



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

25 MAY 2026

Ebola screening at AP, Chennai airports

Our Bureaus

Hyderabad/Chennai

Andhra Pradesh Government is on high alert on Ebola virus and will be screening travellers coming from affected countries including Congo, Uganda and Sudan in the three international airports in the State.

The government is ensuring coordination of the State Health Department with Airports Authority of India for conducting medical tests based on the travel history of the passengers in Vijay-

awada, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati international airports, State Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav said in Amaravati on Sunday.

The Government has already arranged isolation wards in the teaching hospitals of the three cities with international airports and kept testing kits and medicines for treatment ready, the Minister said.

Visakhapatnam Port authorities were also put on alert and steps were being taken to monitor international travellers from the affected countries who would

reach the State by road, Yadav said.

SCREENING IN TN

According to Chennai airport sources, automated thermal cameras have been installed at International Terminal 2 (T2) to screen arriving international passengers for elevated body temperature.

A health desk has also been established near the immigration area at the arrival level of T2 to monitor and assist passengers. Chennai airport authorities said no Ebola case has been reported so far.



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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

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Daman airport all set for June takeoff

● ₹97-crore UDAN airport targets tourism and industrial traffic

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, May 25

DAMAN AIRPORT is set to commence operations in the first half of June, with the inauguration likely to be done by Prime Minister Modi himself. This new airport will be India's newest coastal regional aviation hub under the Centre's UDAN regional connectivity scheme.

Located in the Marwad area of Daman, the airport has been developed at a project cost of ₹97 crore through funding by the UT administration with support from the Government of India. The facility is expected to improve connectivity for Daman, Dadra and Nagar



Alliance Air will launch first commercial flights from Daman to Delhi, followed by Mumbai and Ahmedabad routes using ATR aircraft

Haveli, and nearby industrial centres such as Vapi.

The airport will initially cater to ATR-72 aircraft operations through a shared runway arrangement with the Indian Coast Guard. However, runway expansion from 1,800 metres to 2,400 metres has already received approval from the Ministry of Defence, paving the way

for Airbus aircraft operations in the future. Work on the expansion is expected to begin within a month, sources told FE.

Despite starting with regional aircraft, the apron has already been designed to accommodate two Airbus A320 aircraft through remote bay boarding operations.

Alliance Air will launch the

first commercial flights from Daman to Delhi, followed by services to Mumbai and Ahmedabad using ATR aircraft. More airlines are expected to join operations in the coming months.

The terminal has been equipped with 12 check-in counters, with four more planned in the future, alongside airline office spaces, retail shops,

a dining area, child care, prayer and smoking rooms, and large passenger waiting areas.

The airport is also planning dedicated facilities for private and general aviation aircraft in the coming months.

According to an airport official, proximity to the city and coastline remains one of the project's biggest advantages. "The airport is right next to Namo Path, which is a beautiful coastal road in Daman. We have ensured that the airport stays within the city so that tourists don't have to travel a long distance to reach their destination. Major hotels are only 2-3 km away. Major tourist destinations are also nearby from the airport," the official said.

The official added that dedicated taxi counters, parking facilities, and passenger waiting areas have also been planned to support tourism growth in the Union Territory.



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THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

26 MAY 2026



AKASA AIR ADDS CAPACITY IN LOCAL AVIATION MARKET

Mumbai, May 25: Akasa Air, India's youngest airline, was the only carrier that added capacity in domestic market in recent months, emerging as a growing threat to the IndiGo-Air India duopoly amid disruptions caused by the Iran war.

The total number of flights operated by India's four major airline companies dropped nearly 6 per cent across March and April from same period a year earlier, according to data from Cirium, an aviation analytics firm.

IndiGo had 4.5 per cent fewer flights, while Air India reduced services by 7.5 per cent and Air India Express did so by 17.1 per cent. In contrast, Akasa expanded capacity by 13.2 per cent over the same period. — *Bloomberg*



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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

26 MAY 2026

पायनियर की उड़ानों पर जांच पूरी होने तक रोक

अलीगढ़। अलीगढ़ एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरने वाले पायनियर कंपनी के एयरक्राफ्ट की उड़ान पर रविवार को हुए हादसे की जांच पूरी होने तक रोक रहेगी। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय की दिल्ली से आई टीम ने अलीगढ़ पहुंचकर जांच शुरू कर दी है। पायनियर की सभी उड़ानों पर पूरी तरह रोक लगा दी गई है। संवाद



Rohit Vaid

Tata Group-led Air India is facing its most difficult phase since privatisation, with losses crossing ₹26,000 crore in FY2025-26 amid geopolitical disruptions, elevated fuel costs, safety scrutiny, and leadership uncertainty. And yet, this cloud of troubles has a silver lining — the airline retains the strong backing of shareholders Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines as it pushes ahead with its multi-year transformation programme.

