



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
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Aviation Sector: Giving India Wings (State Series)

(Ministry of Civil Aviation)

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"First time in the country, dream of an air travel which is cheaper than taxi got realized. Small towns are connecting with big cities. A common man who travels in slippers, should also be seen in the aircraft. This is my dream."

-[PM Shri Narendra Modi](#)

Air transport is a key element in a country's transport infrastructure and plays an important role in the nation's economic growth. Indian aviation industry has flown many miles, set numerous milestones, and overcome many challenges to become one of the world's most lucrative aviation markets. The industry has grown by leaps and bounds and has become the **third-largest domestic aviation market in the world**, after USA and China. With a steady increase in passenger volume, Indian airlines are charting new territories.¹

A rising proportion of middle-income households, healthy competition amongst low-cost carriers, infrastructure build-up at leading airports and a supportive policy framework have given an impetus to the aviation sector. The last eight years have witnessed a remarkable improvement in air connectivity in the country. During this period, the government has built and operationalised 66 airports and ensured air connectivity to innumerable Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.² The Government has completed numerous infrastructure projects that were hitherto considered unachievable due to inordinate delays and other constraints.³



¹ <https://www.ibef.org/news/india-has-become-the-third-largest-domestic-aviation-market-in-the-world-mr-scindia#:~:text=The%20industry%20has%20grown%20by,after%20the%20USA%20and%20China.>

² <https://www.investindia.gov.in/sector/aviation>

³ <https://www.investindia.gov.in/sector/aviation>



In 2016, for the first time after Independence, the Central Government launched the ‘**National Civil Aviation Policy 2016**’. The policy is very comprehensive, covering 22 areas of the civil aviation sector, aiming to take flying to the masses by making it affordable and convenient.⁴ To know more about this policy, please [click here](#).

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) also launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)–UDAN in 2016 with the aim of fulfilling the aspiration of the common citizen following the vision of “[UDE DESH KA AAM NAGRIK](#)”. The UDAN programme has provided air connectivity to numerous Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and ensured that air travel isn’t limited to the affluent.

UDAN Scheme of Ministry of Civil Aviation completes 5 YEARS OF SUCCESS

- More than one crore passengers flown since the inception of the scheme
- 425 New routes started under the scheme
- 58 airports, 8 heliports and 2 water aerodromes have been connected
- 1000 Routes and 220 airports are planned to be facilitated under the scheme by 2026

Sep 21, 2022
Air ambulance facility soon from AIIMS Rishikesh: Jyotiraditya Scindia.

Sep 02, 2022
Kanpur Airport to have World-Class Facilities by December 2022.

Aug 22, 2022
Kolhapur Airport to get new terminal building with enhanced capacity and world-class facilities by March 2023.

GROWTH DRIVERS

- NABH (NextGen Airports for Bharat)**
 Nirman is a government initiative to expand airport capacity more than five times to handle bn trips a year, in the next 10-15 years.
- GIFT City Advantage for Aviation Sector**
 Aircraft Leasing and Tax Incentives available in GIFT city
- Regional connectivity Scheme**
 Boost air connectivity to smaller cities & northeast states

- Under four rounds of bidding of RCS-UDAN, 154 airports including 14 water aerodromes and 36 helipads have been identified. Out of these, 405 routes involving 65 airports including 8 heliports and 2 water aerodromes have been operationalized under RCS-UDAN.
- The number of PPP airports is likely to increase from five in 2014 to 24 in 2024.
- The union government announced Drone Shakti in the Budget 2022 with the aim of facilitating and promoting drones as a service through startups.

⁴ <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/Printrelease.aspx?relid=146238>

Gateways to Aviation in Gujarat

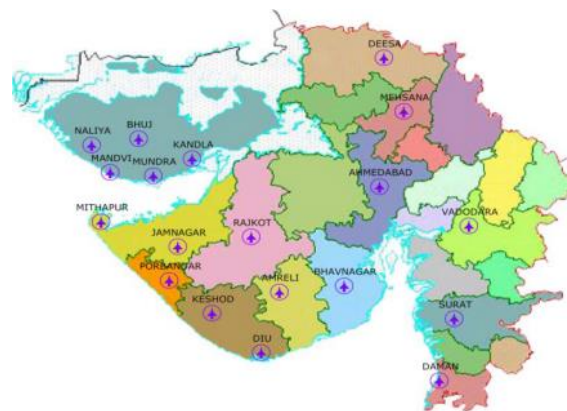
The aviation sector is all set to soar high in Gujarat. There has been rapid development in the aviation sector in the state in the past few years, with the result being an increase in domestic as well as international flights at various airports in Gujarat. The demand for the creation of infrastructure and its maintenance for the sustainability of the aviation sector is increasing manifold.⁵



