



## PRESS RELEASE

### **India officially takes over as host of Routes Asia 2027 at Xi'an, China**

*India takes center stage in global aviation with Routes Asia 2027  
Routes Asia 2027: India ushers in the next chapter of regional connectivity  
India set to host Routes Asia 2027, showcasing aviation growth and connectivity vision*

**New Delhi, 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2026:** India formally assumed the hosting rights for the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of Routes Asia today at the closing ceremony of Routes Asia 2026 in Xi'an, China, marking a significant milestone for the country's rapidly expanding aviation sector.

As one of the fastest-growing aviation markets in the world, India—under the visionary leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister—is witnessing unprecedented expansion driven by record aircraft orders, large-scale infrastructure investments, and rising demand from a growing middle class.

This momentum is further taken ahead by Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Shri Samir Kumar Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation with effective implementation of policy initiatives and reforms; strengthening the sector and connectivity.

Reflecting this strong growth trajectory and rising global prominence of the Indian aviation sector, China West Airport Group have officially handed over the hosting responsibilities of the Routes Asia 2027 to India by entrusting the hosting baton to Shri Vipin Kumar, Chairman, Airports Authority of India in a dedicated networking session hosted by India on the sidelines of Routes Asia 2026, being held from 12<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> April. Routes Asia 2026 has brought together over 1,500 delegates, including representatives from 165 airports, 125 airlines, and 35 tourism and government bodies from across the Asia-Pacific region, facilitating strategic airport-to-airline meetings to strengthen regional and international air connectivity.

On the occasion, a video message of Shri Samir Kumar Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation was displayed at the event. Shri Sinha welcomed global airline leaders, airport authorities, and tourism professionals to participate in Routes Asia 2027 and establish new travel corridors.

The highlight of the event was that India is preparing to host 24<sup>th</sup> edition of Routes Asia 2027. The country is embarking on a transformative journey to unlock the full potential of its skies. It was also noted that the platform will foster new partnerships, strengthen air connectivity, and inspire the next generation of aviation professionals, while driving economic growth and showcasing the diversity of Incredible India. Emphasizing the vision of ‘Viksit Bharat,’ it reaffirmed India’s commitment to inclusive and sustainable development, building a future where innovation, connectivity, and opportunity define every flight and reflect the nation’s global aspirations.

India will be hosting Routes Asia 2027 in New Delhi from 16<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> March, 2027, at Bharat Mandapam. The event is expected to attract over 2,000 delegates, including decision-makers from leading airlines, airports, and tourism authorities across Asia and beyond.

The announcement builds on the official declaration made on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2025, in New Delhi, confirming that on behalf of the country, the Airports Authority of India will host the prestigious aviation forum for the first time in the country’s history.

India’s aviation sector is witnessing significant expansion across both domestic and international travel segments, strengthening its position as an important aviation hub in the Asia-Pacific region. Currently served by more than 80 domestic and international carriers, the country continues to strengthen its global connectivity.

Hosting Routes Asia 2027 marks a historic first for India and reflects the country’s emergence as a global aviation leader. With 165 operational airports and continued expansion into tier II and tier III cities, India is creating a robust ecosystem for airlines and stakeholders to explore new markets and enhance connectivity to emerging destinations.

The event is expected to play a pivotal role in revitalizing air route networks across the Asia-Pacific region, while enabling the development of new travel corridors linking Asia with Europe, North America, and beyond. India’s assumption of the Routes Asia hosting baton from China marks a defining moment in its aviation journey and sets the stage for a landmark edition of Routes Asia in 2027 carrying its inimitable legacy of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – which means ‘the world is one family’.

New Delhi, the host city, offers a unique blend of rich heritage and modern infrastructure, making it an ideal destination for global aviation leaders. The selection of the Indian capital underscores its growing importance as a strategic hub connecting diverse regions and shaping the future of air travel.

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