The scale of Air India's financial strain became visible when minority stakeholder (25.1 per cent) Singapore Airlines group disclosed in its annual report that the Indian airline had posted a loss of \$3.56 billion during FY2025-26, and this was a primary reason for the Singapore airline's 57 per cent slide in annual net profit to \$81.184 billion.

CRITICAL SUPPORT

Importantly, despite the losses and operational pressures at Air India, Singapore Airlines did not write down its investment. Instead, it described Air India as a "core component" of its long-term multi-hub strategy and committed to support the Indian airline's transformation.

Industry observers said the willingness of both shareholders to support the airline financially is critical at a time when Air India is dealing with simultaneous operational, financial and regulatory pressures.

"India's aviation market needs patient, well-capitalised and operationally experienced long-term players to build a truly mature and globally competitive ecosystem," Jagannarayan Padmanabhan, Senior Director and Global Head, Consulting, Crisil Intelligence, told *businessline*.

The enduring support from Tata Sons and Singapore Airline is important not just for Air India's turnaround but also the long-term resilience of Indian aviation, he said.

The airline's troubles intensified during FY2025-26 after multiple external disruptions hit operations simultaneously and sharply increased costs across its international network.

AIR POCKETS GALORE

A core challenge was the closure of Pakistan's airspace to Indian carriers from April 24, 2025, forcing Air India's connections to Europe and North America to fly longer routes via the Arabian Sea and Gulf hubs. Several flights became two to three hours longer.

Industry estimates pegged the additional annual cost burden at \$600-750 million.

The extended flight durations have also affected aircraft rotations, crew deployment and network scheduling in

parts of Air India's long-haul operations.

At the same time, supply disruptions in West Asia throughout FY26 had pushed aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices higher. However, the ongoing Gulf crisis has pushed prices sharply higher.

At present, fuel accounts for nearly 40 per cent of international operating costs, placing additional pressure on long-haul profitability at a time when Air India is already dealing with elevated fleet and maintenance expenses.

Kinjal Shah, SVP and Co-Group Head, Corporate Sector Ratings, ICRA, points out that the sharp hardening of ATF prices has been compounded by the rupee's depreciation against the dollar.

"While policy interventions such as tax rationalisation on ATF and continued liquidity support can provide incremental relief, they are unlikely to fully address the high cost base and competitive intensity inherent in the Indian aviation market," Shah added.

Compounding the airline's woes was the devastating June 2025 crash of Flight AI171 operating between Ahmedabad and London Gatwick.

The massive human tragedy triggered intensified oversight from regulators, fleet inspections and scrutiny of operational processes.

CHANGING COURSE

Against this backdrop, Air India has initiated corrective measures aimed at preserving liquidity, stabilising operations and improving cost discipline.

The airline temporarily suspended six international routes, including Delhi-Chicago, Delhi-Shanghai, and Mumbai-New York (JFK). It also reduced frequencies across North American, European, Australian, and Southeast Asian services between June and August 2026.

Phased fuel surcharge increases were introduced on domestic and international routes. According to sources, the airline is also evaluating rationalisation of more routes, improved aircraft utilisation and more efficient re-deployment of capacity.

Cost cuts are in focus to contain losses. CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson had asked employees to maintain a "relentless focus on costs" during a recent town hall meeting.

This includes reducing discretionary spending, review of vendor contracts, and deferring non-essential expenditure. Annual salary increments have been deferred by at least one quarter. The airline, however, clarified that it does not anticipate layoffs, and variable pay and planned promotions will continue.

Industry observers point out that Air India's immediate challenge is no longer limited to managing temporary disruptions but also ensuring that operational restructuring keeps pace with

the scale of its long-term expansion plans.

One of the key focus areas remains safety oversight.

