

AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Department of Public Relations)

Press Release

Facts about the Midair scare as reported in various media.

New Delhi 25th June, 2014 – Reference may please be made to the news item carried under the caption “**Midair scare as flight drops 5000ft in seconds**” in various Print media.

The facts in this regard are as follows:

The flight Air India 410 from Patna to Delhi departed at 0937 IST and was under Radar surveillance of Varanasi and Delhi Air Traffic Control. Neither Pilot in command of flight had reported any such incident nor Radar data of the flight indicate any drop in the altitude of the flight as reported in the news item.

The Air India aircraft AI 410 was authorized to climb and maintain flight level 320 i.e., 32,000 ft. At 0956 IST, after crossing a reciprocal traffic of Turkish Airlines aircraft THY70, cruising at FL330 i.e., 33,000 ft., the aircraft was authorized to climb to FL 340 i.e., 34000ft. There was another reciprocal traffic Swiss Air flight SWR138, which was cruising at FL350 (35,000 feet) which crossed AIC 410 at 0959 IST. The altitude w.r.t. both the reciprocal traffic of Air India flight 410 was vertically separated by 1000 ft. which is a standard vertical separation as prescribed by ICAO. Hence there was no deviation from the standard ATC separation applied between Air India flight 410 and other two reciprocal traffic on the same flight path.

Under no circumstances, either during the climb or at cruising altitude, the Air India aircraft 410 had “dropped 5000 in seconds” as reported in the news item.

Such false report is only sensationalizing the issue which otherwise is a Standard Operating Procedure of the ATC and aircraft operations.

As India is a growing aviation market and air travel is one of the safe modes of transport, such false reports will adversely impact the aviation growth and may create a sense of apprehensions in the minds of the travelling public in undertaking air travel.

Accordingly, Media is requested to publish the factual position clarifying **that there was no safety infringement or flight safety hazard during the flight of Air India 410 from Patna to Delhi, so as to retain the confidence of passengers in the aviation.**

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