

Status Report on Hub and Spoke International Operations

1. Brief of the Hub and Spoke Operations

The Hub and Spoke model was launched by MoCA to provide seamless international connectivity to passengers from Tier-II and Tier-III cities through Indian hub airports.

Under this framework, international passengers complete check-in, immigration and customs formalities at the originating spoke airport and proceed through the designated hub airport without undergoing immigration and customs clearance again. Flights originating from the spoke airport carry both domestic and international passengers. Domestic passengers are issued boarding passes marked with a 'D' indicator, while international passengers are issued boarding passes marked with an 'I' indicator for both the spoke-to-hub sector and the onward international flight.

The initiative is a key component of the Government's International Aviation Hub Strategy aimed at positioning India as a preferred aviation hub for Indian travelers by 2030 and a leading global aviation hub by 2047.

2. Launch Details

India's first Hub and Spoke international operation was launched on **25 June, 2026** with **Varanasi** as the Spoke Airport and Delhi as the Hub Airport. As part of the phased expansion of the initiative, Hub & Spoke operations from **Amritsar** and **Ahmedabad** Airports were launched on **28 July, 2026** and **1 September, 2026**.

The operations have been functioning smoothly with active participation of Air India, AAI, CISF, Immigration, Customs and Delhi Airport. No operational issues have been reported since launch.

2.1 Number of Passengers Availing Hub and Spoke Operations from Varanasi, Amritsar and Ahmedabad

Spoke	Period	No of Passengers availing Hub and Spoke
Varanasi	25 June – 17 October 2026	976
Amritsar	28 July – 17 October 2026	4293
Ahmedabad	1 September - 17 October 2026	2090
Total		7359

2.2 The passenger numbers indicate growing acceptance of the facility.

2.3 Till date, 1689 passengers have availed the Hub and Spoke operations under I-D facility for Amritsar Airport.

3. Benefits Accrued and expected benefits

3.1 Benefits to Passengers

- Seamless international travel from Tier-II and Tier-III cities.
- Immigration and Customs at Spoke airport and through baggage transfer to final destination.
- Reduced transit time and improved travel experience.
- Increased access to international destinations through Indian hubs.

3.2 Benefits to Airlines

- Improved feeder traffic from regional cities for international services.
- Better utilisation of long-haul international network from Hub Airport.
- Increased passenger retention within the Indian aviation network.
- Opportunity to strengthen Indian metro airports as global hub airports.
- Air India has informed that, since the launch of Hub and Spoke operations, passengers originating from Varanasi have been seamlessly connected to 18 international destinations through Delhi.

3.3 Benefits to Airports

- Better utilisation of existing international airport infrastructure.
- Increased passenger throughput at Hub airports.
- Enhanced role of regional airports (Tier-II and Tier-III cities).
- Strengthening of Delhi as a major international hub.

4. Proposed Expansion to Other Spoke Airports

The Ministry is endeavouring to bring all the International Airport in India under the Hub and Spoke framework. Hub and Spoke operations from Guwahati Airport are proposed to commence from 27.10.2026.
