



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2026

AAI to invest ₹15,000 crore to modernise ATC

G Naga Sridhar
Hyderabad

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) will invest ₹15,000 crore for the modernisation of Air Traffic Control (ATC), said Vipin Kumar, Chairman, AAI.

According to a modernisation plan prepared six months ago, a total of ₹15,000 crore will be invested by 2028.

This will be not only for technology upgrade but also physical infrastructure in all 119 airports, including private airports where the ATC is managed by the AAI, said Kumar.

Funds needed for investment will be mobilised through internal resources, he added.



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30 JANUARY 2026

India to have 350 airports in 20 years

Our Bureau
Hyderabad

Union Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said the government is looking to increase the number of airports to 350, doubling the number from the current 164 over the next two decades. The Centre aims to increase capacity to handle four crore passengers over the next 10 years through an extended UDAN scheme, which will connect 120 new destinations.

Addressing the valedictory function of the Wings India 2026 aviation show on Thursday, he said the growth would require 30,000 pilots over 15 years. To address this challenge, the government had granted permission to five new Flying Training Organisations (FTOs).



Civil Aviation Minister
K Ram Mohan Naidu

Stating that a leasing ecosystem is being built in Gift City, Gujarat, to compete with global hubs, he said the Ministry was targeting a blend of 5 per cent Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) by 2030.

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN
Highlighting India's deepening

integration into the global aerospace supply chain, he drew attention to a critical manufacturing milestone regarding Airbus A320. He noted that every door on the A320 aircraft in global service is now manufactured in India.

AGREEMENTS SIGNED

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd has signed an agreement with Pawan Hans Ltd for the supply of 10 Dhruv Next Generation helicopters, marking a major milestone for India's civil helicopter sector.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed a pact with the Airports Council International for the Airports Management Professional Accreditation Programme. Over the next five years, AAI will train more than 115 aviation professionals.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

29 JANUARY 2026

Flights resume in Kashmir



Flight operations to and from Srinagar International Airport resumed on Wednesday, a day after all flights were cancelled due to snowfall in Kashmir. "The first flight has landed at 9.25 am. We expect normal flight operations through the day if the weather conditions hold," an official of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) said. Earlier, the Srinagar airport, said that the runway has been cleared of snow.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

29 JANUARY 2026

AAI through its Regional Sports Control Board has organised Cricket Tournament

AAI HOD Cricket in T 20/20 format for the officials working at Regional



Headquarters, Western Region, on "O" line ground of New Airport Colony, Mumbai from 27.01.2026 to 03.02.2026. There are 14 Departmental Teams consisting of 7 Teams each of Men's and Women's comprising of 182 players representing various departments of AAI. The Team of Non official women i.e. Kalyanmayee has also participated in the same event. Sh. Prem Prasad N.- Regional ED, WR President-RSCB, WR as Chief Guest has inaugurated the Tournament along with all the Head of the Departments today on 27.01.2026 @ 9 am by lighting the lamp. The Chief Guest, Regional ED, Western Region, Sh. Prem Prasad N. appreciated the enthusiasm and performance of the players and encouraged all employees to actively participate in such sporting events, representing their respective depts with pride and sportsmanship.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण ने मनाया गणतंत्र दिवस

नई दिल्ली (वि)। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (भाविप्रा) ने दिल्ली स्थित भाविप्रा के दिल्ली एयर ट्रेफिक सर्विसेज कॉम्प्लेक्स में 77वां गणतंत्र दिवस उत्साह के साथ मनाया। मुख्य अतिथि भाविप्रा के अध्यक्ष विपिन कुमार, आईएएस ने राष्ट्रीय ध्वज फहराया। केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल एवं भाविप्रा के अग्निशमन सेवा के संयुक्त दल द्वारा गार्ड ऑफ ऑनर प्रदान किया गया। कार्यक्रम में सीआईएसएफ ने डॉग शो का आयोजन किया। इसके अतिरिक्त, केन्द्रीय विद्यालय, रंगपुरी में विविध कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया।



हिंडन एयरपोर्ट रोड पर बनेंगे होटल और मॉल मल्टीप्लेक्स

एयरपोर्ट रोड स्थित अजंतापुरम की योजना के फाइनल लेआउट पर लगी मुहर

साहिबाबाद (गाजियाबाद)। आवास विकास परिषद के अजंतापुरम योजना में हिंडन एयरपोर्ट रोड पर व्यावसायिक भवन बनाए जाएंगे। एयरपोर्ट को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस रोड पर व्यावसायिक भूखंड काटे जाएंगे, जिन पर होटल और

**कर्मियों
के लिए
अलग से
बनेगा
हॉस्टल**

मॉल-मल्टीप्लेक्स बनाए जाएंगे।

इसके साथ ही एयरपोर्ट कर्मचारियों के लिए पीजी होम भी तैयार किए जाएंगे।

अजंतापुरम के फाइनल लेआउट में सात होटल, कम्प्यूनिटी हॉल एवं पीजी होम पर मुहर लगाई गई है। इसके तहत एयरपोर्ट रोड पर अधिकतर भूखंड व्यावसायिक काटे जाएंगे। इसमें होटल, रेस्तरां, कम्प्यूनिटी हॉल एवं पीजी होम शामिल हैं। अधिशासी अभियंता एच राम ने बताया

यात्रियों को मिलेगी बेहतर सुविधाएं



यहां ठहर सकेंगे। वर्तमान में एयरपोर्ट से करीब डेढ़ किलोमीटर के दायरे में कोई रेस्तरां तक नहीं जहां यात्री कुछ देर ठहर सके। सुबह फ्लाइट लेने के लिए पश्चिमी यूपी के जनपदों से आने वाले यात्री सुबह 3 बजे से ही एयरपोर्ट के बाहर जुटना शुरू हो जाते हैं, जो गेट खुलने तक सड़क पर ही इंतजार करते हैं। ऐसे में होटल व रेस्तरां बनने से यात्रियों को विशेष लाभ मिलेगा।

एयरपोर्ट के करीब होटल और रेस्तरां होने से हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से सफर करने वाले यात्रियों को लाभ मिलेगा। एयरपोर्ट से जब कभी अचानक फ्लाइट रद्द हो जाती है तो एयरलाइंस कंपनियों की ओर से यात्रियों को दिल्ली के होटलों में ठहराया जाता है। ऐसे में जब एयरपोर्ट के करीब होटल व रेस्तरां होंगे तो एयरलाइंस कंपनियों के पास बेहतर विकल्प होगा। वहीं दूरदराज से आने वाले यात्री जो घंटों पहले आ जाते हैं

कि आने वाले समय में हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पर और अधिक भीड़ बढ़ने की उम्मीद से ऐसा किया जा रहा है।

उन्होंने बताया कि परिषद की ओर से एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन को दस मीटर जमीन

सड़क चौड़ीकरण के लिए पहले ही दी जा चुकी है। सड़क चौड़ीकरण का कार्य शुरू हो गया है। उन्होंने बताया कि आने वाले वर्षों में एयरपोर्ट रोड पर बहुमंजिला इमारत के होटल व रेस्तरां होंगे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Airport expansion apace as air traffic surges

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

India is preparing for a significant expansion in airport infrastructure amid rising air traffic.

As per the Economic Survey FY26, passenger traffic at Indian airports is projected to increase from 412 million in financial year 2024-25 to 665 million by FY2030-31.

However, the Survey noted that India currently operates around 0.11 airports per million people, which is fewer compared with major aviation markets such as the US and China.

The Survey cited that, over the past decade, progress had been recorded in expansion of airport infrastructure.

Accordingly, the number of operational airports increased from 74 in 2014 to 164 in 2025, supported by public investment, private participation, and policy-led initiatives aimed at enhancing connectivity and capacity.

Nevertheless, the pace of traffic growth, the Survey said, indicates the need for further capacity creation.

CAPACITY EXPANSION

According to it, a key component of capacity expansion has been the Greenfield



FLYING COLOURS. Passenger traffic at Indian airports is projected to increase from 412 million in FY2024-25 to 665 million by FY2030-31

Airports Policy. Under this policy, 24 greenfield airports received in-principle approval and 13 of them are operational.

The Survey pointed out that airport modernisation projects undertaken since FY 2019-20 had increased the combined passenger-handling capacity of operational airports to about 575 million passengers per annum.

Besides passenger traffic, air cargo movement has also increased. Cargo volumes grew from 2.53 million tonnes in FY2014-15 to 3.72

million tonnes in FY2024-25. Further, 2.95 million tonnes of cargo was handled during FY2025-26 up to December.

Meanwhile, regional connectivity continues to be a focus area. So far, the regional connectivity scheme UDAN has operationalised 657 routes across 93 airports, including heliports and water aerodromes.

NEW DESTINATIONS

A modified version of the UDAN scheme aims to add 120 new destinations and cater to four crore passen-

gers over the next 10 years.

Beyond physical infrastructure, the Survey pointed to initiatives aimed at technology adoption and ecosystem development.

These include Digi Yatra, liberalised drone regulations, production-linked incentive support for drone manufacturing, and a policy focus on advanced air mobility.

In addition, ancillary segments such as maintenance, repair and overhaul, and aircraft leasing have expanded alongside airport and air navigation infrastructure.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

एयरपोर्ट के दूसरे चरण में आरएंडआर सेंटर का रस्ता साफ

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 29 जनवरी (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के स्टेज-1 में दूसरे चरण में विस्थापित होने के वाले परिवारों के लिए आरएंडआर सेंटर का रस्ता साफ हो गया है। अब आरएंडआर सेंटर के लिए फलैदा बांगर और मॉडलपुर में 4300 के रेट से भूमि की खरीद की जाएगी। जिला प्रशासन के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि विस्थापित परिवारों को बसाने के लिए 189 हेक्टेयर जमीन का अधिग्रहण किया जाना है। लेकिन रेट कम होने के कारण किसान जमीन देने के लिए तैयार नहीं थे। एयरपोर्ट के दूसरे चरण की 1365 हेक्टेयर जमीन का अधिग्रहण हो चुका है। यह भूमि नंगला हुकुम सिंह, कुरेब, रंहरा समेत छह गांव के किसानों से ली गई है। इन गांवों से करीब 12000 परिवार विस्थापित होंगे। अब उत्तरप्रदेश सरकार ने बड़े मुहावजो को मंजूरी दे दी है। विस्थापन के लिए बनने वाले आरएंडआर सेंटर के लिए अब किसानों को 4300 रुपए वर्ग मीटर के हिसाब से मुआवजा मिलेगा। अभी तक यह दर 3100 रुपए प्रति वर्गमीटर थी। गुरुवार को लखनऊ में हुई यूपी कैबिनेट की बैठक में इस प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दे दी गई। एडीएम एलए बच्चू सिंह ने बताया कि 189 हेक्टेयर जमीन के लिए अब आगे की प्रक्रिया तेज की जाएगी। जमीन अधिग्रहण का काम पूरा करके विस्थापितों को यहां बसाया जाएगा।

- फलैदा बांगर और मॉडलपुर में 4300 के रेट से होगी भूमि खरीद
- प्रभावित परिवारों को बसाने के लिए 189 हेक्टेयर जमीन खरीदी जाएगी

आरएंडआर सेंटर के लिए यूपी सरकार ने 4300 रुपए के रेट को मंजूरी दे दी है। अब किसानों से इसी दर पर भूमि खरीद होगी : बच्चू सिंह, एडीएम (एलए)।

विकास परियोजनाओं के लिए पहले से लागू है यह रेट

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के साथ ही योडा ने अन्य परियोजनाओं के 4300 के रेट ही मिल रहा है।

वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 से सभी परियोजनाओं के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहण के दायरे में आने वाले किसानों को एक समान दर पर मुआवजा वितरित करने का प्रस्ताव मार्च 2025 में बोर्ड बैठक में पास हुआ था। तब तक एयरपोर्ट के दूसरे चरण की जमीन अधिग्रहीत हो चुकी थी। यह जमीन 3100 के रेट से खरीदी गई थी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

29 JANUARY 2026

₹10 crore worth ganja seized at Chennai airport

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 28

Hydroponic ganja weighing 10.7 kilograms and worth ₹10.7 crore was seized at the Chennai airport from two passengers coming from Thailand.

The Thailand Airways from Bangkok arrived on Tuesday midnight and the Air Intelligence Officials monitored them closely. When the officials questioned the two passengers, they came out with contradictory answers. When they checked their luggage, they found the banned substance concealed in food packets by two passengers from Kerala. Investigations revealed that the two persons have links with international drug peddlers who are using them to smuggle the substance. The two persons were arrested and further investigation is on.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

29 JANUARY 2026

New passenger assistance services at KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has introduced Care by BLR, a personalised passenger assistance service.

The Care by BLR portfolio includes meet-and-assist, porter and luggage services, valet parking, luxury limousine services, arrival lounge access, and flower services, among others. These are available for departing, arriving and transit passengers.

The services are offered at both Terminal 1 and 2, and can be booked through the Pulse App, the official BLR Airport website, and dedicated counters at the terminals.

UDAN 2.0, 400 airports by 2047: Modi lays out aviation roadmap

Says air connectivity will multiply as India pushes affordable travel, fleet expansion

AJITH ATHRADY
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that the Centre is working on the next phase of the UDAN scheme to expand regional and affordable air connectivity and seaplane operations across the country.

