



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

Remodelling the UAE – India aviation partnership

Published On: 05-03-2025

Context

As the pace of growth in **India's aviation sector** — it is already the **world's third-largest** domestic market in terms of passenger numbers — continues to quicken and the Government of India's initiatives such as the Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) airport scheme are rapidly implemented, it is essential that an equally visionary approach to regulation and international partnerships is also considered.

For decades, the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has proven itself to be a close **strategic partner** and friend to India. Today, the UAE is India's most significant outbound travel market, with over 4.5 million Indian tourists visiting the UAE in 2023.

Every week, Indian carriers fly over 600 times to the UAE, while UAE carriers operate over 500 weekly services to India. On the surface, these numbers appear significant. However, they are far below meeting current, let alone, future consumer demand.

UDAN Scheme (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)

It is a regional airport development and "**Regional Connectivity Scheme**" (RCS) of the Union Government of India.

It was initially launched on October 21, **2016, for a 10-year period.**

The primary objective of the scheme is to provide **affordable and efficient air travel options** to residents of **tier-2 and tier-3 cities**, remote areas, and regions with limited or no air connectivity.

The scheme envisages providing connectivity to **unserved and underserved regions** of the country through the revival of existing airstrips and airports.

Nodal Ministry: **Ministry of Civil Aviation**

India – UAE bilateral relations

India-UAE diplomatic relations began in **1972**. In 2015 the relationship was upgraded to **strategic partnership**

Economic: The UAE is one of the largest FDI investor in India. Also, there has been an Agreement on interlinking of the instant payment platforms -**UPI (India) and AANI (UAE)**, Agreement on inter-linking domestic debit/credit cards -**RuPay (India) with JAYWAN (UAE)**

Energy Security of India: UAE is an **important supplier of crude, LNG and LPG to Indian market.**

Multilateral Cooperation: Both countries are part of various platforms such as **BRICS and I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA).**

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Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

Diaspora and people to people relations:UAE has over 3.5 million Indian diaspora constituting roughly ~35 per cent of the country's population.

PM inauguratedBochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (**BAPS**)**Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi.**

Furthering regional Connectivitythrough **India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC)** which will connect India, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, UAE and US.

Defence Cooperation: Both countries participate inInternational Defence Exhibition and Conference (**IDEX**)and theNaval Defence and Maritime Security Exhibition (**NAVDEX**)and in military exercises such as**Desert Flag and Desert Cyclone.**