

Air traffic hit



All 26 flights cancelled at Srinagar Airport

7 flights cancelled at Jammu Airport



© X @SrinagarAirport

Saqib Malik
Srinagar, Jan 23

All scheduled flights at the Srinagar International Airport were cancelled on Friday as the plains in Kashmir experienced a moderate to heavy snowfall.

Talking to *Greater Kashmir*, Director, Srinagar Airport, Javed Anjum said 26 arrivals and departures were cancelled, owing to poor visibility and accumulation of snow on the runway.

"Due to adverse weather conditions and snowfall in Srinagar, the runway is currently not available for safe aircraft operations. In

the interest of passenger safety, all flight operations to and from Srinagar have been cancelled for the day," he said.

Anjum said that, besides the cancellations caused by the snowfall, four flights were cancelled due to Notice to Airmen (NOTAMs) at the Delhi Airport.

He said that a few flights had been getting cancelled during the last few days due to the NOTAM or operational reasons at the Delhi Airport.

The Airport Director said airline and airport authorities were closely monitoring the weather situation and

» See **Air traffic...** on Pg-08



Air traffic...

would resume operations as soon as conditions improve and the runway is declared operational.

"Passengers are advised to check the latest flight status with their respective airlines and stay updated through official communication channels. We regret the inconvenience caused and appreciate passengers' understanding and cooperation," he said.

Commenting on the flight operations for Saturday, Anjum said 27 flights were scheduled to operate to Srinagar, besides one additional flight scheduled by Air India.

"We have the men and machinery ready, as the Meteorological Department has predicted snowfall on Friday night. The final call on flight operations for Saturday will be taken in the morning," Anjum said.

The flight cancellation on Friday comes after almost a month of smooth flight operations. Operational disruptions due to issues in the crew roster of low-cost carrier IndiGo saw 125 flight cancellations at the Srinagar and Jammu airports during December 2025.

While the IndiGo flight cancellations were at peak, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) had conducted a dry run, putting all the men and machinery to use for ensuring that flight operations remain smooth during the winter.

Prior to this, the Director Srinagar Airport had said that the runway at the airport had been upgraded so that flight operations could take place in low visibility.

On Friday, airport officials said that all arriving and departing scheduled flights for the day were cancelled due to poor visibility and in view of the safety of passengers.

This included services operated by Air India, IndiGo, Air India Express, SpiceJet, and Akasa Air being grounded for the day on Friday.

Most parts of Kashmir received fresh snowfall overnight, including the season's first snowfall in Srinagar, many parts of which were also lashed by rain.

Central Kashmir's Budgam district and south Kashmir's Pulwama and Shopian districts received abundant snow.

Meanwhile, seven flights were cancelled at the Jammu Airport due to inclement weather conditions in Srinagar, said an airport official.

Besides, five flights were delayed causing a huge rush of passengers at the Jammu Airport.

भविष्य की बढ़ती जरूरतों को देखते हुए विमानन क्षेत्र को लेकर घोषणाओं की उम्मीद नए हवाई अड्डों के लिए धनराशि का ऐलान कर सकती है सरकार



बजट
उम्मीदें

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। भारत में बीते कुछ वर्षों के दौरान विमानन क्षेत्र में तेजी से यात्रियों की संख्या बढ़ी है, जिसके भविष्य में तेजी से बढ़ने की संभावना है। ऐसे में सरकार नए हवाई अड्डों के विस्तार से लेकर बेड़े में शामिल होने वाले विमानों और उनके लिए समुचित ढांचा तैयार करने की दिशा में काम कर रही है।

भविष्य की बढ़ती जरूरतों को देखते हुए विमानन क्षेत्र को लेकर आगामी आम बजट में कुछ अहम ऐलान किए जा सकते हैं। भारत में वर्ष 2025 में हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या में तेजी से वृद्धि देखी गई, जो 25 करोड़ के आंकड़े को पार कर गई है, जिससे भारत दुनिया के सबसे तेजी से बढ़ते विमानन बाजारों में से एक बन गया है।

मौजूदा समय में संचालित हवाई अड्डों की संख्या 164 से अधिक है, जिसमें घरेलू, अंतरराष्ट्रीय, हवाई पट्टियां और नागरिक एन्क्लेव भी



बड़े शहरों के लिए नए एयरपोर्ट बनाने की योजना

बड़े शहरों में एक से अधिक हवाई अड्डे बनाए जा रहे हैं। मुंबई में नवी मुंबई बनाया गया है जो संचालित हो चुका है। वहीं, दिल्ली और एनसीआर में आने वाले यात्रियों की तेजी से बढ़ती संख्या को देखते हुए जेवर (गौतमबुद्धनगर) में नया हवाई अड्डा बनाया जा रहा है, जो अगले कुछ महीनों में संचालित होगा। ऐसे में बाकी बड़े शहरों के लिए भी नया हवाई अड्डा बनाने का ऐलान हो सकता है। बीते दिनों केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने एक कार्यक्रम में कहा था कि देश भर में हवाई यात्रियों की बढ़ती संख्या को देखते हुए केंद्र सरकार 150 किलोमीटर के दायरे में दो हवाई अड्डों पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाली नीति की 'समीक्षा करेगी'।