In his virtual address at the aviation summit Wings India 2026 here, the PM said the NDA government in 2016 launched the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme to make air travel affordable to the common people by connecting "unserved and underserved airports" in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities

As a result of the scheme, 15 million passengers, around one and a half crore, have travelled on routes, many of which



Narendra Modi

did not even exist earlier, he said.

The prime minister remarked that as India advances towards the goal of becoming a developed nation, the expansion of air connectivity is certain to multiply many times over.

He highlighted that by 2047, India is expected to have more than 400 airports, creating a vast network.

Pointing out that passenger traffic has grown rapidly, he said Indian airlines are expanding their fleets, with more than 1,500 aircraft ordered in recent years.

In 2014, India had 70 airports, while now the number has risen to more than 160.

Over 100 aerodromes have been activated. By 2047, India is expected to have more than 400 airports, creating a vast network, he added.

The prime minister underlined that digital cargo platforms are simplifying and making the entire process more transparent, while off-airport processing arrangements are reducing the load on airports.

"Modern warehouses are being built to improve and accelerate cargo handling, which will reduce both delivery time and logistics costs in the future, he said. Underlining that India is set to emerge as a major and competitive trans-shipment hub, he urged investors to explore opportunities in warehousing, freight forwarding, express logistics, and e-commerce sectors.

Insisting that India emerged as a major global aviation hub, he called upon every nation, every industry leader, and every innovator to take full advantage of this golden opportunity.



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

29 JANUARY 2026

IAF takes over Baramati ATC

FPJ News Service

MUMBAI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) took full control of the air traffic control (ATC) and meteorological services at Baramati airfield. Acting on an urgent request from the civic authorities, the IAF deployed a specialised team of air warriors from a nearby Air Force station in Pune. The IAF's take-over highlights long-standing concerns regarding the safety of regional airstrips. Baramati is classified as an uncontrolled airfield as ATC duties are rotated daily between private training organisations.



Corporate Communications Directorate

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MUMBAI

29 JANUARY 2026

New airport expects to go global soon



NAVI MUMBAI: Adani Airport Holdings Ltd expects international flight operations at its recently-opened Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) to begin between April and June as the airport is currently streamlining domestic services, CEO Arun Bansal said on Wednesday. Speaking on the sideline of the Wings India 2026 event, he said a night landing facility is expected to begin in February. "We are going to run 24-hour operations starting next month. Then the (passenger) growth will continue," Bansal said. On ramping up the cargo operations at the airport, the CEO said the company is engaged in discussion with trade partners. "Discussion is on with trade. We need to do it in a controlled way. We need to create more airside," he added. Navi Mumbai airport, developed by the Adani group, started commercial operations from December 25, though it was inaugurated in October.

—Informist



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

29 JANUARY 2026

Airport plan triggers flood risk alarm

HD Bureau

CHENNAI

Government backing for the proposed greenfield airport at Parandur on the outskirts of Chennai has intensified conflict between planners and local communities, with a new hydrological study warning of potentially significant increases in floodwater entering the Adyar and Cooum rivers during intense rainfall periods. The project, envisaged as a major aviation hub to supplement Chennai's existing international airport, has already faced prolonged resistance from farmers and residents concerned about environmental and livelihood

impacts.

A detailed review by the Uvakai Research Foundation contends that official assessments by the state-run Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation substantially understate the site's hydrological complexity.

According to the foundation's analysis, around 66 per cent of the airport site falls within the Cooum river basin, with the remainder linked to the Lower Palar basin. Channels such as the Kamban Kalvai, which traverse the site and feed into Chembarambakkam Lake, form an active part of the broader drainage

network that ultimately connects with Chennai's main urban waterways.

The study calculates that removing natural flood buffers could funnel an extra 10,000 to 12,000 cu-secs of water downstream in peak rainfall episodes, overwhelming rivers already operating near capacity.

The Adyar and Cooum rivers both have limited flood-carrying capacity, a fact starkly illustrated in 2015 when heavy monsoon rains inundated Chennai's main airport runway and tarmac, forcing a week-long closure and evacuation of travellers and staff.

Ajit Pawar asked for the airport to be upgraded



The Baramati airport is among 150 uncontrolled airports in India, which have a basic runway and no ATC Tower or ATC frequency.

AGENCIES

Yogesh Naik

yogesh.naik@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The airport at Baramati where a Learjet 45 carrying Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar and four others crash landed on Wednesday morning, killing all on board, was categorised as an "uncontrolled" airport lacking basic navigation aids.

Indian airports come under four categories: C and D categories are those under which most major airports fall while smaller airports like those at Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, formerly Aurangabad, or Bhavnagar or Jalgaon, are categorised as B or partially controlled. The one at Baramati is categorised as A or uncontrolled. "There are about 150 uncontrolled airports in India. They have a basic runway and no ATC Tower or ATC frequency," said Mihir Bhagvati, aviation expert and a DGCA-approved examiner for pilots.

"The airport also lacks navigational aids like VOR (a ground-based radio navigation beacon that allows aircraft with a receiver to determine their position and navigate it), PAPI (Precision Approach Path Indicator) which tells whether the aircraft is high or low on approach," said Sanjay Karve who retired in 2025 as Maharashtra aviation director. Karve also confirmed that the airport does not have an independent meteorological facility and that it relies on data from Pune airport. On Wednesday morning the area was covered in dense fog with a visibility

of 2,500 metres.

In the absence of a proper ATC, the air traffic control at Baramati is jointly managed by pilot cadets from Baramati's two private aviation academies, Redbird Aviation and Carver Aviation. On Wednesday, on account of a VIP landing the ATC was being manned by a flight instructor from Carver Aviation. On Wednesday morning, after the Learjet pilot executed a Go Around, he was asked to report when he had the runway in sight. "Runway is currently not in sight, will call when runway is in sight," he reportedly told the Carver instructor manning the ATC. After a few seconds the pilot then reported that the runway was in sight, but the plane crashed shortly after, said an official of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The airport did not have its own fire-tender, said airport in charge Shivaji Taware. "We had called one fire tender from Baramati Municipal Council as standby for the VIP landing. When we realised that the plane had crashed, we called for more fire tenders from the Baramati Municipal Council and the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation and arrived soon after."

The airport, constructed by the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation inaugurated in 1996, mainly serviced the two flying schools and small private planes. "There are only four to five air traffic movements weekly from other airports to Baramati. Carver Aviation and Redbird Flight Training Acad-

emy, which have nine and 16 aircraft respectively, operate from morning till late evening (using chargeable lights on runway) for training purposes," said the airport manager, Shivaji Taware.

"The runway at Baramati is small. Unlike big city airports where the runway width is between 75 to 80 meters, Baramati runway's width is 30 meters. This runway also has a shallow hump which can alter a pilot's perception. In my opinion it's not suitable for VIP operations," the former state aviation director told HT.

Captain Naufil Karnalkar who learnt flying at Baramati and worked as a flying instructor for five years, before joining Qatar Airways, told HT, "The visibility was poor on Wednesday morning and there are no navigational aids at the runway which need to be installed. The ATC too can be better managed. The Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) has not done anything about smoothening the runway surface either."

Until August 2025, the airport was managed by the Anil Ambani-owned Reliance Airport Developers. MADC manager Shivaji Taware who is in charge of Baramati airport said, "We had taken over the airport on August 19 as there were several lacunae in its management. In the last few months, Ajit Pawar as the guardian minister of Pune district, had himself taken many meetings to upgrade this airport. He had asked for basic facilities like PAPI and night landing and a regular ATC."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

PM to inaugurate Punjab's Halwara Airport on Feb 1

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Chandigarh, 29 January

In a major boost to Punjab's aviation infrastructure and industrial connectivity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to virtually inaugurate the Halwara International Airport on February 1. The announcement was confirmed by Ludhiana Deputy Commissioner (DC) Himanshu Jain following an inspection of the facility.

The Halwara Airport project, a long-standing demand of the region, is now fully complete and ready for operations.

Speaking to the media after reviewing the final arrangements, DC Himanshu Jain stated that the district administration received a formal communication about the Prime Minister's virtual participation during his scheduled visit to Punjab.



"All preparations for the launch are in place. The Airport Authority of India has also sent a formal letter indicating that flight operations are expected to commence immediately following the inauguration," Jain added.

The news has triggered a wave of optimism in the business community in Ludhiana and across Punjab. For decades, the local industry has advocated

for a dedicated international-standard airport to facilitate global trade.

Local entrepreneurs believe the new air link will be a "game-changer" for the state's economy. Traders pointed out that many international clients previously avoided visiting Ludhiana due to poor air connectivity and long road commutes from other airports.

"This is the 'boom' we have

been waiting for," said a prominent local businessman. "Direct air connectivity will not only attract foreign investors but also make it easier for us to reach any corner of India in a matter of hours. This will significantly reduce the cost and time of doing business."

The Halwara airport is expected to transform Ludhiana, often called the 'Manchester of India', into a more accessible industrial hub. Beyond the business sector, the general public will benefit from the enhanced travel options, bridging the gap between Punjab's industrial heartland and the rest of the world.

As the final countdown to the February 1 launch begins, the district administration and the Airport Authority of India are fine-tuning the logistics to ensure a seamless start to commercial flight services.



10.8kg hydroponic weed seized at airport; two held

Venkadesan.S
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Chennai: After a short gap, customs sleuths at Chennai airport busted another attempt to smuggle 10.75kg of hydroponic weed by arresting two men on Wednesday.

The two men, natives of Kerala and first-time flyers, were lured into smuggling with heavy payouts. They were offered free flight tickets and accommodation in Bangkok, and were even trained on what to say and how to keep their phones free of any trace of information, said customs sources.

“They were provided with similar-looking trolley bags with the contraband hidden in them,” said an official. The duo flew to the city from Bangkok by Thai Airways in the early hours and were stopped by customs officials on suspicion, as they seemed tense while passing through the customs green channel upon arrival.

While they gave evasive replies, their checked-in baggage was subjected to a search. The sachets of chocolates and snacks kept amidst clothes



Sachets of chocolates and snacks in the checked-in luggage were confiscated as they emitted a peculiar odour

were confiscated as they emitted a peculiar odour. Preliminary testing using a narcotics field drug testing kit confirmed the substance to be hydroponic weed, a narcotic drug prohibited under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

In total, 10.75kg of hydroponic weed was seized from the duo, which was worth ₹10 crore in street value, according to officials. Customs officials said the smuggling cartels were checking if the airport were vigilant about smuggling prohibited goods.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

| WINGS INDIA-2026 |

Delhi airport ranks 1st; Air India seals Boeing, Airbus deals

SHEKHAR SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD, JANUARY 29

Wings India-2026 on Thursday crowned Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport as the country's best, while the four-day event also saw Air India placing fresh order for 30 Boeing aircraft including the 737-8 and 737-10 models. Separately, Air India and Airbus signed an agreement to convert 15 A321 neo orders into the longer-range A321XLR variant, enabling the airline to launch new non-stop international routes with improved fuel effi-

ciency. At the awards ceremony organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Delhi's IGI Airport, operated by Delhi International Airport Limited, was named airport of the year.

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport topped the 'above-25 million passengers per annum (MMPA)' category, while the Pune airport won in the 10-25 MMPA segment. Lucknow International Airport Limited was recognised in the '5-10 MMPA' category, and Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair, in the 'under-5 MMPA' bracket.

AI FLEET OVERHAUL PICKS UP PACE

- Air India added fresh momentum to its sweeping fleet renewal programme with the new order for 30 Boeing narrowbody aircraft as it looks to scale up capacity, deepen regional connectivity and support its long-term global ambitions.
- The purchase signals the airline's intent to lock in steady aircraft deliveries over the coming years, while consolidating Boeing's role at the core of its single-aisle operations.
- Air India chief executive officer and managing director Campbell Wilson said the additional aircraft order was aligned with the airline's long-term fleet strategy.

Hollongi Airport in Itanagar was named the best airport under the UDAN regional connectivity scheme. Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan

Naidu presented the awards. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) was named the best contributor to Atmanirbhar Bharat, while Boeing India and

Airbus were recognised for ecosystem acceleration and aircraft component manufacturing. The AAI signed an agreement with Airports Council International for the Airports Management Professional Accreditation Programme, under which over 115 aviation professionals will be trained over five years to build a globally deployable leadership pool.

Beyond scheduled airlines, officials said business and general aviation was entering a phase of sharp expansion.

Asangba Chuba Ao, Joint Secretary in the Civil Aviation Min-

istry, said helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, regional transport aircraft and business aviation were now being treated as distinct segments, reflecting changing demand patterns.

Russia's United Aircraft Corporation signed a preliminary agreement with Flamingo Aerospace to supply six Il-114-300 turboprop aircraft from 2028, alongside plans to build assembly and MRO capabilities in India. The event also saw the release of a KPMG-FICCI report outlining a roadmap for India to evolve into a global aviation ecosystem leader by 2047.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

29 JANUARY 2026

PM woos investors; urges them to be co-pilots in Indian aviation sector

HYDERABAD, Jan 28: Highlighting the growth potential and policy stability, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday told investors that there are immense opportunities in aircraft manufacturing, pilot training, advanced air mobility and aircraft leasing areas in the country.

India is one of the world's fastest civil aviation markets and air traffic demand is on the rise while airlines have placed orders for over 1,500 planes.

In a special message at the aviation summit Wings India 2026 here, Modi said the government is working on all necessary regulatory reforms to make cargo movement faster and more efficient.

