Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu

AVIATION POLICY REFORMER | FORMER UNION MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION | TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIST

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Former Union Minister of Civil Aviation who led critical reforms to expand regional connectivity, modernise aviation governance, and position India's aviation sector for sustainable, technology-driven growth. Known for combining infrastructure expansion, regulatory reform, and digital innovation to improve accessibility, efficiency, and safety.

MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP – CIVIL AVIATION

- Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India (2018–2019)
- Cabinet-level responsibility for airports, airlines, air cargo, aviation safety, policy reform, and emerging aviation technologies.

KEY REFORMS & IMPACT

Regional Connectivity & Inclusive Growth

- Accelerated implementation of the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme:
  - Awarded 69 unserved and underserved airports
  - Expanded helicopter connectivity to 31 locations
  - Introduced 6 water aerodromes, enabling air connectivity in remote and coastal regions
- Transformed air travel from a metro-centric service to a nationwide connectivity framework.

Digital Transformation & Passenger Experience

- Launched DigiYatra, India's first biometric-based digital travel platform:
  - Enabled seamless, paperless airport processing
  - Reduced congestion and waiting times
  - Set the foundation for future smart airport systems
- Improved passenger experience through technology-led service delivery.

Policy & Regulatory Framework Building

- Oversaw formulation and rollout of multiple forward-looking aviation policies, including:
  - National Air Cargo Policy – to strengthen logistics, exports, and time-sensitive supply chains
  - Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) Policy – to reduce overseas dependency and build domestic aviation services capability
  - National Green Aviation Policy – integrating sustainability into aviation growth
  - Drone Policy – laying groundwork for unmanned aerial systems in logistics, surveillance, and public services

Investment & Sector Growth

- Attracted investments into the aviation sector by:
  - Improving regulatory clarity
  - Enhancing investor confidence
  - Encouraging competition among airlines and service providers
- Supported capacity expansion through:
  - Airport modernisation
  - Construction of new airports
  - Expansion of existing airport infrastructure

Safety, Security & Governance

- Strengthened aviation safety and security frameworks in coordination with airlines, airport operators, and regulators.
- Promoted adoption of modern security technologies and safety standards aligned with global best practices.
- Enhanced institutional oversight while balancing ease of operations.

Sustainability & Future Readiness

- Integrated sustainability into aviation planning through:
  - Green aviation initiatives
  - Policy emphasis on fuel efficiency and environmental responsibility
- Positioned India's aviation ecosystem for long-term growth aligned with climate and technology transitions.

INSTITUTIONAL & POLICY LEGACY

- Expanded air connectivity to regions previously outside India's aviation map.
- Modernised aviation governance through digital systems and policy clarity.
- Prepared the sector for next-generation aviation technologies, including drones and green aviation.