शामिल हैं। तेजी से बढ़ती यात्रियों की संख्या और बेहतर हवाई कनेक्टिविटी को ध्यान में रखकर अगले पांच वर्षों में देश 50 से अधिक नए हवाई अड्डों का निर्माण किया जाना है। इसी जरूरत को देखते हुए भारत ने 1700 नए यात्री

विमानों को ऑर्डर दिया है, जो अगले पांच से 10 वर्षों में बेड़े में शामिल होंगे। ऐसे में हवाई यातायात की जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखकर केंद्रीय बजट में बड़े ऐलान होने की संभावना है। खासकर क्षेत्रीय कनेक्टिविटी को बढ़ाने पर केंद्र

2016 में यह नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय द्वारा शुरू की गई थी, जिसके तहत रियायती दरों पर उड़ानें और बेहतर क्षेत्रीय कनेक्टिविटी प्रदान की जाती है।

भारत में कलपुर्ज तैयार करने पर रहेगा जोर

अब सरकार हवाई जहाजों की मरम्मत और भारत में ही हवाई जहाज और उनके कलपुर्ज तैयार हो, इस पर भी ध्यान दे रही है। बजट में विमानों के स्पेयर पार्ट्स और छोटे विमानों के निर्माण के लिए पीएलआई योजना को बढ़ावा दिया जा सकता है, जो भारत को एक वैश्विक उड्डयन केंद्र बनाने की दिशा में एक कदम है।

सरकार को बीते कुछ वर्षों में विशेष ध्यान रहा है। इसके लिए पहले से उड़ान योजना संचालित है, जो क्षेत्रीय संपर्क योजना है, जिसका उद्देश्य आम नागरिकों के लिए हवाई यात्रा को किफायती बनाना है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

26 JANUARY 2026

4 held at airport with hybrid marijuana worth ₹12.5 crore

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Four passengers arriving from Bangkok were apprehended by customs officials at the city's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport with 12.4kg of hybrid marijuana. The market value of the seized contraband is estimated at Rs 12.5 crore.

Based on intelligence developed, a team apprehended the four — three from Punjab and one from Gujarat — arriving from Bangkok via Kuala Lumpur. Their bags were checked, and officials found the contraband ingeniously hidden. Sources said the base of the trol-



The contraband was hidden inside panels in trolley bags. One arrested accused is from Gujarat

ley bags was hollow, with special panels made and fixed with screws, where the contraband was hidden in plastic bags.

“The route is often used to carry marijuana grown using hydroponics. This is considered more potent compared to

conventional contraband. The four passengers were apprehended, and the drug was seized under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act,” said sources.

It is the latest in a long string of incidents where contraband was seized from the city airport, multiple seizures happening in the past two months alone. Recently, a passenger was caught at Surat airport carrying marijuana, officials said. “The probe is on to ascertain whether this is part of an organized syndicate or a standalone incident. The seized goods are relatively higher compared to recent seizures,” said sources.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

26 JANUARY 2026

Ahead of R-Day, panic after toy drone found near T1 airport

Mumbai: Panic gripped the area around Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport Terminal-1 in Vile Parle (E) when a black 'toy' drone fell from a tree on Saturday, amid heightened security for Republic Day and VVIP movements.

Airport police registered an FIR against an unknown person under BNS Section 223 (disobedience to orders lawfully promulgated by public servants) based on a complaint by constable Vinod Shirsath (35).

Shirsath said that around noon, Vishal Raje, an electrical team leader, was cutting a tree at the airport's autorickshaw pickup point using a boom lift, when the toy-like drone fell down. Raje alerted the landside operational manager of Adani group and officials searched the area but did not find the drone operator. They then went to Airport police station, submitted the drone, and filed a complaint.

Later, Shirsath and sub-inspector Khair of Anti-Terrorism Squad inspected the spot, but found no clues.

— V Narayan



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

26 JANUARY 2026

Russia eyes India's regional aviation market

NEW DELHI, Jan 25: 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.

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.

Aircraft manufacturing and long-term support create high-skilled jobs in engineering, precision manufacturing, avionics and maintenance, and help build supplier eco-

systems that can last for decades.

Maintenance, repair and overhaul are expected to be major focus areas if Russian civil aircraft enter the Indian market.

Most of an aircraft's economic value is generated after delivery through spares, upgrades, training and engine overhauls over its 25 to 30-year operational life. – IANS

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 JANUARY 2026

Flexibility is driving IndiGo's next phase of growth: Elbers

bl.interview

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

After a quarter of turbulence and falling profits, IndiGo's Chief Executive Pieter Elbers has outlined how the airline is balancing expansion, product evolution and operational readiness. Elbers spoke about the carrier's next phase of growth with the induction of the long-range Airbus A321XLR and expansion of international services.

Edited excerpts:

As IndiGo expands across longer-haul, regional international and domestic markets, how is the airline redefining its growth priorities and positioning itself over the next six to 12 months?

