



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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HINDUSTAN

NEW DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2024

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## Vipin Kumar takes over as chairman of AAI

Vipin Kumar, an IAS officer of 1996 batch, Bihar cadre took over as chairman of Airports Authority of India, today. Prior to this appointment, Kumar was serving as Additional Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

During his tenure at Ministry of Education, Government of India, he was looking after Samagra Shiksha Scheme, National Education Policy-2020, PM-SHRI Scheme and other important assignments.

Kumar holds a degree in Electronics & Communication Engineering. In his new assignment as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India, Shri Kumar will lead



efforts to achieve AAI's organisational goals of developing world-class airport infrastructure, leading air navigation services and providing top-of-the-line passenger facilities across the country. His role will be instrumental in charting the roadmap of Indian Aviation Sector towards realising the Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat-2047.

# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA CHENNAI 2 NOVEMBER 2024

## AAI wants airlines' support to get land for satellite terminal, access

Venkadesan.S@timesofindia.com

**Chennai:** Airport authorities are seeking 157 acres of land for a new satellite terminal and direct road access from the Tambaram-Maduravoyal Bypass Road. To push this initiative forward, they're urging airlines operating from Chennai and key stakeholders to collaborate in appealing to the Tamil Nadu govt for support.

At a recent meet with stakeholders in the city, airport master planner executive director (architect) Sujoy Dey said future expansion plans of Chennai airport depended on the state govt's decision on road access from Tambaram-Maduravoyal Bypass Road.

"So far, only the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been talking to the state govt, but it is time we represent ourselves as an industry to the state govt to secure land for the satellite terminal," he said. He said the impression that AAI is not doing enough to develop Chennai airport is false, and added that space is the biggest constraint.

In 2023, AAI announced plans to develop a satellite terminal to handle cargo and international flights between two runways, with road access linking the terminal on the Manapakkam-end with Tambaram-Maduravoyal Bypass Road. It sought 157 acres for both the terminal and road.



**GROUPTHINK:** Chennai airport master planner executive director (architect) Sujoy Dey (inset) addresses a stake-holders' meeting

This was envisaged to overcome the restrictions for cargo-carrying vehicles on busy GST Road. However, the state govt continues to be silent about land acquisition. In the latest review meeting with the state industries minister, T R B Rajaa, airport authorities reminded him about the land requirement.

Sujoy Dey also sought inputs from stakeholders to make modifications in Phase II of the under-construction international terminal in both arrivals and departures.

He mentioned that the additional bays to be developed in Phase II will function as swing bays to accommodate both smaller and wide-bodied aircraft.

To address the issue of domestic passengers arriving at Terminal 1 having to walk long distances to the multi-level car parking (MLCP), an air-conditioned bay will be created inside the terminal. This will ensure that the arriving passengers do not need to step out of the terminal to reach the airport, he said.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL MUMBAI 2 NOVEMBER 2024

HYDERABAD

## **DRI seizes Rs 7 cr worth marijuana at Hyderabad Airport**

The Department of Revenue Intelligence officials on Friday said they seized 7.096 kg of hydroponic weed (Marijuana) worth Rs 7 crore (illicit market value) from two Indian passengers coming from Bangkok.

A press release from the DRI said the passengers were intercepted on Thursday and upon searching their check-in luggage, 13 vacuum-packed transparent packets were found inside chocolate covers.

A greenish substance in lumpy form was recovered from all the 13 packets, and when tested with a field test kit, it indicated positive for marijuana, it said.

"The packets containing 7.096 kg of hydroponic weed have been seized, and the passengers have been arrested under the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985 and remanded to judicial custody."



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# **Corporate Communications Directorate**

INDIAN EXPRESS    NEW DELHI    3 NOVEMBER 2024

## **Noida airport to start 2nd stage of trial from Nov 15**

**NEETIKAJHA**  
NOIDA, NOVEMBER 2

THE NOIDA International Airport, coming up at Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar, has begun preparations for the second stage of trial operations that is set to begin on November 15.

In the second stage, flights of Akasa, IndiGo and most probably Air India will take off and land daily till December 15, said Arun Vir Singh, Chief Executive Officer of Noida International Airport Limited. The trial will continue for one month. "This data will be up-

loaded on December 20 to the DGCA (Director General of Civil Aviation) website and then we will apply for aerodrome licensing," Singh added.

