

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1605
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd August 2026

NIGHT LANDING FACILITY AT KOLHAPUR AIRPORT

1605. SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) the funds sanctioned, released and utilised under the UDAN Scheme for expansion, runway extension and night-landing facilities at Kolhapur airport;
- (b) whether Government has examined the feasibility of introducing direct flights connecting Kolhapur with Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Delhi to promote trade, textile exports and tourism; and
- (c) the measures taken to monitor and regulate excessive dynamic airfare pricing during peak festival seasons on routes serving western Maharashtra?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): In the 1st round of bidding under UDAN, Kolhapur airport was identified for development and to operate RCS flights. The Airport was developed under at a cost of Rs.333.29 crores and operationalised on 08.04.2018. Further, development and modernisation of airport infrastructure are undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) or the respective airport operators based on traffic demand, commercial viability and operational requirements.

(b): At present, Kolhapur Airport is connected to Bangalore, Hyderabad, Navi Mumbai and Mumbai with 70 flights per week by M/s Indigo and M/s Star Air. With the repeal of the Air Corporations Act in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation sector has been deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type, free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service depending on their operational & commercial viability.

(c): With the repeal of Air Corporation Act in March 1994, airfares are not subject to be regulated by the Government. Airlines have the autonomy to establish airfare based on their operational & economic viability on a particular route while adhering to Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

The pricing of airfares is subject to dynamic fluctuations influenced by the fundamental economic forces of supply and demand. Various determinants such as current seat occupancy, fuel costs, aircraft capacity, seasonal fluctuations and other relevant factors significantly impact airline ticket pricing.

The Government generally refrains from regulating airfares to maintain market competitiveness, however, it retains a vigilant oversight role, intervening in exceptional circumstances by redistributing capacity across various sectors and imposing temporary fare caps, such as during the Covid Pandemic, festivals like Maha Kumbh or other extraordinary instances like the Pahalgam incident & the Indigo flight disruptions.