IndiGo is going through a phase of growth and development, defining a new category and becoming a fit-to-purpose airline.



The transformation is anchored in several milestones, including code-share deals, developing hubs, scaling cargo, strengthening ancillary services and more

PIETER ELBERS
IndiGo's Chief Executive



We are evolving as a brand, retaining our hallmark of efficiency, simplicity and affordability, yet broadening our product portfolio, as we scale up, to match our customers' varied expectations across different flight categories and routes on our network.

Customers' expectations on an eight-to-10-hour journey is starkly different from what they want on a two-hour domestic flight or a five-hour, regional international flight.

This evolution becomes even more important as we progress further on our in-

ternationalisation journey, especially with our long-haul expansion.

How is IndiGo evolving its product and service offering to cater to customers across different journey lengths and market segments?

Today, in addition to our proven economy class, we offer the convenience of IndiGoStretch — our tailor-made business product designed for added comfort, more benefits and privacy.

We introduced BluChip, our loyalty programme, to

reward our loyal customers. On our long-haul flights, we have elevated the passenger experience with the introduction of complimentary hot meals, alcoholic beverages and thoughtfully-curated amenities onboard.

All these product enhancements and diversification are primarily rooted in our understanding of how we can make air travel more convenient.

How is fleet expansion and diversification supporting IndiGo's transformation as it builds scale and deepens its international footprint?

Another key pillar of this transformation journey is fleet expansion and diversification.

Last year, we introduced the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft in our fleet, taken on wet/damp lease from Norse Atlantic Airways, which enabled us to launch and expand our first few long-haul offerings — Manchester, Amsterdam, London Heathrow and Copenhagen.

The lease arrangements

are helping us in gaining invaluable operational insights into wide-body operations, particularly around turn-around time management, on-board service delivery, and customer expectations for long-haul travel, before our Airbus A350-900s start arriving from 2028 onwards, enabling deeper international penetration across continents.

Recently, we took delivery of India's first A321XLR, enabling the connectivity from Mumbai and Delhi to Athens, Greece.

The extended-range capability of this new-generation aircraft will allow us to tap into several strategic markets across Europe and East Asia.

This transformation story is anchored in several additional strategic milestones, including deepening code-share partnerships, developing hubs, scaling cargo, strengthening ancillary services and more.

We are also moving towards greater aircraft ownership, and building a world-class 12-bay MRO facility in Bengaluru, in addition to the

existing facilities in Delhi and Bengaluru.

As we launch new routes and integrate additional aircraft into the fleet, we are equally focused on ensuring that our systems, processes and people are well prepared to support this growth sustainably.

Ultimately, the challenges and the opportunities lie in balancing ambition with execution.

In a dynamic operating environment marked by supply-chain disruptions and geopolitical constraints, how does IndiGo build flexibility and resilience into its network strategy?

As our fleet continues to grow, flexibility is built into how we plan our network. Our fleet strategy, which includes progressive addition of narrow-body aircraft such as the A321XLR alongside leased wide-body Boeing 787s, allows us to respond to demand across different markets while remaining aligned with our long-term plans.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

27 JANUARY 2026

Dreamliners have bright future in India: Boeing

US aircraft maker Boeing expects more orders for its Dreamliners in the Indian market, which is poised for substantial growth in the coming years, according to a senior company executive.

Amid the ongoing tariff issue between India and the US, Boeing India and South Asia President Salil Gupte emphasised on the two countries' goal for industrialisation of Indian aerospace and exuded confidence that the aircraft maker will be able to see through some of these short-term challenges.

In India, Boeing 787 planes, also known as Dreamliners, are operated by Air India. The airline's first

custom-made Dreamliner post privatisation in January 2022 is set to commence commercial operations from February 1.

"B787 has an extremely bright future in India... we look forward to potentially more orders for the 787 in India coming," Gupte told *PTI* in an interview.

Air India has 33 Dreamliners in its fleet — 26 legacy B787-8s, six B787-9s from Vistara and the new plane.

The global demand for B787s has been incredibly robust and expect that will continue in the years to come, Gupte said.

Last year, Boeing delivered 14 B787s to various airlines. en

HIRING, TRAINING RAMPED UP AMID REGULATORY SCRUTINY, TIGHTER RULES

IndiGo adds 44 Airbus pilots in Dec to stabilise operations

YARUQHULLAH KHAN
New Delhi, January 26

INDIGO ADDED 44 Airbus-certified pilots — 21 captains and 23 first officers — after the airline came under regulatory scrutiny over widespread flight disruptions in December 2025.

Data shared by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in response to a Right to Information (RTI) application filed by FE showed that the airline's Airbus fleet crew strength rose to 2,378 captains and 2,217 first officers as of January 5, 2026. This increase came despite reported crew exits during December.

The regulator added that IndiGo has also expanded its training pipeline over the same period. The number of pilots under training rose from 371 on December 22 to 392 by January 5. Command upgrade activity has continued, with 11 pilots completing upgrade training, 12 undergoing simulator training and five enrolled in the command development programme. Seven pilots are awaiting P1 licence endorsement, the DGCA said.