Additionally, the airline would need to move beyond compliance-driven inspections to establish stronger monitoring systems across engineering, maintenance, and flight operations, the observers said.

Fleet modernisation will become increasingly important over the next few years. Air India's order for nearly 470 aircraft — one of the largest globally — is expected to be delivered from 2027 onwards.

The airline expects the newer aircraft to improve fuel efficiency, reduce maintenance cost and support network restructuring.

But analysts note that the benefits are dependent on Air India's ability to improve aircraft availability, manage supply-chain constraints and accelerate the retrofit of existing widebody aircraft.

Leadership continuity is another area of focus for the airline and its shareholders.

According to sources, former Vistara Chief Executive Officer and current Senior Vice President of Singapore Airlines Vinod Kannan, and Air India Chief Commercial Officer Nipun Aggarwal are in the reckoning for the top job, with Wilson conveying his intention to step down.

TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY

According to industry observers, the incoming leadership will inherit an airline that has already undergone substantial integration and restructuring but continues to face execution challenges across operations, customer experience, safety oversight, and profitability.

Even amid the financial and operational pressures, some operating indicators have shown gradual improvement over the past year. For instance, domestic on-time performance improved to 76 per cent in FY2025-26 from 73 per cent a year earlier.

Similarly, the customer net promoter score improved to 30 in March 2026 from minus-19 in 2023.

The airline has also expanded its Southeast Asia feeder network from two destinations to seven and increased coordination with Air India Express by eliminating overlapping routes and improving network integration.

Overall, analysts said, these improvements indicate that parts of Air India's broader transformation programme are beginning to show operational results despite the difficult external environment.

Nonetheless, industry observers noted that Air India's recovery trajectory will depend on how consistently shareholder support, operational execution and management stability align over the next few years.

घरेलू उड़ानों में आएगी 7 फीसदी कमी

दीपक पटेल

पश्चिम एशिया संकट के कारण ईंधन की कीमतों में हुई वृद्धि का सीधा असर हवाई यातायात पर पड़ा है। इससे न केवल अंतरराष्ट्रीय, बल्कि घरेलू उड़ानें भी प्रभावित हुई हैं। रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, आगामी जून में घरेलू उड़ानों में 7 फीसदी की कमी देखने को मिलेगी। पिछले साल जून में देसी विमानन कंपनियों की ओर से 22,220 घरेलू उड़ानें संचालित की गई थीं जो इस वर्ष इसी अवधि में ताजा शेड्यूल के मुताबिक घटकर 20,670 रह गई हैं।

हवाई अड्डों के मामले में घरेलू साप्ताहिक सेवाओं में सबसे बड़ी गिरावट (फीसदी नहीं, वास्तविक संख्या के मामले में) जीएमआर ग्रुप द्वारा संचालित हैदराबाद हवाई अड्डे पर दर्ज की गई है, जहां निर्धारित साप्ताहिक उड़ानों में सालाना आधार पर 371 की कमी आने की आशंका



है। विमानन विश्लेषण फर्म सिरियम के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, हैदराबाद हवाई अड्डे पर अगले महीने लगभग 1,420 साप्ताहिक घरेलू उड़ानें संचालित करेगा। यह आंकड़ा पिछले साल जून की 1,791 उड़ानों से कम है। जीएमआर द्वारा संचालित गोवा के मोपा हवाई अड्डे पर भी इसी अवधि में 106 साप्ताहिक घरेलू सेवाओं में तेज कमी देखी जा रही है। फेयरफैक्स फाइनैशियल होल्डिंग्स द्वारा संचालित बेंगलूरु हवाई अड्डे पर जून में सालाना आधार पर

साप्ताहिक घरेलू उड़ानों में 293 की कमी देखने को मिलेगी।

भारतीय विमानन कंपनियां सबसे अधिक एविएशन टर्बाइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में वृद्धि से प्रभावित हुई हैं, क्योंकि यह उनकी परिचालन लागत का लगभग 40 फीसदी होता है। विमान पट्टे और रखरखाव की लागत भी डॉलर में आती है, जिसका मतलब है कि रुपये के मुकाबले डॉलर मजबूत होने से एयरलाइनों की लागत और बढ़ जाती है।