Modern warehouses are being built to enable faster and more efficient cargo handling, which is especially important as India emerges as a major and competitive transshipment hub, Modi said.

"Urge all investors to explore the opportunities in India's warehousing sector, freight forwarding, express logistics, and e-commerce," the prime minister said.

According to him, there are very few countries like India that offer such a large scale for the aviation industry, such political stability, and such technological ambition.

Urging everyone to take full advantage of the "golden opportunity", Modi invited investors to be long-term partners and co-pilots on the India's flight to success.

In 2014, there were 70 airports and now, there are more than 160. By 2047, the country will have over 400 airports, Modi said, and stressed that air travel is no longer exclusive but inclusive.

The government's regional air connectivity scheme UDAN seeks to provide air travel at affordable rates.

"Thanks to the UDAN scheme, 15 million passen-



A drone show during the inauguration of 'Wings India 2026' at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad, on Wednesday. - PTI

gers, or approximately 1.5 crore passengers have travelled on routes that didn't even exist before," Modi said.

With reforms, India is becoming a major aviation gateway between the Global South and the rest of the world, Modi said, adding that this was a huge opportunity for investors and manufacturers associated with the aviation sector.

"Aircraft manufacturing, pilot training, advanced air mobility, aircraft leasing - these are sectors where India presents itself with immense possibilities," the Prime Minister said.

While India is becoming a major global aviation hub, Modi said it is important to ensure that the country does not remain dependent on others for aviation-related needs. "We must strengthen the path of self-reliance. This will also be helpful for companies that are coming to invest in India," Modi said. - PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

दुर्घटनाग्रस्त विमान का ब्लैक बॉक्स बरामद

मुंबई। महाराष्ट्र के बरामती में दुर्घटनाग्रस्त विमान लियरजेट 45 का ब्लैक बॉक्स बरामद हो गया है। नागरिक उड़्डयन मंत्रालय ने बृहस्पतिवार को यह जानकारी दी। बुधवार सुबह हुए हादसे में महाराष्ट्र के उपमुख्यमंत्री अजीत पवार समेत पांच लोगों की जान चली गई थी। ब्लैक बॉक्स एक छोटा उपकरण है जो फ्लाइट के दौरान विमान के बारे में जानकारी रिकॉर्ड करता है। यह विमान हादसों की जांच में मदद करता है। ब्लैक बॉक्स में फ्लाइट डाटा रिकॉर्डर और कॉकपिट वॉयस रिकॉर्डर शामिल होते हैं।

मंत्रालय ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर एक पोस्ट में बताया कि विस्तृत, पारदर्शी और समयसीमा के अंदर जांच पूरी करना उसकी प्राथमिकता है। विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (एएआईबी) के तीन अधिकारियों की दिल्ली से गई टीम और नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के तीन अधिकारियों की मुंबई की टीम जांच कर रही



है। ये टीमें 28 जनवरी को ही दुर्घटनास्थल पर पहुंच गई थी। एएआईबी को 2,250 किलोग्राम या उससे ज्यादा वजन वाले विमान या टर्बोजेट विमान से जुड़े सभी हादसों और गंभीर घटनाओं की जांच करने का अधिकार है। केंद्रीय नागरिक उड़्डयन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू ने विमान हादसे की जांच तेजी से करने के लिए महाराष्ट्र सरकार से सहयोग मांगा। राज्य के मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस को लिखे एक खत में उन्होंने दुर्घटनास्थल तक पहुंचने के लिए सरकार के समर्थन, ग्राउंड एजेंसियों के साथ तालमेल की मांग की है। ब्यूरो

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2026

'No delivery delays, Boeing to supply 25 planes to Indian airlines this year'

Our Bureau
Hyderabad

Boeing aims to deliver around 25 aircraft to airlines in India in CY2026 with improvement in the production rate of its Boeing 737 Max aircraft.

"We will be delivering planes at the rate of two aircraft per month. There are no delivery delays," said Ashwini Naidu, Boeing's Managing Director (commercial sales and marketing), Indian subcontinent, at Wings India on Wednesday.

Fresh deliveries will include both 737 Max (for Akasa Air and Air India Express) and 787-9s for Air India.

Last year, Indian carriers had received 19 Boeing aircraft. Deliveries of 737 Max aircraft had slowed down as US Federal Aviation Administration capped the production of the jetliner to 38 a month following a safety incident in January 2024.

REGULATORY NOD

Last October, the plane-maker secured the regulatory nod to increase production to 42 planes a month - a development that augurs



FLYING HIGH. Ashwini Naidu, Boeing's MD (commercial sales and marketing), Indian subcontinent, addresses the media at Wings India on Wednesday REUTERS

well with India, which is the fastest-growing aviation market.

Boeing estimates that India and South Asia's passenger air traffic will rise 7 per cent annually over the next 20 years.

This will require addition of nearly 3,300 planes by 2044, said Boeing in its commercial market outlook released at the airshow.

"As air travel becomes more integral to how people and goods move in India and South Asia, airlines will strengthen networks, scale

fleets and invest in services and technical personnel to support long-term growth," said Naidu.

"More efficient, versatile airplanes will enable robust growth opportunities for the region's established and emerging airlines," he added.

Boeing projects that the Indian and South Asian aviation industry will also need approximately 1,41,000 new professionals, including about 45,000 pilots, 45,000 technicians and 51,000 cabin crew, over the next two decades.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2026

Air India to add international flights from Mumbai with new Boeing 787s

Aneesh Phadnis
Hyderabad

Air India will significantly increase its international capacity from Mumbai, deploying its new and retrofitted Boeing 787 aircraft. While the airline flies to multiple cities in Europe, East Asia and Australia from Delhi, its medium- to long-haul international network out of Mumbai is limited with flights to Frankfurt, London and New York/Newark. The airline will halt its non-stop service between Mumbai and San Francisco from March 1.

NEW ROUTES

Sources said the airline is likely to start flights to Tokyo from Mumbai. Services to Johannesburg may also be rein-



BIG PLANS. Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner is displayed at Wings India 2026 in Hyderabad on Wednesday ASUTOS

troduced after a gap of several years.

While Delhi has stronger inbound traffic, both in terms of diaspora and foreign leisure travel, Mumbai has a large corporate market, which Air India has been unable to serve due to its limited network. Mumbai used to be Air India's main base, but that changed with the opening of Terminal 3 at Delhi Airport in 2010. Air India shifted its headquarters

to the national capital in 2013. That is set to change. "We will expand our capacity and upgrade our products on our Mumbai flights," said an official. This is also expected to improve the traffic mix and boost revenues.

Air India will deploy its newest Boeing 787 aircraft on the Mumbai-Frankfurt route from February 1.

The aircraft was formally unveiled at the Begumpet airport in Hyderabad.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2026

Etihad Airways eyes 5-7 new India destinations

KV Kurmanath
Hyderabad

Antonoaldo Neves, Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Airways, has pitched a counter-intuitive strategy to India regarding the granting of traffic rights — let foreign carriers build the market now so that Indian carriers can tap into a mature passenger base later.

“Why don’t I use these foreign carriers to build the market for us? And then, when the Indian carriers get the planes, they will take that traffic for them,” said Neves at Wings India.

GLOBAL GROWTH

While the airline posted a 20 per cent global growth in 2025, its India capacity remained stagnant, as all allotted traffic rights were fully



EAST-BOUND. Etihad views India as a critical pillar of its Vision 2030 strategy, according to Antonoaldo Neves, CEO

utilised. He said Etihad views India as a critical pillar of its Vision 2030, projecting that 15 to 20 per cent of its future growth is expected from the country.

“If it doesn’t happen, we will look at other geograph-

ies,” he said. If the rights were granted, Etihad said it will expand its network in India.

“We would like to add 5-7 destinations, including Goa, besides doubling frequencies to destinations such as Hy-

derabad and Ahmedabad.”

Despite the friction, Neves remains optimistic that the measures (blocking traffic rights) is a temporary strategic measure to allow Indian carriers time to scale up. He noted that with 10,000 unutilised seats available to Indian carriers on the Abu Dhabi route, the market dynamics will eventually force a rational opening of the skies. “It is in the best interest of India’s rights to bring more tourists,” he said.

He, however, said the company, like other carriers, faces a shortage of aircraft. “We’re not in a rush because there is no aircraft in the world,” he said.

Even if the Indian government grants rights immediately, Etihad will not flood the market because acquiring planes is “very, very difficult”.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2026

Three days of disruption cannot define IndiGo's two-decade record, says CEO

Aneesh Phadnis
Hyderabad

Three days of disruption cannot define IndiGo's performance over the last two decades, said IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers on Wednesday.

IndiGo, which is India's largest airline, faced serious flight disruptions in December, impacting lakhs of customers.

While the airline is incorporating all the learnings from the crisis to a build a more resilient operation, its



IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers

growth ambitions remain intact, said Elbers.

IndiGo received 55 Airbus A320Neo aircraft in 2025, and it will continue to re-

ceive aircraft every single week this year, too. These include nine A321XLR planes, which it plans to use for international expansion. "We can't let three days define what we have built over 20 years," he stated.

LESSONS LEARNT

Elbers said IndiGo is on a journey to become one of the world's largest airlines, and noted that almost all major airlines had undergone crises and learnt from them.

Meanwhile, IndiGo also

announced a new ancillary offering called Upfront.

Customers choosing the product will get front row seating with more leg room, complimentary snacks, higher baggage allowance and hassle-free cancellation benefits.

"Our focus remains on offering reliable, affordable and increasingly personalised travel experiences to our customers. India's aviation landscape is evolving rapidly, and so are customer expectations," said Elbers.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2026

No safety concerns with Learjet aircraft and VSR Ventures, says Civil Aviation Minister

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu said there were no apparent safety concerns with VSR Ventures Pvt Ltd and the Learjet that was involved in a fatal air crash at Baramati on Wednesday.

Naidu visited Baramati airport on Thursday afternoon and held a review meeting with Civil Aviation Ministry officials late in the evening.

"An in-depth inspection is on and the government will take all possible steps for passenger safety," he said. "Directorate General of Civil Aviation has thoroughly checked and all approvals were given.

The organisation (VSR Ventures) also seems to have undergone an assessment last year. The pilot in command had 15,000 hours of flying experience," Naidu said.

There were no safety issues regarding the aircraft type either, he said. "For us, all passenger lives are important. We want to have safe aviation in the country," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2026

Our aim is to become one-stop shop in aviation sector, says Jeet Adani

UNIFIED SOLUTIONS. MoU with Embraer will allow the Adani Group to offer end-to-end aviation solutions

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Adani Group's tie-up with Brazilian aerospace major Embraer is a step towards positioning the industrial conglomerate as a one-stop shop for the aviation sector, Jeet Adani, Director, Adani Defence & Aerospace, told *businessline*.

In an exclusive interaction, Adani said the memorandum of understanding with Embraer is aimed at enabling the conglomerate to offer end-to-end aviation solutions.

OTHER INITIATIVES

"This deal and the MoU, together with other initiatives within the group, will allow us to become a one-stop shop for airlines to land, train, maintain and, in the future, also purchase aircraft," he said.

He said the Group's focus

is on building infrastructure and capacity in line with India's growing aviation capabilities.

AIRPORT OPERATIONS

At present, the Adani Group's interest in the aviation sector spans airport infrastructure and operations, with the conglomerate managing and developing eight operational airports across India, including Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Lucknow, Jaipur, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram, Mangaluru and Hyderabad.

Together, these airports handle a substantial share of the country's passenger and cargo traffic. Beyond airport operations, the Group has expanded its presence into aerospace and defence manufacturing through Adani Defence & Aerospace.

This includes activities across aircraft and helicopter programmes, unmanned systems, avionics



The Group's focus is on building infrastructure and capacity in line with India's growing aviation capabilities

JEET ADANI

Director, Adani Defence & Aerospace



and components, as well as participation in aircraft assembly initiatives and collaborations with global original equipment manufacturers across the aviation value chain.

PILOT TRAINING

Besides, the Group's aviation portfolio includes maintenance, repair and overhaul services, pilot training and skill development, after-market support and allied aviation services. Collect-

ively, these initiatives cover infrastructure, manufacturing, operations and human capital across civil and defence aviation.

PORTS AND AVIATION

"The aviation business is growing in stature. We are present across utilities, which is our largest portfolio, followed by ports and then aviation," Adani said.

In line with this strategy, Adani Defence & Aerospace has partnered with Embraer

to develop a made-in-India regional transport aircraft, or commuter aircraft.

These type of aircraft are generally designed to seat around 50-90 passengers with a range of 500-900 kilometres.

Accordingly, the memorandum of understanding signed between the two companies focuses on local assembly and deeper indigenisation.

SUPPLY CHAINS

Apart from local assembly, the partnership seeks to build an integrated regional transport aircraft ecosystem in India, spanning aircraft manufacturing, supply chains, after-market services and pilot training.

In addition, the collaboration is expected to leverage Embraer's engineering and aircraft manufacturing experience alongside Adani Defence & Aerospace's aviation value-chain presence.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Air India orders 30 more Boeing 737 Maxs; converts Airbus order to long range planes

Our Bureau
Hyderabad

Air India on Thursday ordered an additional 30 Boeing 737 Max aircraft and announced the selection of 15 Airbus A321XLR long-range aircraft by converting an existing order.

The top-up announced on Thursday will increase the airline's total aircraft on order to 600 and is part of its plan to deepen domestic connectivity and launch international routes.