IndiGo inducted 50 first officers on January 2 and plans

STRONG HEADWINDS

■ Between December 3 and 5, IndiGo cancelled 2,507 flights and delayed another 1,852, affecting more than 300,000 passengers

■ Following disruptions, DGCA cut its winter schedule by 10% & gave it time till Feb 10 to demonstrate adequate pilot strength

■ IndiGo's Airbus fleet crew strength rose to 2,378 captains and 2,217 first officers as of January 5



■ IndiGo inducted 50 first officers on Jan 2 and plans to bring in a total of 100 junior first officers through the month

to bring in a total of 100 junior first officers through January, according to the regulator's response. At the same time, the airline has projected attrition of 71 captains and 12 first officers over the next six months.

The hiring push comes as IndiGo works to meet tighter flight duty time limitations (FDTL) norms introduced by the DGCA. The airline has until February 10 to demonstrate adequate pilot strength, failing which it risks further operational restrictions. In December, severe crew shortages led to large-scale disruptions, prom-

pting the DGCA to cut IndiGo's winter schedule by 10%.

Between December 3 and 5 alone, the airline cancelled 2,507 flights and delayed another 1,852, affecting more than 300,000 passengers. The disruptions resulted in regulatory action, including a cumulative penalty of ₹22.2 crore and warnings issued to CEO Pieter Elbers and two other senior executives. It was also directed to furnish a ₹50-crore bank guarantee to ensure long-term corrective measures.

Following a review meeting on January 19, IndiGo told the

regulator that it now has sufficient pilots to operate its approved network and comply with FDTL norms once the temporary curbs are lifted. The airline said it would be able to maintain operational stability after February 10, when the current restrictions on its winter schedule are set to expire.

IndiGo has assured the regulator that cancellations will be avoided once normal operations resume, citing improved crew availability, ongoing training, and the withdrawal of two temporary FDTL exemptions granted in December.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

27 JANUARY 2026

Boeing: More Dreamliner orders from India likely

MANOJ RAMMOHAN
New Delhi, January 26

US AIRCRAFT MAKER Boeing expects more orders for its Dreamliners in the Indian market, which is poised for substantial growth in the coming years, according to a senior company executive.

Amid the ongoing tariff issues between India and the US, Boeing India and South Asia President Salil Gupte emphasised on the two countries' goal for industrialisation of Indian aerospace and exuded confidence that the aircraft maker will be able to see through some of these short-term challenges.

In India, Boeing 787 planes, also known as Dreamliners, are operated by Air India. The airline's first custom-made Dreamliner post privatisation in January 2022 is set to commence commercial operations from February 1. "B787 has an extremely bright future in India... we look forward to potentially more orders for the 787 in India coming," Gupte said. Air India has 33 Dreamliners in its fleet — 26 legacy B787-8s, six B787-9s from Vistara and the new plane. IndiGo also operates some Dreamliners taken on lease from Norse Atlantic Airways.

On June 12 last year, an Air India Dreamliner operating the flight AI171 from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick crashed soon after take-off, killing 260 people, and it was also the first fatal accident involving the Dreamliner. Against this backdrop, Gupte said it was a challenging year (2025) for Boeing. —PTI

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

27 JANUARY 2026

IndiGo on a recovery path

STEADY CRUDE PRICE, IMPROVED COST ABSORPTION TO LIFT SPREADS IN FY27

INTERGLOBE AVIATION (IndiGo) remains a constructive call for the brokerage, driven by expectations of a structurally tighter industry supply environment over the medium term, which it views as a stronger investment thesis than any near-term demand softness. The airline faced operational disruptions in the first week of December 2025, but recovery has since been well documented, with operations stabilising steadily.

Management's guidance of around 10% year-on-year volume growth in Q4 FY26 implies that available seat kilometres (ASKs) in the quarter would be about 2% higher sequentially, an important indicator of capacity normalisation. Profitability is expected to benefit from stable crude oil prices and improved cost absorption driven by higher volumes and a reduction in damp lease costs into FY27. However, cost per available seat kilometre (CASK) excluding fuel remains under pressure, primarily due to a weakening rupee, which continues to pose a key risk. At the same time, the rising contribution of international operations—where most of IndiGo's incremental growth is coming from—puts greater emphasis on spread management in overseas markets. Based on current guidance, IndiGo is estimated to deliver a profit after tax (PAT) of around ₹20 billion in Q4 FY26, excluding foreign exchange impacts, reinforcing confidence in

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Y/E March (₹ cr)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Net revenue	68,904.3	80,802.9	85,898.5	99,304.7
Ebitda (Ex Forex)	17,035	19,676.2	20,767.8	26,210.1
Ebitda margin (%)	24.7	24.4	24.2	26.4
PBT (Ex Forex, Ex Exp)	8,766.7	9,211.3	7,917.6	11,738.5
PAT (Ex Forex, Ex Exp)	8,889.9	8,876.3	7,620.5	8,780.4
EPS (₹)	250.3	229.7	197.2	227.2
P/E (x)	21.4	21.5	25.0	21.7
CEPS (₹)	396.8	454.4	479.0	551.3
EV/E (x)	12.6	11.4	10.6	8.2
RoCE (%)	19.8	15.0	13.2	14.5