The State of Gujarat has a total of 19 Airports of which nine are under the operational jurisdiction of the Airport Authority of India (AAI), three with the Indian Air Force (I.A.F.) of which two have a Civil Terminal, two are private airports and two airports are at Union Territory of Daman and Diu which do not form part of Gujarat but are used frequently by the people of the State.⁶



Out of the nine AAI Airports, Ahmedabad and Surat are International Airports. The others are Vadodara, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Porbandar, Bhuj, Keshod, Kandla and Deesa, which are domestic airports. Among these Keshod and Deesa airports have no scheduled flights.⁷ Aircraft movement in the state was 0.46 lakh departures, passenger traffic was 44.73 lakh



Source: Director Civil Aviation, Government of Gujarat

⁵ <https://gujsail.gujarat.gov.in/introduction.htm>

⁶ <https://gujsail.gujarat.gov.in/infrastructure.htm>

⁷ <https://gujsail.gujarat.gov.in/infrastructure.htm>

and cargo traffic had been 63790 tonnes during the year 2021-22 (up to November-2021).⁸

The Government has been considering having a separate and autonomous organization to cater to the increasing demand for the creation and maintenance of infrastructure in the civil aviation sector in the State of Gujarat. Initiatives in line with the same are as follows:



Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia launching commercial air service between Keshod to Mumbai

- ❖ Union Minister for Civil Aviation Sh. Jyotiraditya Scindia flagged off the first flight from Keshod Gujarat to Mumbai and vice-versa under the [UDAN Regional Connectivity Scheme](#) on April 17, 2022. Alliance Air had commenced the first flight from Keshod to Mumbai. Keshod airport has been revived by the [Airports Authority of India](#) -AAI at an investment of Rs. 25 crores.⁹

- ❖ Ministry of Civil Aviation had offered six airline services in Gujarat including Porbandar-Delhi. Six heliports will be set up in the state and pilot training schools will be set up in Amreli.¹⁰

- ❖ In June 2022, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal for the development of Phase I of New Greenfield Airport at Dholera, Gujarat at an estimated cost of Rs. 1305 crores, to be completed within 48 months. Dholera Airport is to get Passenger and Cargo traffic from [Dholera Special Investment Region \(DSIR\)](#) and is expected to become a major cargo hub to serve the industrial region. The Airport is planned for operationalization from the year 2025-26 and initial passenger traffic is estimated to be 3 lakh passengers per annum, which is expected to grow to 23 lakh over a period of 20 years.¹¹ Cabinet also approved the development of New Greenfield Airport at Hirasar, Rajkot, Gujarat.¹²



⁸ https://financedepartment.gujarat.gov.in/Documents/Bud-Eng_1096_2022-3-3_683.pdf

⁹ <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Alliance-Air-starts-direct-flight-service-between-Mumbai-and-Keshod-in-Gujarat-under-UDAN-Regional-Connectivity-Scheme&id=439318>

¹⁰ <https://cmogujarat.gov.in/en/latest-news/dedication-of-airport-facilities-launching-of-flight-from-keshod-by-cm-union-civil-aviation-min/>

¹¹ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1833823>

¹² <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1566716>

- ❖ Under the UDAN Scheme, air service has been started at Ahmedabad-Kishangarh. Kishangarh's connectivity with Ahmedabad, Indore, Delhi and Hyderabad has led to an increase in the marble industry of Kishangarh by three times.¹³
- ❖ Surat Airport is expected to get a facelift at a cost of Rs. 353 crores. Due to increased passenger traffic, the Airport Authority of India is expanding facilities at Surat Airport.¹⁴
- ❖ The Government of Gujarat has selected 11 sites where there is a demand for new airports. Greenfield airports are being built in industrial areas like Ankleshwar and religious tourism destinations like Dwarka, Ambaji and Palitana.¹⁵
- ❖ The Civil Aviation Department has planned to establish an Aviation Park at Rajkot with a land area of 100 hectares, the construction of which has already commenced.¹⁶



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AG/HP/RC/AM/IS

¹³ https://www.civilaviation.gov.in/sites/default/files/Udaan_Eng.pdf

¹⁴ <https://newindiasamachar.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/flipbook/2022/Jul/1st/English/index.html> (page no-5)

¹⁵ <https://gujsail.gujarat.gov.in/projects.htm>

¹⁶ <https://gujsail.gujarat.gov.in/projects.htm>