COMPONENTS DEAL

Alongside the aircraft orders, the airline also announced a multi-year agreement for components to support its Boeing 787 fleet. The agreements were inked at the Wings India event in Hyderabad on Thursday.



"This additional order for 30 Boeing 737 aircraft is part of our broader fleet strategy to position Air India firmly for the future, as a world-class global carrier that India deserves and the world expects," Air India's CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson said in a statement.

"Building on our 2023 orders and subsequent additions, this order supports steady deliveries and fleet upgrades planned over the next few years," he said.

With the latest orders, Air India has a total of 198 new aircraft incoming from Boe-



ing. The airline has, so far, received 52 aircraft of the 220 ordered in 2023, including 51 737 Max planes.

"Air India's order for more 737 Max jets underscores the strong performance of their existing 737-8 fleet as they continue to expand connectivity across India and the South Asia region," said Paul Righi, Boeing Vice-President of Commercial Sales and Marketing, Eurasia, India and South Asia.

A321XLR DELIVERIES

The deliveries of the 15 A321XLR are expected between 2029 and 2030, the

airline said. The conversion announced on Thursday is part of Air India's landmark orders placed with Airbus in 2023, with an addition in 2024, of a total of 50 A350 and 300 A320 family aircraft.

This conversion to A321XLR applies to 15 of 210 A321neo aircraft ordered, while the remaining 90 A320neo remain as originally structured.

GAME CHANGER

"Air India's decision to select the A321XLR is a significant endorsement of this game-changing aircraft. The A321XLR is proving to be a revenue generator by boosting frequencies, managing seasonality and optimising capacity on medium-haul routes," said Benoit de Saint-Exupéry, Airbus Executive Vice-President of Commercial Aircraft Sales.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Airbus looks to propel sourcing from India to \$2 b annually by 2030

EXPANDING WINGS. Commercial fleet will triple in size to 2,250 aircraft over the next decade

Aneesh Phadnis
Hyderabad

Airbus will increase its sourcing from India to \$2 billion annually by 2030 with a focus on raw materials, composites and new commodities.

The European plane maker has set up final assembly lines for H125 helicopters and C295 aircraft.

It also sources complex parts like doors for its A220 aircraft.

Now, Airbus is stepping up its procurement from India



Airbus will leverage existing network and capabilities to further boost manufacturing of complex parts and aerostructures

JÜRGEN WESTERMEIER
President & MD, Airbus India



in a bid to improve its competitiveness and aircraft deliveries.

Globally, the plane maker

has a total order backlog of over 8,700 aircraft.

The order backlog for Indian carriers is 1,248 planes,

the highest for any market.

CABIN INTERIORS

Jürgen Westermeier, President and Managing Director, Airbus India and South Asia, said the plane maker will leverage existing network and capabilities to further boost the manufacturing of complex parts and aerostructures.

Airbus will also use its capabilities to produce cabin interiors in India.

On Thursday, Airbus said India's commercial aircraft fleet will triple in size to 2,250 aircraft over the next

decade. The growth will be propelled on the back of strong fundamentals, including economic growth, a rising middle class, growing infrastructure and availability of talent pool.

35,000 PILOTS

Airbus expects passenger traffic in India to grow at 8.9 per cent per annum by 2035, the fastest among major economies and well above the global average.

To meet the growth, Airbus estimates a requirement of 35,000 pilots, up from the current 12,000.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

High production cost could be hurdle for sustainable aviation fuel

Richa Mishra
Hyderabad

Pricing may decide the success of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) not only in India but globally. It is rare for all stakeholders — refiners, transporters and regulators — to speak in one voice, but on SAF there is clear unanimity. Effective policy, supported by proper regulations, capital availability for investors, and pricing of the fuel is key to making SAF a successful jet fuel.

Committed to reducing carbon emissions across sectors, India is also accelerating its transition to SAF. The intent is to reduce aviation emissions by up to 80 per cent. The government has in-

roduced indicative blending mandates: 1 per cent by 2027, 2 per cent by 2028 and 5 per cent by 2030, in line with the CORSIA (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation) requirements.

At a roundtable on 'Powering the Future of Sustainable Aviation: Policy, Innovation, and Scale' at Wings India 2026, Samir Kumar Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, set the tone by highlighting the challenges, including need for policy intervention. While Indian public sector refiners Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation are tying up with aircraft manufacturers, such as Airbus and Boeing, or re-



WAY FORWARD. A roundtable discussion on 'SAF - Powering the Future of Sustainable Aviation: Policy, Innovation, and Scale' at Wings India 2026 at the Begumpet airport in Hyderabad

search institutions, airlines are partnering for fuel supply. Private sector players like Praj are demonstration their worth in the ecosystem.

India is among the top five aviation markets globally, and robust growth is expected over the next two decades. The session, which had representatives from oil refineries, airlines and re-

search institutions, saw all on the same page as far as policy is concerned. The stakeholders called for incentivising the fuel, citing examples of the US and other nations where SAF is being promoted.

Indian Oil's Panipat refinery is the first to produce certified SAF.

BPCL's Mumbai refinery

has become second certified refinery in India.

FEASIBILITY STUDY

Last year, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, in partnership with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and with support from the European Union, had released the SAF feasibility study for India.

The feasibility study assessed the potential for producing and utilising drop-in SAF in India.

It had evaluated domestic feedstock availability, viable production pathways, infrastructure and policy readiness, and the enabling conditions needed to establish a robust domestic SAF market.

Drawing on international best practices and tailoring them to India's socio-economic and environmental context, the report provides a roadmap for sustainable fuel adoption. While feedstock is not a challenge, given the access to agricultural waste, municipal solid waste and used cooking oil for producing SAF, the challenge lies in ensuring consistent supply.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Time-bound probe of plane crash: Naidu



Hyderabad: Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu has said that the authorities have begun an investigation into Wednesday's plane crash in Maharashtra that killed Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others. The teams from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation arrived at the site. "The black box has also been recovered, and the investigation is in process," he said. OUR BUREAU



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Airbus sees liftoff for turboprops in India's short-haul skies

Boeing says seat-mile economics favours larger aircraft

DEEPAK PATEL
Hyderabad, 29 January

European aircraft maker Airbus believes the regional turboprop market in India will grow and further democratise the country's aviation ecosystem, its President and Managing Director (MD) for India and South Asia Jürgen Westermeier, said on Thursday. On Wednesday, Ashwin Naidu, MD of marketing for India and Eurasia at Boeing Commercial Airplanes, said the number of regional jets in India is unlikely to exceed 10 even over the next 20 years, as their cost per seat on a route does not work for most airlines.

These comments from Airbus and Boeing come after Brazilian aircraft maker Embraer and Adani Defence & Aerospace on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a regional jet manufacturing facility in India.

Regional jets, such as Embraer's E175 and E195, are faster and quieter than turboprops and usually carry 76-

124 passengers. Regional turboprops, such as the ATR 42 and ATR 72, are more fuel-efficient and economical on short, low-demand routes, carrying 42-78 passengers.

During a press conference at the Wings India 2026 summit on Thursday, Westermeier said: "We generally see the regional market and regional air traffic as a good opportunity for further growth and democratisation. In the wider Airbus portfolio, we have ATR (regional turboprop) as a product which, in my opinion, is superior in supporting regional traffic. There is an existing ecosystem to support ATR aircraft. The competitiveness is excellent."

"I can truly state that we are ready to explore with Indian partners and the government options on how we can support the Udan (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme in the regional market with the right product," he added.

In India, Airbus is structurally better positioned in the regional aviation segment than Boeing because of its strategic link to ATR, the Franco-Italian

turboprop manufacturer in which Airbus holds a 50 per cent stake. Through ATR, Airbus has exposure to the sub-90-seat market that dominates regional connectivity in India, where turboprops such as the ATR 42 and ATR 72 are widely used because of their lower operating costs, fuel efficiency, and ability to operate from short runways and smaller airports. IndiGo and Alliance Air operate ATR aircraft in India.

Boeing, by contrast, has no dedicated regional jet or turboprop aircraft in its commercial portfolio, with its product line focused on larger narrow-body and widebody jets such as the 737, 777, and 787 families.

Naidu said on Wednesday that regional jets face economic and airport

capacity challenges in India, as routes quickly outgrow small aircraft, making single-aisle planes more viable for long-term operations.

"Going forward, we continue to maintain that regional jets are a challenge in India's aviation market because, to succeed, you need seat-mile economics, which is basically taking the cost to operate a flight and dividing it by the number of seats. That is a challenge even with larger aircraft, and it becomes an even bigger challenge with regional jets," he said.

“WE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THAT REGIONAL JETS ARE A CHALLENGE IN INDIA'S AVIATION MARKET BECAUSE, TO SUCCEED, YOU NEED SEAT-MILE ECONOMICS...THAT IS A CHALLENGE EVEN WITH LARGER AIRCRAFT”

Jürgen Westermeier, President & MD, India and South Asia, Airbus



Air India orders 30 Boeing planes

Air India on Wednesday announced an order for 30 additional Boeing aircraft, comprising 20 737-8 and 10 737-10 jets, taking its total orders with the US aircraft maker to 250.

The airline also said it has converted 15 of its existing A321neo orders with European aircraft maker Airbus to the longer-range A321XLR variant, with the conversion announced on the sidelines of Wings India 2026 in Hyderabad.

Since its privatisation in January 2022 under the Tata Group, Air India has embarked on an aggressive fleet renewal and expansion programme. In February 2023, the airline placed a record firm order for 470 aircraft from Airbus and Boeing, including 250 Airbus jets, and 220 Boeing aircraft comprising 737 MAX, 787 Dreamliner and 777X models.

DEEPAK PATEL



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

एयरबस को क्षेत्रीय टर्बोप्रॉप बाजार बढ़ने की दिख रही उम्मीद

दीपक पटेल
हैदराबाद, 29 जनवरी

यूरोपीय विमान निर्माता कंपनी एयरबस का मानना है कि भारत में रीजनल टर्बोप्रॉप बाजार बढ़ेगा और देश के विमानन तंत्र को और ज्यादा लोकतांत्रिक बनाएगा। यह बात कंपनी के भारत और दक्षिण एशिया के अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक जर्गेन वेस्टरमेयर ने गुरुवार को कही।

बुधवार को, बोइंग कमर्शियल एयरप्लेन्स में भारत और यूरेशिया के प्रबंध निदेशक (मार्केटिंग) अश्विन नायडू ने कहा था कि अगले 20 साल में भी भारत में रीजनल जेट्स की संख्या 10 से ज्यादा होने की संभावना नहीं है, क्योंकि एक रूट पर प्रति सीट उनकी लागत ज्यादातर एयरलाइंस के लिए फायदेमंद नहीं है।

एयरबस और बोइंग की ये टिप्पणियां ब्राजील की एयरक्राफ्ट निर्माता कंपनी एम्ब्रेयर और अदाणी डिफेंस एंड एरोस्पेस द्वारा मंगलवार को भारत में एक रीजनल जेट निर्माण इकाई स्थापित करने के लिए एक समझौता किए जाने के बाद सामने आई हैं।

गुरुवार को विंग्स इंडिया 2026 समिट में एक

संवाददाता सम्मेलन के दौरान वेस्टरमेयर ने कहा, 'हम आम तौर पर क्षेत्रीय बाजार और क्षेत्रीय एयर टैफिक को आगे वृद्धि के लिए एक अच्छे मौके के तौर पर देखते हैं। मुझे कहना होगा कि एयरबस के बड़े पोर्टफोलियो में, हमारे पास एटीआर (रीजनल जेट) एक प्रोडक्ट के तौर पर है, जो मेरी राय में, रीजनल टैफिक को सपोर्ट करने में सबसे बेहतर है। इस (एटीआर विमान) को सपोर्ट करने के लिए एक इकोसिस्टम मौजूद है। इसकी प्रतिस्पर्धी क्षमता बहुत अच्छी है।'

भारत में, एयरबस क्षेत्रीय विमानन खंड में बोइंग के मुकाबले ढाँचे के हिसाब से बेहतर स्थिति में है, क्योंकि इसका एटीआर से मजबूत जुड़ाव है। एटीआर एक फ्रेंच-इटैलियन टर्बोप्रॉप निर्माता है जिसमें एयरबस की 50 फीसदी हिस्सेदारी है।

बोइंग के नायडू ने बुधवार को कहा था कि भारत में रीजनल जेट्स को आर्थिक और एयरपोर्ट क्षमता की चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है, क्योंकि रूट छोटे विमानों के लिए जल्दी ही छोटे पड़ जाते हैं, जिससे लंबी अवधि के परिचालन के लिए सिंगल-आइजल प्लेन ज्यादा फायदेमंद होते हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

भारत की विमान फ्लीट तीन गुना होगी: एयरबस

हैदराबाद | एयरबस का मानना है कि भारत की कमर्शियल एयरक्राफ्ट फ्लीट एक दशक में तीन गुना बढ़कर 2,250 विमानों तक पहुंच जाएगी। भारत 2035 तक दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा सिविल एविएशन बाजार बन जाएगा। भारत में पैसेंजर ट्रैफिक 2035 तक सालाना 8.9% की दर से बढ़ेगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