Source: IIC research, Company data



the airline's medium-term earnings trajectory. IndiGo's strong balance sheet and dominant industry position continue to serve as durable business moats, while premiumisation and internationalisation remain key growth levers and are progressing as planned. Initiatives such as the introduction of business class, the loyalty programme, an accelerated long-haul expansion using wide-body aircraft, and the induction of XLR

aircraft highlight increasing momentum in tapping new markets and customer segments. The brokerage retains a Buy rating on the stock. Key risks to the outlook include a potential demand slowdown and adverse geopolitical developments.

IndiGo's total cash balance decreased to ₹51,600 crore, comprising ₹36,900 crore of free cash and ₹14,600 crore of restricted cash in Q3FY26 (from ₹53,500 crore, comprising ₹38,500 of free cash and ₹15,000 crore of restricted cash in Q2FY26). The capitalised operating lease liability for IndiGo is ₹52,500 in Q3FY26 vs. ₹49,700 crore in Q2FY26.

—ICICI SECURITIES



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

26 JANUARY 2026

VietJet Thailand Launches Direct Kolkata–Bangkok Flights

UP State Bureau

DELHI

VietJet Thailand has expanded its India–Thailand network with the launch of new direct flights connecting Kolkata to Bangkok, making travel to Thailand faster and more convenient for Indian passengers. The new route adds to the airline's existing services from Ahmedabad and Mumbai to Bangkok, and Mumbai to Phuket, reinforcing its growing footprint in the Indian market.

The early morning departure from Kolkata allows travelers to reach Bangkok at the start of the day, offering maximum time to explore the city. Designed for lei-



sure travelers, families, and young explorers, the service combines affordable fares with comfortable onboard experiences.

Passengers arriving at Suvarnabhumi Airport in the early hours benefit from smooth operations and efficient services, setting a relaxed tone for their journey.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

26 JANUARY 2026

Air India halts Chennai–Dubai route

HD Bureau

CHENNAI

Air India has decided to suspend its long-standing direct service between Chennai and Dubai, ending a link that has operated for more than three decades and served as a key air bridge for business travellers, migrant workers and families.

The move has surprised frequent flyers in southern Tamil Nadu and prompted questions about the national carrier's route strategy as it reshapes its international network under new ownership.

The airline confirmed that flights on the Chennai–Dubai sector will cease after the current schedule cycle, with bookings no longer available beyond the announced date. At the same time, Air India said its low-cost subsidiary, Air India Express, will operate a Bengaluru–Dubai service, signalling a shift in



For Chennai, the suspension marks the loss of one of its most enduring international connections

how the Tata Group-owned aviation portfolio allocates capacity to the Gulf region.

For Chennai, the suspension marks the loss of one of its most enduring international connections. The route has historically carried a steady mix of leisure travellers, small traders, medical tourists and expatriates, particularly from Tamil Nadu and neighbouring states, who

relied on the convenience of a nonstop option. Aviation analysts note that the service pre-dated the rapid expansion of Middle East carriers in southern India and long held a loyal customer base despite growing competition.

Air India has not cited a single reason for the decision, but industry executives point to a combination of commercial and operational factors.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

27 JANUARY 2026

भारत में ड्रीमलाइनर के ऑर्डर मिलेंगे: बोइंग

नई दिल्ली। अमेरिकी विमान निर्माता कंपनी बोइंग को उम्मीद है कि आने वाले वर्षों में भारतीय बाजार में उसके ड्रीमलाइनर विमानों के लिए और अधिक ऑर्डर मिलेंगे। भारतीय विमानन बाजार आने वाले समय में बड़ी वृद्धि के लिए तैयार है। बोइंग भारत और दक्षिण एशिया के अध्यक्ष सलिल गुप्ते ने भारतीय एयरोस्पेस के औद्योगीकरण के लक्ष्य पर जोर दिया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

27 JANUARY 2026

Airlines in new push to get safety rules watered down

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: Four of the country's five national airlines, which together fly 95% of passengers, are nudging the government to relax the new crew rest rules that came into force on November 1 last year, multiple officials told HT, who said the companies contend the regulation is unsustainable in the long run.

The rules pertain to what is known as flight duty time limitations (FDTL), which were toughened after an arduous litigation led by pilots who called for stricter limits on how long and what hours aviators can work for airliners in the interest of passenger safety.

"Airlines have approached the ministry to ask for certain relaxations in the newly mandated FDTL. Discussions are going on,"



IndiGo operations collapsed from December 3-5 last year. HT ARCHIVE

said an official requesting anonymity, and added that the matter was discussed during a parliamentary standing committee meeting on December 17.

