



Inside the Decision Room: How Air India Leads Through Geopolitical Disruption

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AIR INDIA 

Geopolitical Disruption | Airspace closures and Impact on Air India

Since 2025, we have operated in a fragmented airspace environment, with multiple strategic corridors restricted simultaneously

The Russia–Ukraine conflict keeps Ukrainian airspace completely closed, while western Russian FIRs remain high-risk

Critical neighboring airspace is closed since 24 April 2025, permanently removing a key transit corridor

The Middle East has experienced repeated closures, intensifying further in Feb–Mar 2026 due to regional escalation



Air India has primarily been hit by continued closures of the **neighboring airspace** along with the recent **Middle Eastern airspace closures**.

Earlier shorter routings have been replaced by:

- Southern long-track routings via **Arabian Sea + Saudi Arabia, or via Russia**
- **Technical halts** on select North America sectors

Operational and Commercial Impact

- Higher Flying Times
- Fuel Burn & Viability Pressures
- Operational Complexity & Risk

Geopolitical Disruption | Air India's Response

Through sustained geopolitical instability, Air India utilizes a **two-pronged approach** to ensure structured **risk governance** and network adaptation



Management Oversight for operational safety and continuity

- Air India operates the **Airspace Risk Assessment Committee (ASRAC)** comprising of Operations, Safety, Network, Dispatch and other teams
- Each affected airspace is evaluated using the OSPREY Flight Solutions risk framework, enabling:
 - Objective classification of airspace risk
 - Alignment with ICAO, DGCA, EASA and FAA advisories
- Continuous monitoring of NOTAMs, Conflict escalations, GNSS interference, and Proxy airline operations

Output: Clear go/no-go, flight and routing constraints communicated to operations teams (along with day-light/ night operations guidance)



Network Optimization

Immediate Steps for Recovery:

- Immediate focus post airspace closures was the recovery of our crew and our assets. We safely recovered all our assets and crew from different stations in Israel and Middle East

Further Recovery:

- Gradual recovery of lost network in the Middle East (flights to Dubai, Jeddah, Riyadh) post adequate safety risk assessments
- Shift to Tech-stop operations for Ultra Long-Range Flights ensuring continuity

Current Scenario:

- **Block times and schedule adjustments** are made on affected routes to minimize operational disruptions and passenger inconvenience
- Targeted Schedule Curtailments or frequency reductions are taken where:
 - Risk profile escalates
 - Economics become unsustainable

Output: Clear changes to block times and schedules to ensure operational stability and commercial viability

Air India is operating in one of the most complex airspace environments currently. Through disciplined risk assessment, continuous crew engagement and adaptive network planning, we strive towards ensuring safety, reliability, and commercial sustainability

Thanks

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