अदाणी समूह द्वारा संचालित हवाई अड्डे भी इससे प्रभावित दिखाई दे रहे हैं। मुंबई हवाई अड्डे से 253 साप्ताहिक घरेलू उड़ानें कम हो सकती हैं, जबकि अहमदाबाद हवाई अड्डे पर 111 उड़ानों की कमी आ सकती है। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण द्वारा संचालित हवाई अड्डों पर भी इस कटौती का असर दिखेगा। इस वर्ष जून में चेन्नई हवाई अड्डे से 279 साप्ताहिक घरेलू उड़ानें कम उड़ेंगी। इसी तरह कोलकाता (191), भुवनेश्वर (96), कोच्चि (84) और वाराणसी (60) तक उड़ानों पर प्रभाव होगा। टाटा समूह के स्वामित्व वाली फुल-सर्विस कैरियर जून में 2,655 साप्ताहिक घरेलू उड़ानों का संचालन करेगी। पिछले साल जून में इस दिग्गज विमानन कंपनी ने 3,696 उड़ानें संचालित की थीं। यह 28 प्रतिशत से अधिक की गिरावट दर्शाता है।

स्पाइसजेट की उड़ान चार बार रीशेड्यूल, यात्रियों का हंगामा

कोलकाता जाने वाली उड़ान सात घंटे की देरी से हुई रवाना

जगरण संगठनात्ता, नई दिल्ली: इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा के टर्मिनल-1 पर रविवार रात को उस समय यात्रियों ने हंगामा कर दिया, जब स्पाइसजेट की दिल्ली से कोलकाता जाने वाली उड़ान (एसजी-905) को एक-दो बार नहीं, बल्कि पूरे चार बार रीशेड्यूल किया गया। सात घंटे से अधिक की इस देरी के कारण यात्रियों का गुस्सा फूट पड़ा और उन्होंने एयरपोर्ट पर ही एयरलाइन के खिलाफ जमकर नारेबाजी कर हंगामा शुरू कर दिया। यात्रियों ने आरोप है कि स्पाइसजेट ने इस लेटलर्नेफी की न तो कोई पहले सूचना दी और न ही रातभर परेशान हो रहे यात्रियों को पानी या नाश्ता जैसी बुनियादी सुविधाएं दीं। इस वजह से सबसे ज्यादा परेशानी बच्चों और महिलाओं को झेलनी पड़ी।

पीड़ित यात्रियों ने एयरलाइन पर एक शांतिर तरीके से रिफंड नहीं देने के लिए 'टिक' अपनाने का आरोप लगाया है। एक यात्री ने आपबीती सुनाते हुए बताया कि हमारी उड़ान 24 मई को शाम 7:55 बजे की थी। जब हमने वेब चेक-इन किया, तब पता चला कि समय बदलकर रात 11 बजे कर दिया गया है। इसके बाद एयरलाइन ने इसे रात एक बजे (25 मई), फिर 2:30 बजे और आखिरी में तड़के 3:00 बजे के लिए रीशेड्यूल कर दिया। यात्रियों का कहना है कि एयरलाइन जानबूझकर एक साथ छह सात घंटे की देरी घोषित नहीं करती। वे हर दो घंटे में समय आगे बढ़ाते हैं, ताकि नियम के मुताबिक यात्री टिकट कैसिल करके फुल रिफंड (पूरा पैसा वापस) न मांग सकें और दूसरी एयरलाइन में बुकिंग न कर लें। इससे यात्रियों को परेशानी झेलनी पड़ी।

ग्रैंड स्टाफ पर बदसलूकी का आरोप भी लगाया: यात्रियों का कहना है कि एयरपोर्ट पर

• यात्रियों का आरोप, रिफंड न देना पड़े, इसलिए दो-दो घंटे खिस्काया समय

• कहा, देरी की सूचना पहले से नहीं दिए जाने की वजह से रातभर होते रहे परेशान

मौजूद यात्रियों में बच्चे, बुजुर्ग और महिलाएं भी शामिल थीं, जो पूरी रात टर्मिनल पर भूखे-प्यासे बैठे रहे। डीजीसीए के कड़े नियमों के बावजूद, स्पाइसजेट प्रबंधन ने यात्रियों को जलपान तक उपलब्ध नहीं कराया। छह तो तब हो गई जब पूरी रात जागने के बाद परेशान यात्रियों ने जब स्पाइसजेट के ग्रैंड स्टाफ से अपनी चिंताएं साझा कीं, तो स्टाफ ने उनके साथ सहानुभूति दिखाने के बजाय बदसलूकी और रूखा व्यवहार करना शुरू कर दिया। इसके बाद यात्रियों का धैर्य जबब दे गया और उन्होंने टर्मिनल पर ही एयरलाइन की सर्विस के खिलाफ नारेबाजी शुरू हंगामा शुरू कर दिया। जिससे वहां मौजूद सुरक्षकर्मियों को बीच-बचाव करना पड़ा।