That meeting came days after one of the worst aviation crises in India when operations of IndiGo,

which has over 63% market share, collapsed between December 3 and 5. →P9

morestories

7 killed in US jet crash as snow triggers chaos →PB

Airlines seek easing of safety rules, citing unsustainability

Neha LM Tripathi

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"Airlines have approached the ministry to ask for certain relaxations in the newly mandated FDTL. Discussions are going on," said an official requesting anonymity, and added that the matter was discussed during a parliamentary standing committee meeting on December 17.

That meeting came days after one of the worst aviation crises in India when operations of IndiGo, which has over 63% market share, collapsed between December 3 and 5. A government inquiry released earlier this



The FDTL rules pertain to how long and what hours aviators can work for airliners in the interest of passenger safety. ANI

month found the airline "failed to adequately identify planning deficiencies" and maintained "minimal recovery margins" despite having two years to prepare for the regulations.

At the time, IndiGo was allowed an exemption from the FDTL rules till February 10, a move experts at the time said jeopardises safety. The airline has since been fined a record ₹20.2 crore for being exempted from the rules, and another ₹1.8 crore for systemic oversight that led to its December collapse, that left 300,000 passengers affected.

The new FDTL rules mandate substantially tighter limits on

pilot working hours and rest periods. Weekly rest increased from 36 to 48 continuous hours, including two full nights at the crew member's home base. The definition of night duty expanded from midnight-5am to midnight-6am, and airlines can now assign pilots to only two consecutive night duties instead of an unlimited number. Night landings were capped at two per week, down from six previously. Monthly flight time was reduced from 125 hours to 100 hours in 28 days.

"The airlines have been firm that the second set of the new FDTL rules are not feasible for

airlines in the longer run. The government however, has not taken a decision on the matter yet," another official said, referring to the rules that came into force in November.

IndiGo, Air India, Air India Express, Akasa and SpiceJet did not respond to requests for comment from HT on whether they were in talks for relaxation.

The civil aviation ministry did not respond to requests for a comment. An airline executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said "all airlines except SpiceJet and Alliance Air are in discussions with the government over the need for relaxations".

An airline executive, from one of the key carriers, said his company supported the move. "With caps on airfares and the fluctuating geopolitical situation apart from Pakistan airspace closure has put enough stress on Indian aviation. The new FDTL means additional pilots, which is another cost, hence the relaxation in FDTL is being discussed in the interest of the growth of the sector in India," this person said, asking not to be named.

The government imposed an emergency fare cap on December 6 during the IndiGo crisis after ticket prices spiked to ₹40,000-₹1 lakh on certain

routes, reviving dormant Covid-era fare band ceilings. The ministry said at the time the caps would be relaxed once fares stabilised. The bands are still in place.

Pilots said such a push once again is against the interest of passenger safety. President of Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) C S Randhawa, said, "Safety cannot be compromised in any situation. If there is any untoward incident, pilots are the first ones to be blamed. The rest factor of a pilot needs to be taken as a priority. Where there is will, there is a way, so the airlines who were given time for two years, cannot give excuses now."

To be sure, airlines appear to have adapted to the new crew rest rules and except for IndiGo, none of the other airlines reported drastic rostering issues.

IndiGo, in a recent weekly meeting with the regulator (that have been conducted since the disruptions), assured the DGCA that it now has adequate pilot strength and will not cancel flights after February 10, when temporary exemptions from crew fatigue rules expire — although the airline gave similar assurances in October before its network collapsed in early December.

US storm causes fatal crash, 16K flights cancelled in 2 days

A monster storm barreling across the US has killed at least 11 people including 5 in NY. It has also led to massive power outages

Agencies

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NEW YORK/WASHINGTON: Travellers are bracing for extended disruptions to start the working week in the US as airlines try to get their schedules back on track following an intense winter storm that saw the most flight cancellations since the Covid-19 pandemic and a fatal plane crash in Maine.

Nearly 4,700 flights were cancelled on Monday as of 10:20am New York time, according to FlightAware. That follows the roughly 11,600 cancellations on Sunday, which bore the brunt of disruptions as the worst storm in years coated vast stretches of the US South and Mid-Atlantic in ice, and effectively shut down some of the country's busiest aviation hubs, Bloomberg reported. More than a dozen flights departing the UK for the US have been cancelled on Monday so far, according to data from aviation analytics firm Cirium. Airlines have also scrapped 10 flights arriving into UK airports from the US, with the disruptions likely to rise as the day progresses.

Cancellations were heaviest at major Northeast airports on Monday. Boston Logan International Airport and New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport had more than half of departures scrapped.

The Federal Aviation Authority hopes to return to a normal flight schedule on Wednesday, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said on CNBC. He warned



A bulldozer dumps snow into an ice melter near American Airlines planes at LaGuardia Airport in the Queens borough of New York, on Sunday while people shovel snow (right) along a street in Boston, Massachusetts, on Monday. BLOOMBERG, AFP

of "significant disruptions" on Monday.

Airlines have said they're aiming to get back up and running swiftly, but they'll face challenges from the ongoing adverse weather.

