Too hot to fly

Why in news?

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American Airlines cancelled nearly 50 regional flights out of Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix, Arizona.

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What is the reason?

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- Every aircraft has performance limitations that also depend on factors other than the weather.
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- The reason for cancellation was the high day temperature which was expected to touch 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
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- Extreme heat alters the density of air, making it thinner.
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- Thin air prevents generation of required ‘lift’, and makes it more difficult for aircraft to take off.
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- Thus, as it gets hotter, planes need progressively longer runways and greater engine power to reach the speeds needed to become airborne.
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- In these situations, airlines often put restrictions on onboard weight, and offload cargo and fuel to become lighter.
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- Larger jets, with more powerful engines, have higher maximum operating temperatures.
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- At these temperatures even the larger jetliners were affected.
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Source: Indian Express

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