

AIR INDIA RECEIVES GDP CERTIFICATION FOR CARGO BUSINESS, SETTING NEW BENCHMARK IN PHARMA LOGISTICS

- *Becomes the first Indian airline certified for Good Distribution Practices (GDP)*

GURUGRAM, 24 April 2025: Air India, India's leading global airline, has been awarded the Good Distribution Practices (GDP) certification for its Cargo business, reinforcing its commitment to delivering world-class logistics solutions for pharmaceutical products.

Air India is the first and only Indian carrier, and among a few in Asia, to have achieved this global standard for excellence in handling, storage, and transportation of time and temperature-sensitive pharmaceutical shipments.

The GDP certification validates Air India's compliance with international guidelines for the safe and secure distribution of pharmaceuticals. In the financial year 2024-25, Air India transported over 4,000 tonnes of pharmaceuticals across the globe.

"India is one of the world's key exporters of pharmaceutical products, demanding specialised logistics and precision for their transportation to other parts of the world. This certification provides a shot in the arm to our expertise and capabilities in this specialised space of logistics, assuring partners globally that we are fully equipped to safeguard the integrity of every shipment," said **Ramesh Mamidala, Head of Cargo, Air India.**

In its domestic route network, Air India's GDP-certified stations include major cargo hubs in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Indore, and Goa. Internationally, the certificate covers major gateways like New York (JFK), Newark (EWR), Chicago, London Heathrow, Frankfurt, Paris, and Amsterdam - ensuring seamless connectivity for pharmaceutical shipments both within India and globally.

Strengthening its ability to transport vaccines, biologics, and other high-value medical goods, Air India has made significant investments in enhancing its pharmaceutical handling capabilities, including:

- Partnering with GDP or CEIV-certified Cargo Terminal Operators at key airports
- Joining hands with container solution providers offering both active and passive temperature-controlled solutions
- Specialised trainings for cargo staff on IATA's Temperature Control Regulations (TCR)
- Procurement of essential equipment and tools such as thermal blankets and the introduction of a cool dolly at Delhi airport to minimise temperature deviations
- Robust Quality Systems: End-to-end documentation and monitoring processes to guarantee traceability and compliance with global standards.

Air India's GDP certification was awarded following a rigorous audit that included checks for quality manuals for pharmaceuticals, temperature-controlled warehouse and equipment, change control systems, documentation systems and processes, Corrective and Preventive Actions (CAPA) protocols, hygiene, safety and environment, as well as several assessments for risks and deviation management, etc.

With a fast modernising fleet and expanding global connectivity, Air India is poised to meet the evolving needs of the pharmaceutical sector while contributing to India's ambition to become a leading air cargo hub.

About Air India group

The Air India group – comprising of full-service global airline Air India and low-cost regional carrier Air India Express – is spearheading a new era of Indian aviation. The Air India story began in 1932 when JRD Tata piloted the airline's inaugural flight and opened the skies for aviation in India. Today, Air India group employs more than 30,000 people, operates over 300 aircraft and carries customers to 55 domestic and 48 international destinations across five continents.

Returning to the Tata Sons in 2022 following 70 years under Government ownership, Air India group is in the midst of a five-year transformation program, Vihaan.AI. As part of the transformation, Air India has placed an order for 570 new aircraft. In 2024, sister airlines Air Asia India and Vistara were successfully merged into Air India Express and Air India, respectively, and the Airline opened South Asia's largest aviation training academy. A new flying school is scheduled to open in 2025, and construction of a greenfield maintenance base, to be operational in 2026,

is underway. In addition to receiving new aircraft, all existing aircraft are progressively undergoing a full interior refit.

With transformation underway across all facets of the business and India's rich legacy of hospitality, Air India is committed to being a world class global airline with an Indian heart.

For more stories on Air India, visit <http://www.airindia.com/newsroom>

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