एयर इंडिया ने विमान खरीद ऑर्डर के हिस्से को किया अपडेट

हैदराबाद। टाटा समूह की विमान सेवा कंपनी एयर इंडिया ने यहां विंग्स इंडिया 2026 में दुनिया की दो सबसे बड़ी विमान बनाने वाली कंपनियों एयरबस और बोइंग के साथ नए करार किए हैं। एयर इंडिया ने गुरुवार को बताया कि उसने एयरबस को पूर्व में दिए गए दो सौ दस ए321निओ विमानों के ऑर्डर को ए321एक्सएलआर में बदल दिया है। कंपनी ने 2023 और 2024 में फ्रांस की कंपनी एयरबस के साथ पचास ए350 विमानों और ए320 परिवार के तीन सौ विमानों के लिए करार किए थे। ए320 परिवार के तीन सौ विमानों में दो सौ दस ए321निओ विमानों और नब्बे ए320 निओ विमानों के लिए थे। उसने बताया कि ए321एक्सएलआर विमानों की आपूर्ति 2029 और 2030 में होने की उम्मीद है। इन विमानों की रेंज 8,700 किलोमीटर तक है। इसके अलावा, उसने अमेरिकी कंपनी बोइंग को 30 नैरोबॉडी विमानों के लिए नए पक्के ऑर्डर दिए हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

बीते महीने एयरलाइंस ने रद की थीं 6,890 उड़ानें

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : सरकार ने संसद को बताया कि बीते महीने दिसंबर में 6,890 उड़ानें रद की गईं, जिससे 9.66 लाख से अधिक यात्रियों पर असर पड़ा। आधिकारिक डाटा के अनुसार, इनमें से 82 प्रतिशत से अधिक उड़ानें इंडिगो ने रद कीं। नियामक ने कुल 22.20 करोड़ रुपये का जुर्माना भी लगाया है। नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री मुरलीधर मोहाल ने लोकसभा में लिखित उत्तर में कहा कि परिचालन में बाधा के प्रमुख कारणों में अपर्याप्त नियामक तैयारी, सिस्टम साफ्टवेयर में कमी और इंडिगो प्रबंधन और परिचालन नियंत्रण में कमियां शामिल हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Aviation minister Naidu discusses security, supply chain resilience with foreign delegates

Indian Aviation has Seen Big Shift, UDAN to Expand Infra: PM

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Civil aviation minister K Rammoan Naidu held bilateral meetings with ministerial delegations from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Russia and the Dominican Republic on the sidelines of Wings India 2026 in Hyderabad, as India sought to deepen international cooperation in the sector. The discussions focused on aircraft manufacturing, skill development and training, sustainability and supply-chain issues, alongside potential collaboration on fleet expansion and aircraft assembly lines, said an official statement.

The ministerial plenary at the conference brought together representatives from more than 20 countries, including the Dominican Republic, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Cambodia. Deliberations covered aviation security, supply chain resilience and cooperation across aviation, tourism and related economic sectors.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the event via video conference, said India had become the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, marking a shift from air travel being "once



limited to an exclusive club". He said the government was working on the next phase of the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme to strengthen regional connectivity and expand airport infrastructure.

"Over the past decade, India's aviation sector has undergone a historic transformation," Modi said, adding that passenger traffic had grown sharply and Indian airlines had placed orders for more than 1,500 aircraft. The PM said India had expanded its airport network to more than 160 from 70 in 2014, with more than 100 aerodromes activated under the UDAN scheme. He added that around 15 million passengers had travelled on UDAN routes so far.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Indian Carriers Likely to Triple Fleet Size in 10 Years, says Airbus

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Airbus on Thursday said it expects Indian carriers to triple the size of their fleets to 2,250 jets over the next decade, riding resilient economic growth, an expanding middle-class and a surge of first-time flyers. Jurgen Westermeier, president and managing director of Airbus India and South Asia, said the fleet expansion is driven both by the Indian aviation market boom and the Indian airlines' ambition to expand on international routes.

He said passenger traffic in India is expected to grow at 8.9% a year over the next decade until 2035—the fastest among the major economies and well above the long-term global average.

"Airbus is uniquely placed to support this growth with the A320 Family for domestic expansion and the A321XLR and A350 to lead India's medium-to-long-haul international ambitions," he said.

The European aerospace giant also expects the regional air traffic in India to grow and further democratise the country's aviation ecosystem. "We generally see the regional market and the regional air traffic as a good opportunity for further growth and also for further democratisation," Westermeier said.

"I must say, in the wider Airbus portfolio, we have the ATR aircraft as a product, which, in my opinion, is superior in supporting the regional traffic. There is an ecosystem existing to support this one. The competitiveness is excellent."



Expansion driven by Indian aviation mkt boom and the ambition to expand on int'l routes, says Westermeier



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Air India Orders 30 More Boeing 737 Max Planes

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Air India has placed an order for an additional 30 Boeing 737 Max aircraft. The airline finalised an incremental purchase of 20 737-8 jets this month and an order for 10 737-10 airplanes was previously unidentified on Boeing's 'orders and deliveries' website. Both purchases exercised existing options as Air India expands its route network to meet rising travel demand.

The aircraft are for use by its low-cost arm Air India Express.

"This additional order for 30 Boeing 737 aircraft is part of our broader fleet strategy to position Air India firmly for the future, as a world-class global carrier that India deserves and the world expects," said Campbell Wilson, CEO and managing director of Air India. "Building on our 2023 orders and subsequent additions, this order supports steady deliveries and fleet upgrades planned over the next few years.

Air India will operate the new 737-8s, leveraging their dispatch reliability, fuel efficiency and range flexibility on high-frequency, domestic and short-haul regional routes. The airline also plans to deploy the larger 737-10 to maintain operational commonality and carry more passengers at the lowest cost per seat among single-aisle aircraft, it said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

'Aviation, Ports, Shipping on Growth Track'

Our Bureau

Mumbai: India's civil aviation, ports and shipping sectors are on track for sharp growth by FY31, driven by rising demand and infrastructure investment, according to the Economic Survey.

In terms of airport density, there are 0.11 airports per million of population in India compared with 47.35 in the US and 0.39 in China, signaling significant capacity headroom, said the Survey released on Thursday.

India has become the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, according to the Survey, with airports increasing to 164 in 2025 from 74 in 2014.

Civil aviation, it said, is "on a sustained growth trajectory, supported by a conducive policy environment, rising demand and steady infrastructure expansion."

The Survey said ports, too, are scaling up. Public-private partnership and captive operators are projected to handle 80% of all cargo at the country's major ports by 2030, supported by a pipeline of 48 PPP projects worth ₹23,000 crore through FY31.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

'Pilot-aircraft ratio at domestic airlines adequate'



THE CIVIL AVIATION ministry on Thursday said the current pilot-aircraft ratio at domestic airlines is "adequate". The comments also come against the backdrop of last month's massive disruptions at IndiGo that were caused by multiple factors, including inadequate planning to comply with the new flight duty norms that are aimed at addressing fatigue among pilots.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Air India orders 30 new Boeing 737 planes

YARUQHULLAH KHAN
Hyderabad, January 29

AIR INDIA ON Tuesday announced fresh aircraft orders and service agreements, outlining plans for further fleet expansion and network growth.

The airline confirmed an order for 30 additional Boeing narrow-body aircraft, taking its total aircraft commitments to 600. The latest order includes 20 Boeing 737-8 and 10 Boeing 737-10 jets, raising Air

India's total Boeing aircraft orders to 250.

Air India also signed a multi-year agreement with Boeing Global Services to provide comprehensive component support for its Boeing 787 fleet, covering both existing and future aircraft.

In a separate development, the airline finalised a deal with Airbus to convert 15 of its previously ordered A321 Neo aircraft into the longer-range A321XLR variant. The XLR jets, capable of

operating longer non-stop routes, are expected to play a key role in Air India's international expansion strategy.

The agreements were signed in the presence of Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson, along with senior executives from Boeing and Airbus.

The Wings India 2026 event, organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), also saw several

industry partnerships and announcements related to domestic manufacturing.

The Sakti Group and Omni Pole signed a memorandum of understanding to introduce the L410 NG 19-seater aircraft in India, with the possibility of local assembly under consideration.

Separately, Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) entered into a contract with Pawan Hans for the supply of 10 Dhruv Next Generation helicopters.

Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar said the event reflected ongoing efforts to create a stable policy environment and encourage private sector participation in India's aviation sector. Union Minister of Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu presided over the session, which focused on partnerships aimed at strengthening the country's aviation capabilities.

(The reporter is in Hyderabad at the invitation of Air India)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Airbus expects to deliver two jets a week to India

YARUQHULLAH KHAN
Hyderabad, January 29

AIRBUS EXPECTS AIRCRAFT deliveries to its Indian customers, including IndiGo and the Air India Group, to average nearly two aircraft a week over the next decade, Jürgen Westermeyer, President and Managing Director - India and South Asia, Airbus, said on Thursday.

Westermeyer said aircraft deliveries to Indian airlines are expected to peak at around 150 planes a year in the coming years. Airbus delivered around 70 aircraft to Indian carriers in 2025.

He added that Airbus currently has about 1,750 aircraft on order from Indian airlines. Presenting the company's commercial market outlook for India and South Asia, Westermeyer said the country will require nearly 35,000 new pilots and an equal number of technicians by 2035 to support aviation growth.



Airbus expects India's passenger traffic to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.9% until 2035. Westermeyer stated that nearly 10% of Airbus' global production is currently dedicated to supplying aircraft to Indian airlines.

He also said Airbus imports components worth about \$1.5 billion annually from India, a figure expected to rise to \$2 billion by 2030. Westermeyer added that a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme is essential to accelerate the growth of aircraft and aircraft component manufacturing in the country.

Westermeyer, who is also the president of the Federation of European Business in India, sees a massive upside in

travel as result of the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

He added that the India-EU FTA will increase the growth of the economy in India and will accelerate the growth of the middle class. However, he added that so far, the FTA is not likely to have a major impact on the procurement price of aircraft and aircraft components by Indian airlines.

As part of its mega aircraft order placed in 2023 with Airbus and Boeing, the Air India group currently has a total of 344 new aircraft incoming from Airbus, while IndiGo has more than orders exceeding 1,350 aircraft on order with deliveries running well into the next decade.

Timely aircraft deliveries are critical to airlines' fleet and network expansion strategies, and slower-than-expected deliveries could weigh on their growth plans.

(The reporter is in Hyderabad at the invitation of Air India)



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

29 JANUARY 2026

Wings India 2026 | By 2047, country will have over 400 airports, says Modi

PM woos investors; urges them to be co-pilots in aviation sector

PTI
HYDERABAD

Highlighting the growth potential and policy stability, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday told investors that there are immense opportunities in aircraft manufacturing, pilot training, advanced air mobility and aircraft leasing areas in the country.

India is one of the world's fastest civil aviation markets and air traffic demand is on the rise while airlines have placed orders for over 1,500 planes. In a special message at the aviation summit Wings India 2026 here, Modi said the government is working on all necessary regulatory reforms to make cargo movement faster and more efficient.

Modern warehouses are being built to enable faster and more efficient cargo handling, which is especially important as India emerges as a major and competitive transshipment hub, Modi said.

"I urge all investors to explore the opportunities in India's warehousing sector, freight forwarding, express logistics, and e-commerce," the prime minister said.

According to him, there are very few countries like India that offer such a large scale for the aviation industry, such political stability, and such technological ambition.

Urging everyone to take full advantage of the "golden opportunity", Modi invited investors to be long-term partners and co-pilots on the



India's flight to success.

In 2014, there were 70 airports and now, there are more than 160. By 2047, the country will have over 400 airports, Modi said, and stressed that air travel is no longer exclusive but inclusive.

The government's regional

air connectivity scheme UDAN seeks to provide air travel at affordable rates.

"Thanks to the UDAN scheme, 15 million passengers, or approximately 1.5 crore passengers have travelled on routes that didn't even exist before," Modi said.

India can be global exporter of components and products: Naidu

Union Minister K Rammohan Naidu on Wednesday said the efforts are on to improve the manufacturing ecosystem that will help India become a global exporter of aviation components and products.

India is one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets and air traffic demand is on the rise. Airlines have placed orders for over 1,500 planes and there is renewed push to have more aviation sector-related manufacturing activities in the country.

"India has become a global trusted partner in aviation also... aviation is going to be a strong vertical in the country," the Civil Aviation Minister said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

29 JANUARY 2026

India, South Asian airlines to need 3,300 new aircraft by 2044: Boeing

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

India and South Asia's passenger air traffic will rise an average of 7% annually over the next 20 years, revealed American aircraft manufacturer Boeing's latest commercial market outlook (CMO)

report for South Asia. The report highlighted that airlines will need nearly 3,300 new airplanes by 2044 to meet the demand for air travel.

As per Boeing's annual CMO, single-aisle narrow body aircraft will account for nearly 90% of these projected

deliveries as airlines look to boost network flexibility on fast-growing short- and medium-haul routes. It stated that the Indian and South Asian region's fleet will grow from 795 to 2,925 airplanes in two decades, reporting nearly a four-fold increase over that time.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

एयर इंडिया ने बोइंग 737 विमानों का ऑर्डर दिया

मुंबई। एयर इंडिया ने अपने बेड़े के विस्तार की योजनाओं को और आगे बढ़ाते हुए 30 अतिरिक्त बोइंग 737 मैक्स विमान खरीदने का ऑर्डर दिया है। एयरलाइन ने गुरुवार को यह जानकारी दी। इनमें 20 बोइंग 737-8 विमान और 10 बोइंग 737-10 विमान शामिल हैं। एयरलाइन ने इस फ्यूल-एफिशिएंट विमानों के आर्डर घरेलू और क्षेत्रीय बाजारों में विस्तार की अपनी योजना के तहत दिए हैं। एयर इंडिया ने अब कुल मिलाकर बोइंग को 250 विमानों के ऑर्डर दिए हैं।

{ REPLY BY CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY }

‘Management gaps’ led to IndiGo fiasco, govt tells LS



IndiGo cancelled over 5,000 flights in December.