Lingering frigid temperatures and icy conditions at airports, as well as on roads and highways, will cause treacherous conditions for staff and travellers. Planes and crews are also likely to be in incorrect locations, making the resumption of a normal schedule more difficult, Bloomberg reported.

Brutal cold puts US power grids on edge

US power grids are under mounting pressure following a winter storm that unleashed deep cold and heavy snow and

ice from Texas to Maine, driving up heating demand and raising the risk of blackouts.

The storm affected millions of people across the eastern two-thirds of the US, with 813,000 homes and businesses were without electricity as of 11:00am New York time as snow and ice ravaged local distribution lines, according to PowerOutage.us. More than half of the outages were reported in three states: Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana.

So far, power grids have avoided large system-level cuts, but sub-zero temperatures and dangerous wind chills are set to linger all week, testing seasonal power demand records from Texas to New England. Some areas have reported extensive damage to trees and power lines



and blocked roads, which could slow electricity restoration, said Nicole Joniak, a meteorologist at AccuWeather Inc.

7 killed, 1 survives as jet crashes in Maine

The Federal Aviation Administration says seven people were killed and a crew member survived with serious injuries

when a private business jet crashed in a snowstorm at Maine's Bangor International Airport, the AP reported.

The Bombardier Challenger 600 carrying eight people crashed on takeoff at around 7:45pm Sunday night as New England and much of the country grappled with a massive winter storm.



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

27 JANUARY 2026

भारत में ड्रीमलाइनर का भविष्य उज्वल : बोइंग

नई दिल्ली, 26 जनवरी (भाषा)।

अमेरिकी विमान निर्माता कंपनी बोइंग को उम्मीद है कि आने वाले वर्षों में भारतीय बाजार में उसके ड्रीमलाइनर विमानों के लिए और अधिक ऑर्डर मिलेंगे।

कंपनी के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा कि भारतीय विमानन बाजार आने वाले समय में बड़ी वृद्धि के लिए तैयार है। भारत और अमेरिका के बीच चल रहे शुल्क संबंधी विवादों के बीच, बोइंग भारत और दक्षिण एशिया के अध्यक्ष सलिल गुप्ते ने भारतीय एअरोस्पेस के औद्योगीकरण के लक्ष्य पर जोर दिया। उन्होंने भरोसा जताया कि कंपनी इन अल्पकालिक चुनौतियों से पार पाने में सफल रहेगी।

भारत में बोइंग 787 विमानों, जिन्हें ड्रीमलाइनर भी कहा जाता है, का संचालन इस समय एयर इंडिया करती है। जनवरी 2022 में निजीकरण के बाद एअर इंडिया का पहला विशेष रूप से तैयार ड्रीमलाइनर एक फरवरी से अपनी व्यावसायिक उड़ानें शुरू करने वाला है। गुप्ते ने साक्षात्कार में कहा कि भारत में बी787 का भविष्य अत्यंत उज्वल है और उन्हें उम्मीद है कि भविष्य में भारत से इसके और अधिक ऑर्डर मिल सकते हैं। इस समय एअर इंडिया के बेड़े में 33 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान हैं, जिनमें 26 पुराने बी787-8, विस्तार के छह बी787-9 और एक नया विमान शामिल है। इसके अलावा इंडिगो भी पट्टे पर लिए गए कुछ ड्रीमलाइनर विमानों का संचालन कर रही है।

MINT

DELHI

27 JANUARY 2026

Four national airlines want new crew rest rules diluted

Companies contend that the FDTL regulations are unsustainable in the long run

Nehal M Trpathi
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NEW DELHI

Four of the country's five national airlines, which together fly 95% of passengers, are nudging the government to relax the new crew rest rules that came into force on 1 November, multiple officials told *HT*, who said the companies contend the regulation is unsustainable in the long run.

The rules pertaining to flight duty time limitations (FDTL), which were toughened after an arduous litigation led by pilots who called for stricter limits on how long and what hours aviators can work for airlines in the interest of passenger safety.

"Airlines have approached the ministry to ask for certain relaxations in the newly mandated FDTL. Discussions are going on," said an official requesting anonymity, and added that the matter was discussed during a parliamentary standing committee meeting on December 17.

That meeting came after one of the worst aviation crises in India when operations of IndiGo, which has over 63% market share, collapsed between December 3 and 5. A government inquiry found that the airline "failed to adequately identify planning deficiencies" and maintained "minimal recovery margins" despite having two years to prepare for the regulations.

IndiGo was allowed an exemption from the FDTL rules till February 10, a move experts at



REUTERS

the time said jeopardises safety. The airline has since been fined a record ₹20.2 crore for being exempted from the rules, and another ₹1.8 crore for systemic oversight that led to its December collapse, that left 300,000 passengers affected.

Hindustan Times

The new FDTL rules increased weekly rest from 36 to 48 continuous hours, including two full nights at the crew member's home base. The

definition of night duty expanded from midnight to 5 am to midnight to 6 am, and airlines can now assign pilots to only two consecutive night duties instead of an unlimited number. Night landings were capped at two per week, down from six. Monthly flight time was reduced from 125 hours to 100 hours in 28 days.

