

AIR INDIA SUCCESSFULLY OPERATIONALISES INDIA'S NEW CARGO TRANSSHIPMENT FRAMEWORK; PILOT PROJECT EXPANDED TO ADDITIONAL INDIA-EUROPE CORRIDORS

- First Indian airline to operationalise the Government's cargo transshipment reforms
- Eliminates mandatory piece-level re-screening of cargo during transit
- Reduced cargo connection times at Delhi Airport from 36-48 hours to 5-8 hours

GURUGRAM, XX AUGUST 2026: Air India today announced the successful operationalisation of the Government of India's new cargo transshipment policy through an ongoing Proof of Concept (PoC) on the Chennai-Delhi-Frankfurt air cargo corridor, launched on 20 June 2026. The new policy allows eligible cargo shipments to remain securely packed during transit, eliminating the need for piece-level re-screening and significantly reducing connection times and handling requirements while enabling faster, more efficient cargo movement without compromising safety or security.

Following the Government's approval to expand the pilot, Air India will now enable **seamless cargo movements via Delhi** for eligible shipments originating from five points in India (**Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai**) and connecting onwards to three points in Europe: **Copenhagen, Frankfurt, and London (Heathrow)**.

As supporting infrastructure is progressively implemented across the country, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has authorised Air India's PoC to validate the new process ahead of wider rollout.

Cargo throughput doubles on Chennai-Delhi-Frankfurt corridor

Air India successfully operationalised the 90-day PoC for the new policy, approved by BCAS. Over the course of two months, the reformed policy helped Air India to:

- **Double average cargo volumes** on the Chennai-Delhi-Frankfurt corridor, from 2.2 metric tonnes (MT) per day to 4.5 MT per day
- Transport a total of **300 MT of cargo from Chennai to Frankfurt via Delhi** between 20 June and 20 August 2026
- Reduce the average **cargo connection time** at Delhi Airport **from 36-48 hours to 5-8 hours**
- Improve **Flown-as-Booked (FAB) performance from 76% to 100%**, while recording **zero cargo loss or damage** during transit
- Deliver greater **customer satisfaction**, with top-tier freight forwarders like DHL, Dachser, DVS, and Kuehne+Nagel sharing highly positive feedback of their shipping experience

P. Balaji, Group Head - Governance, Risk, Compliance & Corporate Affairs, Air India, said: "The Honourable Prime Minister's vision for India's aviation sector, and the Government's broader agenda to strengthen logistics and connectivity extends beyond passenger growth to building world-class cargo and logistics capabilities that enable Indian airports to serve as global transit hubs. This new cargo transshipment policy is an important step towards that objective. By making cargo transfers faster and more efficient, it will help strengthen the competitiveness of Indian airports and support growth across the logistics value chain. We thank the Ministry of Civil Aviation, BCAS and all stakeholders for their partnership and support in making this pioneering initiative possible."

Ramesh Mamidala, Head of Cargo, Air India, said: "This reformed cargo transshipment policy has the potential to be a game-changer for India's air cargo sector. By enabling seamless cargo transfers through Delhi, it can help attract transit traffic that currently moves through foreign gateways, unlock additional cargo volumes for Air India, and significantly improve aircraft belly utilisation across our expanding network. Delhi alone has the potential to attract more than 2 million metric tonnes of additional annual transshipment cargo across 95+ addressable international air cargo corridors. Beyond the airline industry, the benefits extend across the logistics ecosystem, supporting growth for freight forwarders, e-commerce, warehousing providers, ground handlers and allied services, while reinforcing Delhi's position as India's premier air cargo hub."

How the new cargo transshipment policy simplifies cargo transit

Traditionally, a cargo consignment from Chennai to Frankfurt via Delhi would need to be unpacked at Delhi Airport, with each individual package undergoing mandatory security re-screening before the shipment is rebuilt and loaded onto an onward flight to Frankfurt. This additional handling can sometimes potentially add more than 24 hours to transit times, increase operational complexity, and expose the consignment to a greater risk of damage, pilferage and discrepancies.

Under the new policy, eligible cargo can remain securely packed within the same Unit Load Device (ULD) throughout its journey from Chennai to Frankfurt, subject to prescribed security controls. By eliminating the need for piece-level re-screening at Delhi, the process significantly reduces handling requirements and transit times while improving shipment integrity. The streamlined process enables faster, more reliable cargo connections through Indian airports, enhancing predictability for customers and strengthening India's competitiveness as a cargo transshipment hub.

Supporting India's emergence as a global cargo hub

The opportunity for India is significant. Delhi alone is estimated to have the potential to attract more than **2 million metric tonnes of additional annual transshipment cargo** across **95+ addressable international air cargo corridors**. By enabling faster and more efficient cargo transfers through Indian airports, the new framework can help capture a greater share of global cargo flows that are currently routed through established overseas transshipment hubs.

Subject to regulatory approvals, the new policy will be progressively extended across:

- All domestic-to-international cargo movements through India, including narrowbody bulk cargo operations
- International-to-domestic cargo movements
- International-to-international cargo transshipment through Indian airports

The phased rollout has the potential to transform India's role in global air cargo networks by reducing transit times, simplifying cargo movement and positioning Indian airports as competitive transshipment gateways for global trade.

About Air India Group

The Air India Group – comprising full-service global airline, Air India, and value carrier, Air India Express – is spearheading a new era of Indian aviation. The Air India story began in 1932 when JRD Tata piloted the airline's inaugural flight and opened the skies for aviation in India. Today, Air India Group employs more than 30,000 people, operates over 300 aircraft and carries travellers to 60 domestic and 51 international destinations across five continents.

Returning to Tata Sons in 2022 following 70 years under Government ownership, Air India Group is in the midst of a five-year transformation programme, Vihaan.AI. As part of the transformation, Air India has placed orders for 600 new aircraft. In addition to taking new aircraft deliveries, Air India is progressively retrofitting all its legacy aircraft.

The Air India Group operates South Asia's largest aviation training academy in Gurugram, India. The construction of a new flying school and a greenfield maintenance base is in progress.

With transformation underway across all facets of the business and India's rich legacy of hospitality, Air India is committed to being a world class global airline with an Indian heart.

For more news on Air India, visit <http://www.airindia.com/newsroom>

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