

Cathay Cargo Eyes Major Expansion in India

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Dhaka: Cathay Cargo plans to increase its investments in India, recognizing the country's rise as a global manufacturing hub, said Rajesh Menon, Regional Head of Cargo for South Asia, Middle East, and Africa.

The Hong Kong-based air freight operator currently operates 13 weekly freighter services to India, with five each to Delhi and Chennai, and three to Mumbai. Menon highlighted India as a strategic market, noting the company's long-standing presence since 1953 and steady growth since launching freighter operations in 2000.

"India has always been an important market for us. The growth trajectory here is impressive, and we're eager to continue investing as part of this dynamic journey," Menon told PTI.

Government initiatives like Make in India and Gati Shakti are helping

foster investment by improving infrastructure and reducing logistics costs. Menon emphasized that these initiatives are pivotal as India expands its manufacturing sector.

Despite a shift in cargo demand with Middle Eastern players gaining market share, Menon said the competition is positive, reflecting India's growing business potential. As of October 2025, Cathay Cargo handled over 103,000 tonnes of freight in India, marking an 11% year-on-year increase.

Menon also noted rapid expansion in sectors like mobile, auto, and pharma, which are driving continued growth in India's cargo demand. While a gap remains between inbound and outbound shipments, he believes it will close as India's manufacturing ecosystem strengthens.

With India's air cargo sector targeting a 10 million-tonne capacity by 2030, Menon stressed the importance of a unified approach by government bodies to achieve this goal. He also hinted at future expansions to serve key manufacturing hubs like Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Ahmedabad.

Cathay Cargo's import market is strongest in Delhi, while Mumbai leads in exports.

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