इंटरनेट मीडिया पर फूट गुस्सा, डीजीसीए से कार्रवाई की मांग: इस पूरी घटना के बाद प्रभावित यात्रियों ने इंटरनेट मीडिया पर नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय और डीजीसीए को टैग करते हुए स्पाइसजेट के खिलाफ सख्त से सख्त कार्रवाई की मांग की है। यात्रियों का कहना है कि तकनीकी खराबों के नाम पर यात्रियों के समय, पैसे और मानसिक शांति के साथ खिलवाड़ करने वाली ऐसी एयरलाइंस पर जुर्माना लगाया जाना चाहिए। यात्रियों को काफी परेशानी हुई है। वहीं दूसरी ओर इस संबंध में स्पाइसजेट से ठसका पक्ष लेने की कोशिश की गई लेकिन समाचार लिखे जाने तक कोई पक्ष नहीं मिला।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

26 MAY 2026

हवाई संपर्क बढ़ने से भारत और चीन संबंधों में आई गर्मजोशी

राज्य ब्यूरो, जागरण • कोलकाता : भारत-चीन के बीच संबंधों में सुधार के साथ दोनों देशों के बीच सीधी हवाई सेवाएं तेजी से बढ़ रही हैं। कोलकाता स्थित चीन के उप महावाणिज्य दूत चिन योंग ने कहा, गत कुछ समय में भारत व चीन के बीच कई नई सीधी उड़ान सेवाएं शुरू की गई हैं।

चिन योंग ने सोमवार को साल्टलेक में आयोजित पुस्तक 'यू कैन बिकम जीरो से हीरो' के लोकार्पण कार्यक्रम में यह बात कही। उन्होंने कहा, दोनों देशों के बीच हाल के दिनों में उच्चस्तरीय संपर्क बढ़े हैं। गत वर्ष अक्टूबर से कई नए सीधे फ्लाइट रूट शुरू किए गए। कार्यक्रम में पुस्तक के लेखक राजीव के पोद्दार ने बताया कि उनकी किताब में चीन से जुड़ी उनकी सीख पर भी एक विशेष अध्याय शामिल है। इसी बीच इंडिगो की दिल्ली-ग्वांगझू सीधी उड़ान सेवा फिर से शुरू हो गई है। दूसरी ओर एयर चाइना ने भी बीजिंग-दिल्ली उड़ान सेवा दोबारा शुरू कर दी है। यह सेवा सप्ताह में तीन दिन संचालित होगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

26 MAY 2026

एयरलाइंस के लिए दिशा-निर्देश जारी

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने सोमवार को इबोला संक्रमण के प्रकोप के बीच कांगो और युगांडा से आने वाले यात्रियों के लिए मानक संचालन प्रक्रियाएं (एसओपी) जारी की हैं।

इसके तहत, संदिग्ध मामलों के लिए सेल्फ-डिक्लेरेशन फॉर्म भरना और विमान में अलग से बैठने की व्यवस्था करना जैसे कई उपाय अनिवार्य किए गए हैं। डीजीसीए ने कहा कि केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय ने स्वास्थ्य तैयारियों के लिए यह एसओपी जारी की हैं।