IndiGo, Air India, Air India Express, Akasa and SpiceJet, and the civil aviation ministry did not respond to queries.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

27 JANUARY 2026

Boeing eyes Indian Dreamliner orders

US aircraft maker Boeing expects more orders for its Dreamliners in the Indian market, which is poised for substantial growth in the coming years, according to a senior company executive. Amid the ongoing tariff issues between India and the US, Boeing India and South Asia president Salil Gupte emphasized on the two countries' goal for industrialization of Indian aerospace and exuded confidence that the aircraft maker will be able to see through some of these short-term challenges. In India, Boeing 787 planes, also known as Dreamliners, are operated by Air India. The airline's first custom-made Dreamliner post privatisation in January 2022 is set to commence commercial operations from 1 February. "B787 has an extremely bright future in India... we look forward to potentially more orders for the 787 in India coming," Gupte told *PTI* in an interview.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

27 JANUARY 2026

IndiGo cancels flights to Tbilisi, Almaty, Tashkent, Baku till January 28

IndiGo has cancelled its flights to Tbilisi, Almaty, Tashkent and Baku till January 28 due to the prevailing situation in Iran. "We remain vigilant to developments in the region around Iran and are proactively reviewing flight operations, with safety being our highest priority," the airline said in a post on X on Sunday.

In view of the prevailing situation and after careful assessment, IndiGo said it was cancelling flights to and from Tbilisi (Georgia), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and Baku (Azerbaijan) on January 26, 27 and 28. For these destinations, the airline flies over the Iranian airspace and due to the current situation, it is avoiding that airspace, an official said.

Generally, the duration of flights from India to these cities is in the range of six to seven hours.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

27 JANUARY 2026

Dreamliners have bright future in India: Boeing

MANOJ RAMMOHAN

■ New Delhi

US aircraft maker Boeing expects more orders for its Dreamliners in the Indian market, which is poised for substantial growth in the coming years, according to a senior company executive. Amid the ongoing tariff issues between India and the US, Boeing India and South Asia President Salil Gupte emphasised on the two countries' goal for industrialisation of Indian aerospace and exuded confidence that the aircraft maker will be able to see through some of these short-term challenges.

In India, Boeing 787 planes, also known as Dreamliners, are operated by Air India. The airline's first custom-made Dreamliner post privatisation in January 2022 is set to commence commercial operations from February 1.

"B787 has an extremely bright future in India... We look forward to potentially more orders for the 787 in India coming," Gupte told PTI in an interview. Air India has 33 Dreamliners in its fleet—26 legacy B787-8s, six B787-9s from Vistara and the new plane. IndiGo also operates some Dreamliners taken on lease from Norse Atlantic Airways. On June 12 last year, an Air India Dreamliner

operating the flight AI171 from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick crashed soon after take off, killing 260 people and it was also the first fatal accident involving the Dreamliner. The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is probing the crash. Against this backdrop, Gupte said it was a challenging year (2025) for Boeing.

"... As we think about the Air India AI171 accident, naturally, the victims' families, victims, and all of their loved ones remain foremost in our minds.

"As it relates to the accident investigation, of course, that will go on, and we expect the Indian AAIB will issue its report. But beyond that, there's not much that any of the OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) can comment on," he said.

In recent years, Boeing had also faced regulatory issues, including with Dreamliners. The global demand for B787s has been incredibly robust and expect that will continue in the years to come, Gupte said. Last year, Boeing delivered 14 B787s to various airlines. In response to a query on increasing competition from Airbus, Gupte said competition is natural in the industry as he stressed that "airplanes are tools for our customers to serve their customers". (PTI)



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

25 JANUARY 2026

कोलकाता से जयपुर आ रही थी फ्लाइट फ्लाइट में खोला इमरजेंसी फ्लैप स्विच...अफरा-तफरी

जयपुर @ पत्रिका. आसमान में उड़ रही एक फ्लाइट में एक यात्री की हरकत से कुछ देर के लिए अफरा-तफरी मच गई। मामला शुक्रवार शाम का है। शाम करीब 7:40 बजे इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की एक फ्लाइट कोलकाता से जयपुर के लिए रवाना हुई थी। उड़ान के कुछ समय बाद फ्लाइट में सवार यात्री चेतन (31) ने बिना किसी कारण एयरक्राफ्ट का इमरजेंसी फ्लैप स्विच खोल दिया। स्विच खुलते ही अलार्म बजा और केबिन कू ने तुरंत स्थिति

को संभाल लिया। रात करीब सवा दस बजे फ्लाइट के लैंड होते ही सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने आरोपी यात्री को हिरासत में ले लिया। यह युवक सीट नंबर 18 पर बैठा था। घटना के बाद उसकी सीट बदल दी थी। बताया जा रहा है कि वह नशे की हालत में था। सिस्टम उसकी सीट के पास ही लगा हुआ था। जांच के बाद उसे हिरासत में लेकर बाद में छोड़ दिया गया। पकड़ा गया आरोपी सपोटरा करौली का रहने वाला था।

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-8 Q400, 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.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

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.