



PRESS RELEASE

INDIA AIRCRAFT LEASING & FINANCING SUMMIT 2.0



The Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India (MoCA), jointly with the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), successfully organised the 2nd edition of the India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit 2.0 (IALFS 2.0) on Friday, 8th May 2026, at the Radisson GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Building on the success of its inaugural edition in 2025, IALFS 2.0 brought together experts from policy, finance, and the aviation industry to deliberate on strengthening GIFT IFSC's role in aircraft leasing and aviation finance, with a focus on GIFT IFSC as an emerging global hub.

The summit assumes significance in advancing India's rapidly progressing aircraft leasing and financing ecosystem. The sector presents a strong opportunity for domestic value creation, with Indian airlines placing large orders globally and a projected leasing market of nearly USD 100 billion.

The summit commenced with a welcome address by **Shri Amit Ray, Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India**. He stressed that for a country where a significant proportion of aircraft are leased, developing a robust domestic leasing and financing framework is both an economic imperative and a strategic policy objective.

In his **Chief Guest address, Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat**, reaffirmed Gujarat's commitment to strengthening GIFT City as a global financial and fintech hub. He drew attention to key policy measures announced in the Union Budget, including the extension of the tax holiday period for aircraft leasing entities operating from IFSC, as further reinforcements to the ecosystem. He also pointed to Gujarat's expanding aviation infrastructure, including new airport development projects, and invited global stakeholders to participate in the state's aviation growth journey.



Shri Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu, Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation, in his **Guest of Honour address** argued that India is positioning itself not only as one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets, but also as an emerging global aviation financing and leasing jurisdiction. He projected significant expansion of India's commercial fleet across aircraft types over the coming years, underscoring the urgency of building a strong domestic financing and leasing ecosystem to support this growth. He further outlined recent reforms that have already strengthened the foundation: the Udaan scheme, the Protection of Interest in Aircraft Objects Act, 2025, and the implementation of the Cape Town Convention have together improved legal certainty, investor confidence, and access to competitive financing. Looking ahead, he identified priorities for the next phase for scaling GIFT IFSC into a full-service global leasing hub through increasing domestic financial institution participation, strengthening dispute resolution frameworks, supporting financing for next-generation aviation platforms, and enabling

innovative financing mechanisms. He closed by reiterating the Government's commitment to continuous stakeholder engagement and policy support.

Shri K. Rajaraman, Chairperson, IFSCA, set the tone for the summit by noting that GIFT IFSC currently hosts aircraft lessors and aviation financing structures covering aircraft, engines, helicopters, and other aviation assets. He pointed to key recent reforms — including the extension of the tax holiday framework, operationalisation of the single-window IT system, and introduction of SPV and trust structures — as foundations for globally accepted financing models. The next phase, he said, would focus on deepening the ecosystem through greater regulatory flexibility and broader institutional participation across the aviation finance value chain.

Shri Samir Kumar Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, underscored the Government's commitment to building a stable, investor-friendly ecosystem, observing that India's aviation growth story is expanding beyond passenger traffic into ownership, financing, and financial innovation. He confirmed that efforts are underway to channel long-term domestic capital from financial institutions, insurance entities, pension funds, and infrastructure financing institutions into the aviation sector.

Providing an industry perspective, **Shri Jürgen Westermeier, Chairman, FICCI Civil Aviation Committee and President & MD, Airbus India and South Asia**, observed that India's aviation and aerospace sector continues to advance on the pillars of safety, affordability, competitiveness, and sustainability. Citing the large order backlog of Indian carriers and the scale of financing required for aircraft acquisitions, he concluded that the opportunity ahead offers significant scope for both domestic and international financiers and lessors.

The summit also witnessed a series of key announcements placed as Annexure to the press release. The plenary session closed with the signing of an MoU between IFSCA and FICCI for developing GIFT IFSC as an international financial centre and a global hub for aviation finance.



The plenary session was followed by two focussed sessions on establishing the aircraft leasing ecosystem and bridging gaps in aviation financing:

Session 1: Establishing the Aircraft Leasing Ecosystem in GIFT IFSC

Chaired by **Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India**, co-chaired by **Shri K. Rajaraman, Chairman, IFSCA** and moderated by **Shri Ashutosh Sharma, CGM IFSCA**, the session featured on-the-ground perspectives from industry leaders on the steps needed to position GIFT IFSC as a competitive and forward-looking hub for aircraft leasing.



Session 2: Bridging Financial Gaps — Unlocking Growth in Aviation Financing through Policy & Investment

Chaired by **Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India**, co-chaired by **Shri K. Rajaraman, Chairman, IFSCA** and moderated by **Dr. Dipesh Shah, Executive Director, IFSCA** brought together experts from global financial institutions to discuss measures to expanding access to capital, strengthening risk management approaches, and aligning legal and taxation frameworks to facilitate investment in the aviation sector.

Together, these sessions enabled in-depth deliberations among policymakers, global lessors, financiers, and industry stakeholders on strengthening regulatory frameworks, enhancing access to capital, and fostering a globally competitive leasing ecosystem in India.

The summit served as a vital platform for dialogue and collaboration, reinforcing GIFT IFSC's position as a promising hub for aircraft leasing and financing. By fostering innovation, enabling global capital participation, and building a world-class regulatory ecosystem, GIFT IFSC continues to contribute towards strengthening India's aviation capabilities and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Annexure on key announcements made:

1. Air India's subsidiary AI Fleet services announced that during FY27, they aim to grow number of Aircrafts leased through GIFT IFSC from 50 to 75+ aircrafts. This is an addition of Aircrafts worth of USD2.5 to USD3 billion
2. Indigo i.e. InterGlobe Aviation expects its ~75 strong aircraft fleet to double to ~150 aircrafts by March 2027 through addition of USD 3.5 – 4.0 billion worth of aircrafts.
3. Star Air announced establishment of Ghodawat Aviation IFSC Pvt Ltd in GIFT IFSC, to lease Embraer E190 aircraft in May 2026. In FY 2027, Star Air aims to lease 6 to 8 more regional aircrafts from GIFT IFSC.
4. Akasa Air announced establishment of its entity, 'Akasa Air Leasing IFSC Private Limited' (AALI), at GIFT City. AALI office at GIFT City will support Akasa Air's fleet expansion with leasing of ~60 aircraft over the next five years.
5. Vistra as a Trust and Company Service Provider (TCSP) under the recently amended IFSCA (TechFin & Ancillary Services) Regulations, 2025 announced providing services to lessors by setting up of SPV structures for Aircraft leasing from Gift IFSC.
6. KPMG, in collaboration with Ministry of Civil Aviation and FICCI announced the release of its report "Advancing the aircraft leasing ecosystem in India – From reforms to powering future growth".

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Gandhinagar