एसओपी के अनुसार, युगांडा और कांगो से सीधे या अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से उड़ानें संचालित करने वाली एयरलाइंस को निर्देश दिया गया है कि वे भारत पहुंचने से पहले, प्रभावित देशों से आने वाले या वहां से होकर गुजरने वाले यात्रियों से अनिवार्य रूप से 'स्व-घोषणा पत्र' भरवाएं और उन्हें जमा करें। यह यात्री और क्रू सदस्य सभी के लिए अनिवार्य हैं। डीजीसीए ने उड़ान के दौरान भी विशेष घोषणाएं करने का भी निर्देश दिया। इसमें कोई भी यात्री जिसे बुखार, कमजोरी, मांसपेशियों में दर्द, सिरदर्द, गले में खराश, उल्टी, दस्त, चकत्ते या रक्तस्राव (खून बहना) जैसे लक्षण हों, उसे तुरंत एयरलाइंस के क्रू सदस्यों को और भारत पहुंचने पर आब्रजन और चिकित्सा इकाई को इसकी सूचना देनी चाहिए। दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार, एयरलाइंस को जरूरी उपकरण रखने होंगे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

26 MAY 2026

एयर इंडिया ने विदेश में 'महाराजा लाउंज' खोला

नई दिल्ली। एयर इंडिया ने यात्रियों के अनुभव को बेहतर बनाने के लिए अमेरिका के सैन फ्रांसिस्को हवाई अड्डे पर 'महाराजा लाउंज' शुरू किया है। यह एयरलाइन्स का भारत के बाहर पहला लाउंज है। एयर इंडिया के लाउंज से जुड़े एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि हाल के वर्षों में एयरलाइन्स को विश्वस्तरीय बनाने के लिए लगातार कोशिश की गई है। यह भी उसी का हिस्सा है। इससे पहले एयर इंडिया ने दिल्ली में विशेष लाउंज शुरू किया था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

26 MAY 2026

Akasa adds flights as war crimps rivals

Bloomber
feedback@livemint.com

Akasa Air, India's youngest airline, was the only carrier that added meaningful capacity in the local market in recent months, emerging as a growing threat to the IndiGo-Air India duopoly amid disruptions caused by the Iran war.

The total number of flights operated by the country's four major airline companies dropped nearly 6% across March and April from the same period a year earlier, according to data from Cirium, an aviation analytics firm. IndiGo, the country's largest airline, had 4.5% fewer flights, while Air India Ltd's full-service airline reduced services by 7.5% and its low-cost unit Air India Express did so by 17.1%.

In contrast, Akasa expanded capacity by 13.2% over the same period, albeit from a much smaller base than its larger rivals. The low-cost carrier, which was founded during the coronavirus pandemic and made its first commercial flight in 2022, operated 10,109 flights



Akasa's capacity grew 13.2% on-year in March-April. **mint**

in March and April 2026. That was about 4.7% of the total number of domestic and international flights by Indian airlines during the period, the Cirium data showed. It didn't provide a breakdown between the two.

India's commercial passenger aviation market has been dominated by two companies in the past few years, with IndiGo and Air India Group controlling nearly 90% of domestic capacity. Akasa, which has much fewer planes than the incumbents, intends to dramatically increase its fleet size in the coming years to rival the biggest carriers.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

26 MAY 2026

DGCA issues guidelines on Ebola SOPs for airlines from Congo and Uganda

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

AVIATION regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), on Monday night issued a detailed SOP in connection with the Ebola disease for all airlines entering India from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda.

Air India, IndiGo and Akasa Air are among the 13 airlines which carry passengers from the DRC, while IndiGo and Air India figure among the 17 airlines which ferry passengers from Uganda. The rest are foreign airlines.

The directives, which have to be complied with by all airlines mandatorily, are being issued to prevent the potential transmission of the Ebola disease and to ensure public safety, the DGCA said.

Prior to disembarking at Indian airports, all airlines must ensure mandatory filing and collection of the Self Declaration Form (SDF) from all passengers originating from or transiting through the affected countries.

It has mandated the broadcast of these specific announce-



In-flight protocol for suspected cases

In case a passenger displaying these symptoms is detected on board, the operating crew have to adhere to containment procedures—designate a single cabin crew member to exclusively care for symptomatic passenger; relocate the passenger to the rear end of the aircraft to minimise exposure to other passengers.

ments in-flight by the airlines:

"In view of the current threat of Ebola disease in certain countries, any traveller who has fever, weakness, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhoea, rash and bleeding should report immedi-

ately to the airline crew and at the immigration or medical unit on arrival. This is important for early diagnosis for prompt management and preventing spread."

Passengers and crew, irrespective of nationality, need to fill the SDF and hand it over to the immigration or designated counter, it said.