The airport authorities expect to get the licence by March 20 and operations are expected to start in full swing on April 17, 2025, with 30 flights operating on the first day, a senior official said on Saturday. He added that this will include international flights for Zurich, Singapore and Dubai.

"Initially, we plan to operate 30 flights, of which 25 would be domestic flights, three international and two cargo flights," Singh said.



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# Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

NEW DELHI

2 NOVEMBER 2024

**सबसे बड़ा एयरपोर्ट** दूसरे चरण का ट्रायल 15 नवंबर से, इसके बाद मिलेगा लाइसेंस  
**अप्रैल में शुरू हो सकता है नोएडा का हवाईअड्डा**

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

patrika.com

नोएडा, पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के जेवर में स्थित नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा अपने दूसरे चरण के परीक्षण (ट्रायल ऑपरेशन) के लिए तैयार हैं। यह परीक्षण 15 नवंबर से शुरू होगा। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी अरुणवीर सिंह ने बताया कि परीक्षण के इस चरण में अकासा, इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया के उड़ानें 15 दिसंबर तक रोजाना टेक ऑफ



जेवर में स्थित नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा।

और टेक ऑन होंगे। सिंह ने कहा, 'इस डेटा को 20 दिसंबर को डीजीसीए की वेबसाइट पर अपलोड किया जाएगा और फिर हम एरोड्रम लाइसेंस के लिए आवेदन करेंगे।' एयरपोर्ट के एक शीर्ष

अधिकारी ने बताया कि मार्च 2025 तक लाइसेंस मिलने की उम्मीद है। 17 अप्रैल, 2025 को पहले दिन 30 उड़ानों के साथ पूर्ण रूप से परिचालन शुरू हो जाएगा।

शोध @ पेज04

**खास बातें**

**7200** एकड़ में 5 रनवे के साथ भारत का सबसे बड़ा।

**0** कार्बन उत्सर्जन (नेट जीरो) वाला देश का पहला।

**5** वां अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट होगा उत्तर प्रदेश का।

**29,560** करोड़ रुपए है प्रोजेक्ट की लागत।

**1.2** करोड़ सालाना शुरुआती यात्री क्षमता जो बढ़कर होगी 7 करोड़।

**21** मिनट में दिल्ली से पहुंचा जा सकेगा प्रस्तावित हाई स्पीड ट्रेन से।



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THE TRIBUNE      NEW DELHI      3 NOVEMBER 2024

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## Smog: 3 flights diverted to Chandigarh

**CHARANJIT SINGH TEJA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**AMRITSAR, NOVEMBER 2**

Low visibility due to dense smog after Diwali severely impacted flight operations at Shri Guru Ram Das Jee International Airport here as three flights — one international and two domestic — were diverted to Chandigarh due to poor visibility this morning.

The AQI of Amritsar was 325 on Saturday morning, which falls in 'very poor' category. Dense fog hit the visibility on the runway too.

A flight from Dubai, initially scheduled to land at 7:40 am, and domestic flights from Mumbai and Hyderabad, operated by

Vistara, scheduled to land at 7:55 am and 11:15 am, respectively, were diverted to the capital.

Airport director Sanjeev Agarwal said, "The runway visual range (RVR) did not match the requirements of pilots. The visibility improved by 12 noon and all diverted flights returned to the airport by 1.20 pm following which the flight operations are normal."

Passengers faced inconvenience due to the sudden diversion of their flights to Chandigarh. Airline officials claimed that they provided necessary services to passengers at the Chandigarh airport, arranging further

travel for affected passengers. However, passengers expressed frustration over the last-minute diversion.

Airport officials claimed that the ongoing pollution crisis might continue to affect air traffic in Amritsar. Even as the airport is equipped with the CAT-III system for landing and take-off of aircraft in low visibility, the pilots needed runway visual range as per their set criteria, said Agarwal. Severe air pollution due to bursting of firecrackers on Diwali, stubble burning and weather conditions made landing at the Amritsar airport a significant challenge, he added.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2024

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## Ammo cartridge found in Dubai-Delhi AI flight

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 2

The Delhi police are probing a case of security breach after a live cartridge was found in a pocket seat of an Air India flight landing from Dubai recently, officials said on Saturday.

According to a police officer, an Air India staff found the live round of ammunition during routine cleaning on a flight on October 27. Following this, an FIR was registered under the Arms Act and a probe has been initiated, he said.