ANI

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NEW DELHI: Over-optimisation of operations, inadequate regulatory preparedness and shortcomings in management structure were among the primary reasons behind the large number of flight cancellations by IndiGo Airlines in December 2025. Civil aviation ministry informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The ministry also noted that adverse weather conditions contributed significantly to cancellations across airlines during the same period.

“The primary causes for the disruption were over-optimisation of operations, inadequate regulatory preparedness along with deficiencies in system software support and shortcomings in management structure and operational control on the part of IndiGo.

Additionally, during December 2025, a considerable number of flights were cancelled by all airlines, due to adverse weather related issues,” Union minister Murlidhar Mohol said in a written response to questions by Congress MPs KC Venugopal and Sudha R.

IndiGo, India’s largest airline, cancelled over 5,000 flights in the first week of December, citing pilot shortages allegedly arising from increased rest requirements for cockpit crew under the revised duty norms.

Aviation regulator on January 17 imposed a record ₹22.2 crore penalty on IndiGo and issued warnings to six senior executives, including the chief operating officer, after its inquiry found the airline’s “overriding focus on maximising utilisation” of crew and aircraft through aggressive cost-cutting drove December’s operational meltdown that stranded over 300,000 passengers.

The move, the minister said, was aimed at ensuring compliance with regulatory directives and the implementation of long-term systemic corrective measures.

“DGCA issued caution and warning to senior management of M/s IndiGo for deficiencies in oversight, planning and implementation of revised FDTL norms, directed removal of the concerned SVP from operational responsibilities,” Mohol said.

The ministry said a total of 6,890 flights operated by various airlines were cancelled in December 2025, impacting 966,864 passengers. IndiGo accounted for the largest share of cancellations, with 5,689 flights scrapped during the month.

The Air India Group cancelled 924 flights, followed by SpiceJet with 79 cancellations, IndiaOne Air with 71, Alliance Air with 63, Akasa Air with 39, Star Air with 17 and Fly91 with eight cancelled flights, the ministry said.

CENTRE: REVISED PILOT DUTY RULES ALIGNED WITH GLOBAL NORMS

Dheer Chawla

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NEW DELHI: The Centre on Thursday informed the Lok Sabha that it has put in place detailed monitoring and review mechanisms to assess the impact of the revised pilot duty-time rules on airline operations, even as it stepped up regulatory oversight, data-driven safety management and capacity-building measures across the civil aviation sector.

The response came on a question by Congress MP V. Vaithilingam, seeking information on India’s revised pilot-duty rules.

“The revised flight duty rules were formulated after studying and comparing Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms of FAA [US], EASA [EU], Transport Canada and other nations,” ministry of civil aviation said in a written response, adding that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had also taken into account the International Civil Aviation Organization’s Standard and Recommended Practices as well as other global best practices while framing the norms.

Under this system, all scheduled operators are required to submit detailed operational data to the DGCA each week. The regulator is also conducting periodic FDTL reviews and fatigue risk management across all scheduled operators, the ministry said.

HT reported on Tuesday that 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, citing multiple officials, who said the companies contend the regulation is unsustainable in the long run.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Black box recovered from Learjet crash, AAIB begins probe

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PUNE: Investigators have recovered the black box from the Learjet 45 crash that killed Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar and four others near Baramati on Wednesday, a key development expected to help reconstruct the final moments of the flight.

A team of three officers from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau headquarters in Delhi and another team of three officers from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's Mumbai regional office reached the crash site on

Wednesday evening. AAIB director general GVG Yugandhar also visited the location the same day to personally oversee the investigation.

The flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder are expected to provide vital clues about the aircraft's speed, altitude, control inputs and crew communications in the seconds before impact. Investigators have also collected physical evidence and samples from the crash site.

The probe has been initiated under Rules 5 and 11 of the AAIB Rules, 2025. The civil aviation ministry said it "remains fully committed to completing the

AVIATION EXPERT SAYS PRELIMINARY INFORMATION SUGGESTS VISIBILITY PLAYED A ROLE IN THE INCIDENT

investigation within a defined timeframe, strictly in accordance with established standard operating procedures and laid-down guidelines."

Aviation expert and Avialaz Consultants chief executive Sanjay Lazar said preliminary information suggests visibility played a

role in the incident. "The aircraft had executed a go-around during the first landing attempt due to poor visibility. On the second approach, the pilot reportedly had the runway in sight and was on final approach, but there was no read-back to air traffic control. Moments later, a fireball was seen," Lazar said.

This could indicate the aircraft struck terrain, he added. "Eyewitnesses have said it veered towards the shoulder area."

Aviation experts are also likely to examine operational aspects of Baramati airport, including runway length and visibility-related challenges, Lazar addressed con-

cerns over infrastructure at smaller airports. "Not all airports in India are equipped with instrument landing systems. At the very least, facilities like RNAV should be available. Baramati airport has a 1,770-metre runway and houses two flying academies, one of which has been operating for nearly three decades. I would not term the airport risky. In this case, the pilots were well qualified," he said.

The ministry said all emergency response and investigative protocols were activated immediately after the accident, adding that the inquiry will be thorough, transparent and time-bound.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Tighten oversight in the aviation sector

Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar died on Wednesday when his Learjet aircraft crashed near Baramati. Within hours, aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu offered a preliminary assessment that seemed to suggest there was nothing to indicate the aircraft operator was to blame. “*Prima facie* no issue” with VSR Aviation, he said. DGCA approvals were “thoroughly checked”. The operator handles “many VIPs” safely. The minister also appeared to temper concerns about operations at Baramati’s uncontrolled airstrip, saying its “required runway length is proper for landing”. These comments, however well-intentioned, risk prejudging a probe that has barely begun. VSR Aviation in September 2023 had an incident at the Mumbai airport. Its Learjet 45 ran off the runway in heavy rain and split in two. Fortunately, there were no fatalities. But the final probe report in that crash — involving the same aircraft model as the one Pawar was on — is yet to be closed, 16 months later.

Air crashes result from multiple factors, often interacting in unforeseen ways. Premature ministerial assessments — however reassuring to the public — narrow the scope of inquiry before evidence is examined. Professional investigation requires neutrality and patience. It is now clear that the regulatory structure is also lacking. Non-scheduled operators face spot checks, not systematic scrutiny. Small airstrips operate with minimal navigation aids yet routinely handle business jet traffic. And the delay in VSR’s previous probe exposes a rather lackadaisical attitude on the part of the investigator, AAIB.

Wednesday’s incident is a reminder that India’s aviation sector has grown rapidly, but oversight hasn’t kept pace. Rigorous investigation and structural regulatory reform — not public reassurances — are the only foundations that can prevent future tragedies. It is now crucial for the government to offer specifics, timeline, and accountability mechanisms.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Passenger safety, duopoly in civil aviation flagged in RS

Express News Service
New Delhi, January 29

A DAY after Maharashtra Deputy CMAjit Pawar died in a plane crash, Communist Party of India (Marxist) MP John Brittas in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday flagged the “duopoly” in civil aviation and what he termed the falling safety standards.

Speaking during Zero Hour, Brittas said he had earlier raised the issue of the duopoly, leading to high prices, particularly during festive season. He said two airlines controlled 90% of the market, adding this had an impact on safety. “Even in the citadel of capitalism, the US, no single domestic airline holds a 25% share. In China, even the three largest airlines put together would not



CPI(M) MP John Brittas in Rajya Sabha on Thursday. ANI

cross 60%,” he said.

Referring to the fatal crash in Baramati on Wednesday, he said the same operator had a plane crash in Mumbai in 2023, but the report of the investigation into that incident was still pending. He added that the details of what caused the crash at Ahmedabad

last year was also not known.

Also in Zero Hour, Samajwadi Party MP Javed Ali Khan asked the government to revise the income limit for beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act, 2013. He said the limits had remained Rs 2 lakh for rural areas and Rs 3 lakh for urban areas for the past 13 years, while the government had brought the Seventh Pay Commission in 2016 to increase its employees’ salaries, MGNREGA wages had increased and even the MPs’ own salaries had gone up. BJP MP K Laxman demanded action against surrogate advertising.

Congress MP Neeraj Dangi called for government intervention to stop the rising prices of gold and silver.



Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

हज यात्रियों को मनपसंद फ्लाइट बुकिंग की सुविधा

- उड़ानें बुक करने के लिए एक ऑनलाइन सेल्फ बुकिंग सुविधा आरम्भ

लखनऊ, लोकसत्या। इस बार हज पर जाने वाले हज यात्रियों को फ्लाइट बुकिंग की आनलाइन सुविधा प्रदान की गयी है।

उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य हज कमेटी के सचिव व कार्यपालक अधिकारी एसपी तिवारी ने जानकारी दी है कि हज कमेटी आफ इण्डिया मुम्बई ने 28 जनवरी के सकुलर-29 द्वारा अवगत कराया है कि हज-2026 के हज यात्रियों के लिए अपने व्यक्तिगत लॉगिन के माध्यम से सीधे अपनी उड़ानें बुक करने के लिए एक ऑनलाइन सेल्फ बुकिंग सुविधा आरम्भ की गयी है।

हज यात्री स्वयं अपने लॉगिन से अपनी इच्छानुसार उड़ान वेबसाइट hajcommittee.gov.in पर या हज सुविधा एप के माध्यम से बुक

कर सकते हैं। यह सुविधा पूरी तरह से वैकल्पिक है, जिसका उद्देश्य केवल हज यात्रियों को अपनी इच्छानुसार उड़ान बुक करने की है।

उक्त सुविधा दिनांक 29 जनवरी से केवल चार दिवसों के लिए दी गयी है। बुकिंग सीट की उपलब्धता व उड़ान की क्षमता के अधीन होगी। एक बार बुकिंग हो जाने के बाद यात्रा या उड़ान की तिथि में कोई बदलाव सम्भव नहीं होगा किसी प्रकार का अनुरोध करने पर हज कमेटी द्वारा विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।

ऑनलाइन सेल्फ बुकिंग सुविधा समाप्त होने के बाद बुकिंग न कर पाने वाले हज यात्रियों की बुकिंग हज कमेटी आफ इण्डिया सीट की उपलब्धता के आधार पर करेगी। जोहफा, बिना महरम श्रेणी की महिलाएं व रुबात श्रेणी के हज यात्रियों के लिए यह सुविधा अनुमन्य नहीं है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

एयर इंडिया ने एयरबस के साथ विमान खरीद ऑर्डर के हिस्से को किया अपडेट

- एयर इंडिया ने गुरुवार को बताया कि उसने एयरबस को पूर्व में दिये गये दो सौ दस ए321निओ विमानों के ऑर्डर को ए321एक्सएलआर में बदल दिया है

हैदराबाद, एजेसी

टाटा समूह की विमान सेवा कंपनी एयर इंडिया ने यहां विंग्स इंडिया 2026 में दुनिया की दो सबसे बड़ी विमान बनाने वाली कंपनियों एयरबस और बोइंग के साथ नये करार किये हैं।

एयर इंडिया ने गुरुवार को बताया कि उसने एयरबस को पूर्व में दिये गये दो सौ दस ए321निओ विमानों के ऑर्डर को ए321एक्सएलआर में बदल दिया है।

कंपनी ने 2023 और 2024 में फ्रांस की कंपनी एयरबस के साथ पचास ए350 विमानों और ए320



परिवार के तीन सौ विमानों के लिए करार किये थे। ए320 परिवार के तीन सौ विमानों में दो सौ दस ए321निओ विमानों और नब्बे ए320 निओ विमानों के लिए थे। उसने बताया कि ए321एक्सएलआर विमानों की आपूर्ति 2029 और 2030 में होने की उम्मीद है। इन विमानों की रेंज 8,700 किलोमीटर तक है।

इसके अलावा, उसने अमेरिकी कंपनी बोइंग को 30 नैरोबॉडी विमानों के लिए नये पक्के ऑर्डर दिये हैं। इनमें बीस बोइंग 737-8

विमान और दस 737-10 विमान शामिल हैं। अब कुल मिलाकर एयर इंडिया ने बोइंग को 250 विमानों के ऑर्डर

दिये हैं। उसने 2023 में 220 विमानों के ऑर्डर दिये थे जिसमें 52 विमानों की डिलिवरी मिल चुकी है। इनमें इक्वावन 737-8 विमान एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के बेड़े में और एक 787-9 विमान एयर इंडिया के बेड़े में शामिल किये गये हैं।

एयर इंडिया ने इसके अलावा बोइंग ग्लोबल सर्विसेज के साथ उसके कंपोनेंट सर्विसेज प्रोग्राम के लिए बहु-वर्षीय समझौता किया है। इसके तहत एयरलाइन के बोइंग 787 के पूरे बेड़े के लिए रखरखाव से संबंधित सेवा मिलेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Akasa starts hiring pilots after long pause, eyes expansion

Dipali Banka & Abhishek Law
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Budget carrier Akasa Air has resumed pilot hiring after an 18-month pause as it prepares to add more aircraft to its fleet, founder and chief executive Vinay Dube said on Wednesday.

