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Director (P&S, Tariff)

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA)

Udaan Bhawan, 3rd Floor, D Block, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan

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New Delhi – 110003.

Subject - The written comments on Consultation Paper No. 07/2024-25 dated 31st January 2025,

Disparity in User Development Fee (UDF) Between Business and Economy Class:

The User Development Fee (UDF) for business class passengers (Rs. 570) is more than double that for economy class passengers (Rs. 280), even though both groups utilise the same airport infrastructure, security, and basic passenger facilities. Shouldn't airport fees be structured based on actual usage and cost allocation rather than the class of travel. What is the rationale behind such a stark difference in charges?

Higher Charges for Peak-Hour Travelers:

The new tariff structure significantly increases the cost of travel during peak hours 5am/pm and 8.55am/pm in the morning and evening making air travel even more expensive for price-sensitive consumers. Many economy-class passengers have limited flexibility in choosing travel times due to work commitments, family needs, and the availability of affordable flight options. Why should passengers pay a premium simply because they are traveling at a time of high demand, especially when alternative options may not be feasible?

Rising Costs in an Already Expensive Air Travel Market:

With air travel already becoming unaffordable for many lower-income and budget-conscious travelers, increasing charges such as the UDF and other airport fees only adds to their financial strain. Given that aviation is an essential mode of transport for many, including students, migrant workers, and middle-class families, the rising cost is not justified. What measures are being taken to ensure that air travel remains accessible and that the burden of additional fees does not disproportionately impact those who can least afford it?