Air India spokesperson in a statement said, "One

ammunition cartridge was found in the pocket of a seat of our flight AI916 after it had landed from Dubai at Delhi on October 27, and all passengers had safely disembarked."

"A complaint was immediately lodged with the Airport police by Air India strictly adhering to the laid down security protocols," the statement read.

The recovery of live round of ammunition comes amid several airlines receiving hoax bomb threats. According to a report, more than 510 domestic and international flights have received hoax bomb threats in the past two weeks.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

NEW DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2024

## खराब मौसम के कारण विस्तारा की मुंबई-अमृतसर उड़ान डायवर्ट

मुंबई। मुंबई एयरपोर्ट से अमृतसर खाना हुई विस्तारा की एक उड़ान को खराब मौसम के



कारण चंडीगढ़ डायवर्ट किया गया। विस्तारा ने सोशल मीडिया पर दी जानकारी में बताया कि

शनिवार को मुंबई से खाना उड़ान यूके695 को अमृतसर एयरपोर्ट पर खराब मौसम के कारण चंडीगढ़ डायवर्ट कर दिया गया। एजेंसी



**भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण**  
**AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

# **Corporate Communications Directorate**

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DECCAN CHRONICLE    HYDERABAD    2 NOVEMBER 2024

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## **Direct flight to Phuket, Thailand launched**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI, NOV. 1:

Thai AirAsia has launched a direct flight service from Chennai to Phuket - a popular tourist destination in Thailand. The service will

be operated thrice a week on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Besides, Ethiopian Airlines has increased its flight services from Chennai to Addis Ababa from three times a week to four times due

to the high demand. The Air India Express has also launched daily flights from Chennai to Goa, Jaipur and Pune. Indigo Airlines has also started weekly services from Chennai to Vadodara.

# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAILY GUARDIAN NEW DELHI 2 NOVEMBER 2024

## Air India's flagship A350 now flies on Delhi-NY route

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Tata Group-owned Air India has launched its flagship Airbus A350-900 aircraft on the daily, non-stop route between Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL) and New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK). This deployment marks the airline's latest step in elevating the passenger experience on its U.S. routes following the carrier's privatization.

In addition to the Delhi-JFK route, Air India plans to expand its A350 service to Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), with five weekly flights slated to begin on January 2, 2025.

The inaugural flight, designated as AI101, departed Delhi at 2:49 AM IST aboard an A350-900, registered under the tail number VT-JRI. It is scheduled to touch down at New York's JFK at 7:40 AM EDT. This introduction of the A350 to the New York route follows the recent deployment of

the same aircraft model on the Delhi-London route, as part of Air India's comprehensive transformation strategy.

The A350 introduces a suite of upgrades aimed at enriching the in-flight experience for passengers travelling to New York. The aircraft features redesigned interiors and includes private suites in Business Class, a dedicated Premium Economy cabin, an advanced Inflight Entertainment (IFE) system, improved catering, and newly designed serviceware. In Business Class, travellers can enjoy 28 private suites in a 1-2-1 configuration, each equipped with a lie-flat bed, direct aisle access, a sliding privacy door, and a personal wardrobe.

Air India's A350 Premium Economy cabin, which debuts on the Delhi-New York route, offers 24 extra-leg-room seats in a 2-4-2 layout, marking the airline's first introduction of Premium Economy on U.S.-bound flights. This new seating



option provides passengers with an intermediate choice between Economy and Business Class, with enhanced comfort for long-haul travel.

The airline is also preparing to roll out onboard Wi-Fi connectivity for international A350 flights, allowing passengers to stay connected during the journey. This feature is expected to become available in the coming weeks, enhancing convenience for travellers seeking internet access.

With the A350, Air India has revamped the overall onboard experience, from

upgraded bedding and amenity kits to refreshed serviceware and expanded menu options. Passengers in Business Class will receive exclusive Ferragamo amenity kits, while Premium Economy travellers will be offered kits from TUMI, enhancing the luxury experience in both cabins.

Additionally, each seat across all cabins is equipped with the state-of-the-art Panasonic eX3 Inflight Entertainment system, providing passengers with high-definition screens and access to over 3,000 hours of entertainment, including

a wide range of options in 13 international languages and 8 Indian regional languages.

Reflecting on Air India's transformational journey, CEO Campbell Wilson emphasised the A350's symbolic role in representing the "new Air India" as part of the Vihaan.AI transformation program. Wilson stated, "The A350 symbolises the 'new Air India' emerging from our 5-year Vihaan.AI transformation program post-privatisation."