Mumbai-headquartered Akasa paused pilot hiring in June 2024 due to delays in aircraft deliveries from Boeing. With the US plane maker now expected to adhere to its revised delivery timelines, the airline has begun recruiting pilots again. "We stopped hiring pilots because the delivery time slipped," he said on the sidelines of Wings India 2026 event at Begumpet airport in Hyderabad. "In November-December we restarted hiring pilots and we'll continue."

Akasa Air currently has 757 pilots. The move is significant as it becomes the third airline, after IndiGo and Air India, to restart pilot hiring—underscoring how crew availability has become a key constraint under tighter duty-time rules. With capacity additions now dependent as much on staffing as on aircraft deliveries, pilot hiring is central to execution across the aviation sector.

Akasa's fleet comprises 32 Boeing 737 MAX, including its 32nd plane that is likely to join the fleet from US on Thursday. Two more aircraft will be inducted next month, taking the fleet size to 34 by the end of February, Dube said. Unlike most Indian carriers, it operates an all-Boeing fleet, while IndiGo and Air India fly a mix of Airbus and Boeing aircraft. Akasa is compliant with the revised civil aviation rules that came into effect on 1 October.

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



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026



The planes are expected to be delivered to the airline between 2029 and 2030. BLOOMBERG

Air India for Airbus extra-long planes

Private carrier Air India on Thursday said it will convert 15 of its current order of 210 Airbus A321neo aircraft to the advanced A321XLR (extra-long range) variant. These 15 A321XLRs are expected to be delivered to the airline between 2029 and 2030, Air India said.

The decision to tweak the order was announced on the sidelines of the ongoing Wings India aviation show in Hyderabad.

The fuel-efficient A321XLR offers a range of up to 4,700 nautical miles (or 8,700 kilometers) and this will enable Air India to open new non-stop international routes and optimise high-demand, medium-haul international services, with the flight economics of a single-aisle aircraft, the airline said.

Air India has placed orders for a total of 350 planes with Airbus (300 in 2023 and another 50 in 2024). PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

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30 JANUARY 2026



The Airbus fleet expansion is driven by the Indian aviation market boom. AP

Airbus's India fleet to triple by 2035

India's commercial aircraft fleet of over 100 seats will triple to 2,250 from the existing 850 over the next decade, as the country grows to become the third-largest civil aviation market in the world by 2035, a senior official of the aircraft maker Airbus said on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference on the sidelines of Wings India 2026, Jürgen Westermeier, president and managing director, Airbus India and South Asia, said the first Indian originally made and assembled Airbus C-295, a twin-engine medium military transport aircraft, will be delivered in the third quarter of 2026.

The maintenance market will triple with fleet growth from today's \$3 billion to \$9.5 billion in 10 years including airframe, component and engine MRO activities, he said.

Westermeier also said Airbus currently has a backlog of 1,250 aircraft from Indian carriers and hopes to deliver on an average 120-150 planes every year which translates into two per week.

The fleet expansion is driven both by the Indian aviation market boom and the Indian airlines' ambition to expand on international routes. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

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DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Domestic airlines cancelled 6,890 flights in Dec: Govt data

As many as 6,890 flights were cancelled in December, affecting more than 966,000 passengers, with IndiGo accounting for more than 82% of the total cancelled services, according to official data.

IndiGo faced massive operational disruptions in early December, following which the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) curtailed the airline's winter schedule by 10%. The watchdog has imposed fines totalling ₹22.20 crore, among other regulatory actions.

Minister of state for civil aviation Murlidhar Mohol on Thursday said the primary causes for the disruption were over-optimization of operations, inadequate regulatory preparedness along with deficiencies in system software support and shortcomings in management structure and operational control on the part of IndiGo.

"Additionally, during December 2025, a considerable number of flights were cancelled by all airlines due to adverse weather related issues," the minister said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.



PTI

IndiGo faced massive operational disruptions in early December. AFP



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026



SOPs for Kedarnath heli operations tightened

Authorities are tightening the reins on Kedarnath helicopter operations. Following tragic crashes in Uttarkashi and Gauri Mai Khark that claimed 13 lives, the DGCA has mandated a strict "no-fly" rule before sunrise and after sunset. Challenging Himalayan terrain and erratic weather remain concerns. Under the new SOP, flight frequency in the valley will drop by 30%, and operations will halt instantly during poor visibility. Only veteran pilots with high-altitude expertise will man the cockpits. For pilgrims, safety now takes precedence over speed, ensuring the spiritual journey remains a safe passage through the treacherous peaks.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Air India to buy 30 additional Boeing aircraft

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

AIR INDIA has placed an order to purchase 30 additional Boeing aircraft, comprising 20 737-8s and 10 737-10s. These 30 single-aisle aircraft are in addition to the firm orders for 220 aircraft that the country's second-largest airline had placed with Boeing in 2023, taking the total number of aircraft orders placed with Boeing to 250.

The Tata Group airline also announced conversion of 15 of its current orders for Airbus A321neo aircraft to Airbus A321XLR (extra long range) variant to fuel global expansion.

The conversion is part of its mega orders placed with Airbus in 2023 with an addition in 2024, comprising 50 twin-aisle A350 and 300 single-aisle A320 Family aircraft. Of the 300 single-aisle



India, South Asia air traffic to rise 7% annually

Boeing stated that India and South Asia's passenger air traffic will increase at an average of 7% annually over the next 20 years, spurred by a growing middle class, economic growth and airport and connectivity investments.

aircraft, this conversion to A321XLR applies to 15 of 210 A321neo plane ordered, while the remaining 90 A320neo remain as originally structured.

Deliveries of the 15 A321XLR are expected between 2029 and 2030. Air India entered into a multi-year agreement with Boeing Global Services for its Com-

ponent Services Program (CSP), encompassing the airline's Boeing 787 fleet, both existing and those on order. All fresh announcements were made on the sidelines of Wings India 2026, one of Asia's premier civil aviation events, in Hyderabad.

Campbell Wilson, CEO & MD, Air India, said that the additional order for 30 Boeing 737 aircraft is part of their broader fleet strategy to position Air India firmly for the future, as a world-class global carrier that India deserves and the world expects. "The A321XLR is proving to be a revenue generator by boosting frequencies, managing seasonality, and optimising capacity on medium-haul routes," said Benoît de Saint-Exupéry, Airbus executive vice-President of commercial aircraft sales.

हादसे की जगह जांच में आई तेजी, टीम ने जुटाए 'सबूत'

मंत्री नायडू ने कहा- पारदर्शी और समयबद्ध होगी जांच

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■ नई दिल्ली: बारामती में बुधवार सुबह हुए महाराष्ट्र के डिप्टी सीएम अजित पवार के विमान हादसे की जांच के लिए डीजैसीए और एयरक्राफ्ट एक्सिडेंट इनवेस्टिगेशन ब्यूरो (AAIB) ने टीम बनाई है। दोनों टीमों ने बुधवार को ही क्रेश साइट का दौरा कर काफी सबूत (एविडेंस) जुटाए हैं। फॉरेंसिक टीम ने भी फ्यूल सैमपल लिए हैं। नागर विमानन मंत्री राममोहन नायडू ने कहा कि घटना की जांच पारदर्शी और समयबद्ध होगी। हालांकि, इसी VRS वैचर्स कंपनी के मुंबई में 2023 में हुए एक अन्य क्रेश की जांच रिपोर्ट AAIB ने आज तक जारी नहीं की है। बारामती के हादसे में महाराष्ट्र के डिप्टी सीएम अजित पवार, उनके PSO विदिप जाधव, फ्लाइट अटेंडेंट पिकी माली, पायलट-इन-कमांड सुमित कपूर और को-पायलट शोभवी पाठक की जान गई थी।

रनवे की मेंटिनेंस कब हुई?

इस मामले में बारामती एयरपोर्ट के रनवे नंबर-11 की ऐसी तस्वीर पेश की है, जिसमें वह काफी खराब हालत में दिख रहा है। उस पर सफेद पट्टी (शेरा होल्ड मार्किंग) हल्की पड़ चुकी है। जगह-जगह बजरी निकली है। एविएशन एक्सपर्ट अमित सिंह का कहना है कि यह पता लगाना जरूरी है कि इस रनवे की अंतिम बार मेंटिनेंस कब की गई थी।

मनोदशा की जानकारी

विमान उड़ाने वाले दोनों पायलटों और मुंबई में उड़ान से पहले विमान को NOC देने वाले इंजिनियर का रिकॉर्ड भी खगाला जाएगा। देखा जाएगा कि क्या VRS वैचर्स अपने पायलटों को प्रॉपर रेस्ट और छुट्टियां दे रही थी या नहीं। वह किसी मानसिक तनाव में तो नहीं थे?



DGCA और AAIB की तीन-तीन अफसरों की दो टीमों ने प्लेन क्रेश की जगह से एविडेंस जुटाए हैं।

पयूल कार्ड, फ्लाइट प्लान...देगे कई जवाब

'क्रेश प्लेन की कुंडली खंगाली जाए'

■ बारामती हादसे से पहले के ऐसे विडियो आए हैं, जिनमें विमान एक तरफ झुकता दिख रहा है। जानकारों का कहना है कि जांच टीम को VSR वैचर्स कंपनी के उस लियरजेट-45 विमान को कुंडली भी खंगालनी चाहिए, जिसमें यह हादसा हुआ। इस प्लेन के कारनेट पयूल कार्ड, एटीसी फ्लाइट प्लान और लॉगबुक से काफी चीजे पता चल सकती हैं। VSR वैचर्स ने अपने इस विमान की अच्छी मेंटिनेंस का दावा किया था। जानकारों का कहना है कि कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं कि यह विमान तय घंटों से बहुत अधिक उड़ चुका हो। उड़ान के घंटों में हेरफेर करते हुए कहीं ड्यू प्लेन की सर्विस ही ना कराई हो। जो हादसे का अहम कारण बना हो। विमान के हवा में पलटने पर जानकारों का कहना है कि लगता है कि विमान में लैंडिंग से पहले कोई खराबी आ गई



या इंजन फेल हुआ या कुछ और मसला था। कारनेट कार्ड तेल भरवाने की जानकारी देता है। फ्लाइट प्लान बता सकता है कि वह कितने घंटे उड़ चुका था, इसके डेटा को लॉग बुक से मिलाएं, अगर ये तैनों फैक्ट मेल खाएं तो ही प्लेन को फिटनेस की NOC दे सकते हैं।

‘India’s civil aviation sector on sustained growth trajectory’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

India’s civil aviation sector is on a sustained growth trajectory, helped by a conducive policy environment, rising demand and steady infrastructure expansion, the Economic Survey said on Thursday.

As the country aims to be a global hub for aviation activities, the Survey said Indian airports can aspire to become global aviation hubs by promoting layovers and enhancing the transit experience for international passengers.

“While the sector remains sensitive to global economic cycles and the need for continuous capacity upgradation, the current passenger volumes represent only a fraction of India’s potential,” it said.

India is the world’s third-largest domestic aviation market and the number of airports increased to 164 last year from 74 in 2014.

In FY25, Indian airports handled 412 million passengers, and the same is projected to increase to 665 million by FY31. However, the Survey said



the country currently operates approximately 0.11 airports per million people, significantly lower than the US (47.35) and China (0.39), signalling substantial headroom for further growth.

“Expansion in India’s airport and air navigation infrastructure and a growing ancillary ecosystem, including Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) and leasing, are strengthening the sector. “These developments, along with technology integration, positions civil aviation as a key driver of nationwide economic connectivity and integration,” the Survey said. On Wednesday, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the growth potential and policy stability as he wooed investors, saying that there are immense opportunities in aircraft manufacturing, pilot training, advanced air mobility and aircraft leasing areas in the country. Modi, in a special message at an aviation summit, had also said the Government is working on all necessary regulatory reforms to make cargo movement faster and more efficient.

Meanwhile, the Survey said that aviation services have continued to play a key role in sustaining passenger mobility and air cargo flows.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

एयर इंडिया ने बोइंग से 30 विमान खरीदने का ऑर्डर दिया

हैदराबाद, (पंजाब केसरी) : एयर इंडिया ने 30 अतिरिक्त बोइंग विमानों की खरीद का ऑर्डर दिया है, जिसमें बीस 737-8 और दस 737-10 जेट शामिल हैं। कंपनी ने बृहस्पतिवार को यह घोषणा की।

एयर इंडिया ने एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में बताया कि ये 30 विमान वर्ष 2023 में बोइंग को दिए गए 220 विमानों के ऑर्डर के अतिरिक्त हैं। इसके साथ ही बोइंग से एयर इंडिया द्वारा ऑर्डर किए गए विमानों की कुल संख्या 250 हो गई है।

यह घोषणा विंग्स इंडिया 2026 कार्यक्रम के दौरान की गई, जहां केंद्रीय विमानन उद्योग मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू भी मौजूद थे।

नए ऑर्डर के बाद एयर इंडिया को बोइंग से कुल 198 नए विमान मिलने हैं। अब तक कंपनी को 2023 में दिए गए ऑर्डर में से 52 विमान मिल चुके हैं। इनमें से 51 बोइंग 737-8 विमान उसकी अनुषंगी

- अब तक 250 विमानों का आर्डर दे चुकी है एयर इंडिया
- एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के बेड़े में भी कई विमान होंगे शामिल

कंपनी एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के बेड़े में शामिल हैं, जबकि एक नया 787-9 विमान एक फरवरी 2026 से मुंबई-फ्रैंकफर्ट मार्ग पर वाणिज्यिक सेवा शुरू करेगा। एयर इंडिया के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी और प्रबंध निदेशक कैपबेल विल्सन ने कहा कि 30 अतिरिक्त विमानों का यह ऑर्डर कंपनी की दीर्घकालिक बेड़ा रणनीति का हिस्सा है, जिसका उद्देश्य एयर इंडिया को एक वैश्विक स्तर की विमानन कंपनी के रूप में स्थापित करना है।



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THE STATESMAN

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Black box recovered: Civil Aviation Minister

NIKHIL VYAS

New Delhi, 28 January

Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu on Thursday said the black box of the ill-fated aircraft that crashed near the Baramati has been recovered.

