



Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu flags off inaugural flight from NAMO Airport, Daman

Alliance Air connects Daman directly to Delhi

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In a landmark moment for the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, along with Administrator of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu, Shri Praful Patel, flagged off the inaugural flight on the Daman–Delhi–Daman route from the newly operational NAMO Airport, Daman on July 16, 2026. Government owned regional carrier Alliance Air launched the flight, marking Daman's first-ever direct air link.

Daman Airport envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is a dual-purpose facility operating out of the Indian Coast Guard Air Station (ICGAS), Daman. The foundation stone for the civil terminal was laid by the Prime Minister on 25 April 2023 and the airport was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 5 June 2026.

Developed by the UT Administration at a cost of ₹124 crore on a 25-acre site, with the Ministry of Civil Aviation reimbursing ₹88 crore towards the project, the terminal spans 3,700 square metres and can currently handle 14 ATR flights a day, with a capacity of 3.67 lakh passengers annually.

The event for commencement of flight operations was attended by senior officials of the UT Administration, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Alliance Air and the Indian Coast Guard along with local residents of Daman.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Ram Mohan Naidu said, "On this historic occasion, I extend my heartiest greetings to the people of Daman. With its first flight itself, Daman is getting directly connected to the national capital. Now instead of going through Surat or Mumbai and spending 8 to 10 hours, Delhi will be just 2.5 hours away from Daman. This has been possible with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's transformative UDAN Scheme."

The Minister added that over the last 12 years, under the Prime Minister's leadership, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu have benefited from more than 450 projects worth over ₹13,000 crore, which is why the people of Daman named their new airport 'NAMO Airport' as a mark of respect for the Prime Minister's vision for addressing a long-standing demand of Daman.

The region is home to over 7,000 industries in Daman, Diu and Dadra, and Nagar Haveli, with a further 15,000-plus industries operating in neighboring Vapi and Valsad. Improved air connectivity would boost business, attract investment and create new employment opportunities for the region's youth.

Highlighting the region's tourism potential, the Minister said nearly 20 lakh tourists visit Daman every year and the footfall will grow rapidly as tourists will find Daman on the aviation map. And our idea is to enable landing of bigger aircraft including Airbus A320-type planes in Daman by extension of the runway and increasing the connectivity to cities like Mumbai, Surat, Ahmedabad, Patna.

Citing the example of Diu Airport, the Minister said, annual passenger traffic there has grown from just 19,000 in 2013 to over one lakh today. He said the Ministry is working towards developing a new terminal and an additional larger runway at Diu Airport to meet rising demand.

Further talking about significance of Daman airport, Shri Ram Mohan Naidu said, “PM sir has connected Daman’s blue economy to immense possibilities of the blue sky. Daman's fishery, marine products and food processing goods will now be able to reach any corner of the country within a few hours.” He said this would benefit the fishing community, open new markets for marine farmers and also give fresh momentum to the pharma industry here.”

The Minister also highlighted further extension of the transformative UDAN scheme for a further period of 10 years. Under the Modified UDAN Scheme, an unprecedented outlay of ₹29,000 crore has been provided over the next 10 years to develop 100 new airports and 200 new helipads across the country, further strengthening India's regional aviation network.

Shri Ram Mohan Naidu concluded his address by conveying special thanks to the Indian Coast Guard for its significant contribution in realizing the NAMO Airport project, and extended his heartiest congratulations to the people of Daman on the historic occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Praful Patel, Administrator of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu, said, "NAMO Airport will prove to be a game-changer for the entire industrial workforce belt stretching from Valsad in Gujarat to Palghar in Maharashtra, opening up new opportunities for the youth of this region. I am confident that within the next 15 years, we will see NAMO Airport, Daman, expand many times over, emerging as a game-changer for the region's economy."

The commencement of flight operations from NAMO Airport, Daman, marks another significant milestone in the Government's vision of democratizing air travel and integrating smaller cities into the growing aviation network.

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