

Bhogi Bonfire: Request to public.

Chennai Airport, 11.01.2023: Bhogi celebration is the customary bonfire practised preceding Pongal, the harvest festival of Tamil Nadu.

In 2018, the Airfield was covered with thick smoke emanating from the bonfire reducing visibility at Chennai Airport which in turn lead to diversion(s) / cancellation(s) / delay(s) of flights, much to the inconvenience of passengers. Nearly 73 departures and 45 arrivals were affected.

However, during 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 Bhogi, through intense sensitisation among public and communities around Chennai Airport, the effect of the bonfire could be minimised with fewer disruptions in air traffic.

This time around too, as a precautionary measure and to avoid any flight disruptions, we sincerely request public staying in the proximity of Airport not to burn waste materials which creates thick smoke during 'Bhogi'. And with the present foggy weather of Chennai, characteristic of winter, the scenario can be further accentuated by the smoke from bhogi bonfire. Since such activity brings down visibility in and around Chennai Airport leading to diversion(s) / cancellation(s) as well as passenger's inconvenience, we will be extremely thankful to the valued public support for helping aviation at Chennai.

Pamphlets briefing concerns regarding ill effects of Bhogi bonfire to aviation are being distributed to villages in proximity to Chennai Airport. Also support of local administration(s) are ensured for better sensitisation and implementation.