Replying to a letter written by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the Civil Aviation Minister said the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has commenced a formal probe into the recent aircraft accident that claimed the lives of 66-year-old Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others.

The Civil Aviation Minister stated that the aircraft's black box has been recovered, and the investigation has commenced in accordance with the Aircraft Accident and Incident Rules.

He assured that the probe would be conducted transparently and in a time-bound manner.

"All technical records, operational details, and facts from the accident site are being examined," the letter stated.

Separately, the Ministry of Civil Aviation in a statement said, "Following the unfortunate aircraft accident near Baramati, all requisite response and

investigative mechanisms were activated immediately by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Ensuring a thorough, transparent, and time-bound inquiry remains a top priority."

A team of three officers from AAIB, Delhi, and another team of three officers from the DGCA, Mumbai Regional Office, reached the crash site on 28 January. The Director General, AAIB, G V G Yugandhar also arrived at the site the same day.

"The investigation is progressing expeditiously, and the black box of the ill-fated aircraft has been recovered," the Ministry further said.





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THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

29 JANUARY 2026

Indian talent to play key role in building future aircraft: Airbus

Hyderabad: Airbus sees a major role for its engineering and design talent in India to play a key role in developing the next-generation single aisle aircraft that are expected to take to the skies in the second half of the next decade. Also, the European aerospace major — whose annual procurement from India is at \$1.5 billion and will rise to \$2 billion before 2030 — is now planning to step backward in the supply chain by sourcing raw material like aluminium, steel and titanium from the country too. Airbus (India & South Asia) president & MD Jürgen Westermeier told TOI Wednesday that sourcing raw materials could exponentially multiply the value of procurement done from



the country, reports **Saurabh Sinha**.

“We are going to have a new engineering centre in Bengaluru. India has an amazing talent pool. We see them playing a key role in developing the next-generation of single aisle aircraft which are expected in later half of 2030,” said Westermeier, who was earlier senior VP (purchasing) and played a key role in increasing procurement from India from \$500 million to current \$1.5 billion.

WINGS INDIA 2026: India targets more than 400 Airports by 2047 ■ Global Stars Enthrall Crowds At Begumpet

Aviation Dreams Rise As Safety Questions Linger

PM Modi Urges Global Investors To Be Co-Pilots On India's Flight To Success

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Hyderabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged global aviation companies and investors to partner with India in aircraft manufacturing, pilot training, advanced air mobility and aircraft leasing, as the country consolidates its position as the world's third-largest domestic aviation market and pushes its way into a new phase of aviation-led growth.



Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu at Wings India

In a recorded video message at the inaugural session of Wings India 2026 on Wednesday, Modi said few countries offer India's combination of scale, political stability and technological ambition. "I invite investors from around the world to join us as co-pilots on India's flight to success," he said, calling for long-term partnerships that also contribute to global aviation growth.

The opening day however, was overshadowed by a crisis after Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar's aircraft crashed on Wednesday, a development that cast a pall over the event and disrupted the schedule.

Union civil aviation minister K Ram Mohan Naidu, who inaugurated the static exhibition area in the morning and was expected to address the main inauguration ceremony in the evening, gave it a miss due to the unfolding situation. Even Telangana deputy chief minister Bhatti Vikramarka, who was scheduled to address the inaugural, did not participate in the event.

In his message, Modi stressed the need for self-reliance in aviation and pointed to ongoing efforts to build domestic capabilities in aircraft design, manufacturing and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO). He said India is moving from being a parts supplier to manufacturing military and transport aircraft, and eventually civil aircraft.

Modi highlighted opportunities in electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). He said further reforms in air cargo, digital platforms, off-airport processing and modern warehousing would reduce logistics costs and support India's ambition to become a competitive transshipment hub.

Modi said the UDAN regional connectivity scheme enabled 15 million passengers to fly on routes that did not previously exist. He said the govt is preparing the next phase of UDAN to strengthen affordable regional links.

On infrastructure, Modi said the number of airports has risen from 70 in 2014 to more than 160, with over 100 aerodromes activated. He said India is targeting 400 airports by 2047, with tourism expected to drive demand. With traffic rising and fleets expanding, he said Indian carriers have ordered 1,500 aircraft in recent years, signalling sustained demand and long-term confidence.

WINGS INDIA TAKES OFF

- PM Narendra Modi invited global firms to partner with India in aircraft manufacturing, pilot training, advanced air mobility, and aircraft leasing
- India is now the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, offering scale, policy stability and tech ambition
- Focus on building domestic capability in aircraft design, manufacturing and MRO, with a long-term goal of civil aircraft production
- India aims to become a producer and exporter of Sustainable Aviation Fuel and explore electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft
- Planned improvements in air cargo, warehousing, digital platforms and off-airport processing to cut logistics costs and boost India as a transshipment hub
- Women make up about 15% of India's pilots, with calls for early exposure, curriculum changes and mentorship to grow participation



Mark Jeffery Aerobatic Team in action during a night aerial performance



Pics: Rama Moorthy P



Aircraft at the static display at Wings India 2026 in Hyderabad on Wednesday

State-run HAL now eyes 25% revenues from civil aviation segment in 10 years

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Hyderabad: After decades of focusing primarily on defence manufacturing, state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) is aiming to increase the share of its civil business to 25% of overall turnover over the next decade, up from the current 4-5%, chairman and managing director DK Sunil said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the Wings India 2026 show, Sunil said HAL's diversification strategy is designed to reduce its heavy dependence on military programmes, which now account for about 95% of revenues.

HAL's civil push will rest on three main tracks: expanding certified civil products, developing a civil helicopter pipeline, and entering the regional jet market through a mix of aircraft leasing and domestic assembly.



Rama Moorthy P

HAL expects to bring in 10 aircraft over the next 12-18 months

A key near-term driver will be the SuperJet 100 (SJ100) regional jet programme. HAL has signed an agreement with Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) to produce the 103-seat, twin-engine aircraft in India. To speed up market entry, HAL plans to lease 10-20 SJ100 aircraft acquired from Russia in flyaway condition instead of

waiting for domestic production to ramp up. Around 10 aircraft are expected to be inducted over the next 12-18 months. The initial fleet will help HAL assess maintainability, ground support, MRO needs and overall support systems.

In parallel, HAL aims to begin rolling out semi knock-down (SKD) SJ100 aircraft

from its existing facilities in about three years. Under this model, major assemblies will be imported and final assembly completed in India. The company sees demand for more than 200 aircraft in the 100-seat segment, driven by India's regional connectivity push and potential orders from neighbouring markets. HAL is also exploring leasing structures with firms based in Gujarat's GIFT City.

Sunil said HAL will keep investments modest by leveraging domestic industry, its own factories and established vendor base. Facilities at Nasik and Kanpur, along with private partners, will support sub-assemblies.

In the civil helicopter segment, Pawan Hans is set to procure 10 Dhruv NG helicopters for ONGC's offshore operations, with more demand expected from the Border Security Force. HAL is also promoting the Hindustan 228, recently certified for civil use.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

29 JANUARY 2026

2025 disruptions tested ops: IndiGo

Hyderabad: A month after IndiGo's widespread cancellations and delays across domestic airports, which resulted in govt penalties, the airline's CEO, Pieter Elbers, said 2025 included three particularly challenging days of operational disruption. He said despite setbacks, the airline returned quickly to stable operations, achieving top-tier on-time performance globally. IndiGo said it responded with transparency, refunds, and system-wide resets. Elbers said, learning from these events, the airline will build stronger buffers and enhance preparedness. TNN



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

29 JANUARY 2026

Indian, South Asian carriers will need 3.3k airplanes by '44: Boeing

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Hyderabad: Indian and South Asian airlines will need nearly 3,300 new airplanes by 2044 as passenger traffic across the region rises an average of 7% annually over the next two decades, American aircraft manufacturer Boeing said on Wednesday.

In its latest Commercial Market Outlook for South Asia, unveiled at Wings India 2026, Boeing projected that the region's airplane fleet will expand from 795 aircraft today to 2,925 by 2044, nearly quadrupling as carriers add capacity and replace older jets. The growth is expected to be led by domestic travel within India, supported by a continued shift from rail to air and ongoing investment in airport infrastructure and connectivity.



Rama Moorthy P

Boeing India MD Ashwin Naidu at Wings India 2026

It forecast single-aisle aircraft to account for almost 90% of deliveries, reflecting the demand for flexibility on fast-growing short-haul and medium-haul routes. Boeing's delivery outlook for 2025-2044 includes 2,875 single-aisle jets, 395 widebody aircraft, about 20 freighters and fewer than 10 regional jets, for a total of 3,290 airplanes in India and South Asia, Ashwin Naidu, managing director-commercial marketing, Boeing, said.

Boeing also expects Indian and South Asian carriers to broaden long-haul networks as India's role grows as an international passenger and cargo hub. The region's widebody fleet is projected to more than triple by 2044, supporting expanded service to markets including the Middle East, Europe and North America, he added.

Cargo demand is also expected to rise, driven by high-tech manufacturing growth and expanding e-commerce, with the region's freighter fleet projected to grow fivefold.

To support the expansion, Boeing has estimated more than \$195 billion in aviation services spending and demand for about 1.41 lakh new aviation professionals, including roughly 45,000 pilots, 45,000 technicians and 51,000 cabin crew, Naidu said.

Aviation body still probing 2023 Learjet crash-landing

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Visakhapatnam: The VSR Ventures Learjet 45, which crashed on Wednesday killing Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar and four others, was previously involved in an accident in Sep 2023 while flying from Visakhapatnam to Mumbai. According to an official statement by the Union civil aviation ministry on Wednesday, that earlier incident is still under investigation by Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

As per the preliminary probe report available with **TOI**, the 2023 flight, a non-scheduled passenger service, was normal until it reached Mumbai, where heavy rain and poor visibility made landing difficult. The Learjet 45XR was carrying six people. During landing at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, the aircraft drifted



off the runway, triggering stall and safety warnings. It crash-landed, broke apart, and caught fire. All on board survived, though the co-pilot sustained serious injuries.

Interestingly, US-based National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) had issued urgent recommendations in 2025 following multiple incidents of Learjet landing gear failures, including a fatal 2023 Scottsdale crash. Investigators found that improper installation of the aft trunion pin and retaining bolt

can leave the main gear insecure, a fault not readily detectable during routine checks.

“During the Scottsdale probe, NTSB learned of three prior events in which Learjet landing gear disconnected from airframe because the retaining bolt was not engaged through aft trunion pin,” read a release from NTSB.

In 2023 incident, the jet, manufactured in 2009, held valid certificates of airworthiness and registration and had undergone its last major inspection in April 2023.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026

Air India orders 30 more Boeing 737s, takes total order since 2023 to 250

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Hyderabad: Indian carrier Air India Wednesday said it placed an order for another 30 Boeing single-aisle 737 aircraft, including 20 737-8 and 10 737-10 jets, as the Tata Group-owned carrier steps up fleet renewal and regional growth. The single-aisle aircraft, powered by CFM LEAP-1B engines, add to the 220 Boeing aircraft Air India ordered in 2023, taking its total Boeing orders to 250.

The order was announced at Wings India 2026 Thursday.

Air India CEO & MD Campbell Wilson said the additional 737s ordered will support a broader fleet strategy aimed at positioning Air India as a world-class global carrier, with steady deliveries and planned upgrades over the next few years.

Air India said the latest commitment leaves it awaiting delivery of 198 new Boeing air-

craft, even as it received 52 aircraft from its 2023 order with Boeing. Those deliveries include 51 737-8 jets that are operating with its value carrier subsidiary, Air India Express.

The event also saw Air India sign a multi-year agreement with Boeing Global Services for the Component Services Program covering its entire Boeing 787 fleet, including the aircraft in service and those on order.

The programme includes component pooling, repair and overhaul through Boeing-approved facilities, and global logistics support, aimed at improving parts availability, reducing downtime, and enhancing cost predictability.

The air carrier said dependable component support is crucial as it scales up long-haul operations, including additional 787-9 inductions in 2026 and cabin retrofits of 26 legacy 787-8 aircraft.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

30 JANUARY 2026



India third-largest civil aviation market

NEW DELHI: India's civil aviation sector has moved into the global top three, with sustained expansion in airport infrastructure, passenger traffic, cargo handling and policy reforms underpinning long-term growth, the Economic Survey 2025-26 said. It noted a sharp expansion in the airport network over the past decade, with the number of operational airports rising from 74 in 2014 to 164 in 2025. This infrastructure push has supported a steady rise in passenger volumes, with Indian airports handling 412 million passengers in FY25. ns