"In case any of these symptoms develop within 21 days of arrival in India, the traveller should seek medical assistance from the designated hospitals and also inform the airport health office" is yet another announcement that must be made.

In case a passenger displaying these symptoms is detected on board, the operating crew have to adhere to these containment procedures—designate a single cabin crew member to exclusively care for the symptomatic passenger; relocate the passenger to the rear end of the aircraft to minimise exposure to other passengers; three rows in front and side rows of the suspected case need to be kept vacant (as far as possible); among other measures.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

26 MAY 2026

Govt slashes officials' domestic travel spend by 25% in new order

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Days after restricting all official foreign travel for its personnel, including officers and staff members, until further notice, the Delhi Government has issued a fresh directive to reduce the domestic travel expenses of its officials by 25 per cent. The move is a part of the Government's "austerity" measures in response to uncertain global fuel supplies affecting the country's economy.

A communication by the Finance Department to various Government departments stated that, considering the current economic climate and the necessity for prudent financial management, both the Government of India and the Delhi Government have implemented several "austerity and expenditure rationalisation measures." These measures are designed to curb unnecessary expenses and address fiscal imbalances caused, among other factors, by rising global oil prices and other economic pressures, it said.

As part of this initiative, domestic travel expenses must be regulated so that each department stays within its allocated budget, reflecting the mandatory 25 per cent reduction com-

pared to the previous financial year, the order said.

Moreover, to promote fiscal discipline and ensure optimal use of public resources, officers are required to exercise caution when selecting air travel classes to remain within budgetary constraints. The communication also emphasised that video conferencing should be effectively utilised for attending meetings and conferences, particularly when travel from distant locations is necessary. However, in cases of official emergencies, the restrictions may be relaxed with the approval of the chief minister or the finance minister.

The restriction will apply to all departments, autonomous bodies, local bodies, academies, boards, corporations, societies, and

grantee institutions under the administrative control of the Delhi Government. The administrative secretaries or heads of the departments have been directed by the finance department to ensure strict compliance with the instructions.

The Delhi Government had on May 14 launched a large-scale public participation campaign titled 'Mera Bharat, Mera Yogdan'. The 90-day campaign aims to involve both Government institutions and ordinary citizens in building a more self-reliant and resource-conscious India.

As part of the initiative, the Government has announced a series of measures focused on fuel conservation, promotion of public transport, support for Made-in-India products and responsible lifestyle practices.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

26 MAY 2026

Chopper services from Dharamsala, Palampur, Chamba to start in June: CM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, MAY 25

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has said that the state government is developing heliports in various parts of the state to attract high-end tourists. "Helicopter services at the Palampur, Hamirpur, Dharamsala and Chamba heliports will begin next month. Helicopter services have already been started for the Reckong Peo heliport to promote border tourism. It will improve air connectivity," he asserted while presiding over a programme organised by the Shimla Hotel and Restaurant Association on Sunday evening.

He said that he had requested the Union Civil Aviation Ministry to start the services of larger helicopters in Shimla. "However, due to operational difficulties at the Sanjauli heliport, land is being identified at another location



CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu at a event organised by the Shimla Hotel and Restaurant Association.

in Shimla," he added.

He said that the government had declared Kangra district as the tourism capital of the state and land worth around Rs 3,500 crore was being acquired for the expansion of the Kangra air-

port, which would help bring in more visitors. He added that the Bhubhu-Jot tunnel from Jogindernagar would be constructed to facilitate the travel of tourists visiting Kullu, Manali and Lahaul-Spiti from the airport.

The Chief Minister said that the development of the tourism industry was the priority of the state government and concerted efforts were being made to transform Himachal into a world class tourist destination. He

added that infrastructure should be developed in a manner that tourists visiting Himachal Pradesh stay for at least eight to 10 days.

Sukhu said that the government was also promoting religious tourism in the state and Rs 300 crore would be spent on the development of the Shaktipeeth of Naina Devi Ji, Jwala Ji and Mata Chintpurni. He added that the government was investing Rs 3,000 crore on the construction of hotels, wellness centres and wayside amenities.

The Chief Minister said that after the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the state had suffered significant revenue losses from the Baddi-Barotiwala industrial area and was now receiving only Rs 150 crore for Rs 200 crore compared to Rs 4,000 crore earlier. He added that the tourism sector could play a major role in compensating for this loss.