theme "Indian Aviation: Paving the Future - From Design to Deployment, Manufacturing to Maintenance, Inclusivity to Innovation, and Safety to Sustainability," Wings India 2026 will highlight how India's aviation ecosystem has evolved into a powerful engine of economic growth, regional development and global

integration.

Over the last decade, India's civil aviation sector has witnessed unprecedented expansion. Passenger traffic has surged manifold, placing India among the world's top aviation markets.

Hundreds of new aircraft have been inducted by Indian carriers, with record-breaking aircraft orders positioning the country as

one of the largest future aircraft markets globally.

Airport infrastructure has expanded rapidly, with the development of new greenfield airports, modernised terminals and enhanced regional connectivity under flagship initiatives such as UDAN.

India is also emerging as a strong hub for aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), pilot training, aerospace manufacturing, cargo logistics and advanced air mobility.

A major push towards sustainable aviation, including Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), green airports and digital air navigation, is reshaping the future of flight.

Wings India 2026 will capture this extraordinary growth journey and project India's ambition to become a global aviation powerhouse.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

26 JANUARY 2026

IndiGo cancels Tbilisi, Almaty, Tashkent and Baku flights

New Delhi: IndiGo cancelled Sunday its Tbilisi, Almaty, Tashkent and Baku services till Jan 28 and announced refuelling halts on several flights to the CIS region as rising tensions around Iran are rippling through Indian aviation, forcing flight cancellations, fuel stops and fresh route reviews.

As airlines scrambled to keep aircraft out of potentially hostile airspace, IndiGo said on X: "In view of the recent developments around Iran, we are making certain proactive changes to our flight schedules as part of our continued focus on safety."

Air India is reassessing its transcontinental operations as the situation evolves. The carrier had already stopped overflying Iran on Europe-bound routes after a Jan 16 advisory from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency warned of a heightened risk to civil aviation. "Given the ongoing situation and the potential for US military action, which has placed Iranian air defence forces on a heightened state of alert, there is currently an increased likelihood of misidentification within Iranian airspace," the EASA advisory said.

It warned that the possible use of surface-to-air missile systems created "a high risk to civil flights operating at all altitudes and flight levels," urging operators to avoid Iranian airspace entirely. Air India complied on European routes, as the advisory applies to third-country operators authorised by EASA when flying to, from or within EU. Many airlines, including Air India, have instead been routing flights over Iraq. Flights to and from North America are now under review.

Air India plans to reassess routing once services resume after a snowstorm disrupted operations along the US east coast. 7/9