Wilson highlighted the positive feedback the A350 has received since its launch on the Delhi-London route in September. He expressed his enthusiasm for expanding this premium experience to New York and noted that Air India's full interior refit of its existing fleet, set to begin in 2025, alongside new aircraft orders, reflects the airline's commitment to reaching "new heights."

Air India's U.S. operations continue to grow, with the airline already operating a substantial network of

flights to key American cities. The current schedule includes:

Delhi to Washington Dulles (IAD): Five flights per week

Delhi to New York JFK: Seven flights per week

Mumbai to New York JFK: Seven flights per week

Delhi to Chicago O'Hare (ORD): Seven flights per week

In addition to these routes, Air India operates flights to San Francisco (SFO) from three Indian cities:

Delhi to San Francisco: One daily flight

Mumbai to San Francisco: Four flights per week

Bangalore to San Francisco: Four flights per week

Furthermore, Air India also provides three weekly flights to Newark Liberty International Airport from Delhi and Mumbai.

This latest deployment of the A350 aligns with Air India's vision to strengthen its position as a premier choice for travellers on long-haul routes between India and the United States.

## दो विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी, दहशत में यात्री

जागरण संवाददाता, लखनऊ: इंडिगो के दो विमानों में बम की सूचना ने सैकड़ों यात्रियों के माथे पर एक बार फिर चिंता की लकीरें खींच दीं। लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने जांच की तो सूचना अफवाह मिलने पर विमानों को उड़ान भरने की अनुमति दे दी गई। यहां पिछले तीन सप्ताह के भीतर 10 विमानों में बम की सूचना मिल चुकी है। एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन इस बारे में जानकारी होने से इन्कार कर रहा है।

इंडिगो के विमान (उड़ान संख्या 6ई196) ने बेंगलुरु से दोपहर एक बजे उड़ान भरी थी। सूत्र बताते हैं कि उड़ान भरने के कुछ देर बाद ही विमान में बम होने की सूचना मिली। एटीसी ने इस बारे में विमान के पायलट को सूचित किया। विमान दोपहर 3:36 बजे लखनऊ में लैंड हुआ। इसके बाद सुरक्षा एजेंसियां सक्रिय हुईं तो यात्रियों को बम

- दिल्ली से ओडिशा जा रहे विमान को लखनऊ में लैंड कराकर जांच
- बेंगलुरु से लखनऊ आए विमान में भी थी सूचना, हलकान रहे यात्री

होने की भनक लगी। यात्रियों को एयरपोर्ट ले जाया गया और विमान को आइसोलेशनवे पर ले जाकर सीआइएसएफ, बम निरोधक दस्ते और अन्य एजेंसियों ने जांच की। सब सामान्य मिला। इसी तरह दिल्ली से झारसुगुड़ा (ओडिशा) के लिए उड़ान भरने के बाद इंडिगो के विमान (उड़ान संख्या 6ई458) में बम की सूचना दी गई। इस विमान को भी लखनऊ में लैंड कराया गया। जब यात्रियों को बम की जानकारी मिली तो कई घबरा गए। विमान की जांच में सब सामान्य मिला। 45 मिनट के बाद विमान को झारसुगुड़ा के लिए उड़ान भरने की अनुमति दे दी गई।

# Will Tech Unravel the Mystery of MH370?

Anil Nair & Shailesh Haribhakti

While some are betting on a ground-breaking technology to crack the decade-long puzzle around the Malaysian aircraft, aviation industry should deploy AI tools to guide us towards safer skies

It has been a decade since Malaysian Airways Flight MH370 disappeared from the horizon in the biggest aviation mystery ever. Despite intense efforts, including by the governments of Malaysia, China, Vietnam and Australia, and various agencies, the world had reconciled to the possibility that this decade-long mystery, involving vast skies and ocean depths, would remain unresolved. But a new ground-breaking technology, called Weak Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR), could uncover its final resting place. And if reports are to be believed, tech mavens like Elon Musk are betting on WSPR to solve the riddle.

Incidentally, Musk waded into the mystery recently by rubbing claims by an X user that aliens could be behind the vanishing act. "I have seen no evidence of aliens. If I did, I would post about it on X instantly! SpaceX has almost 6000 satellites in orbit and not once have we had to manoeuvre around aliens," he commented.

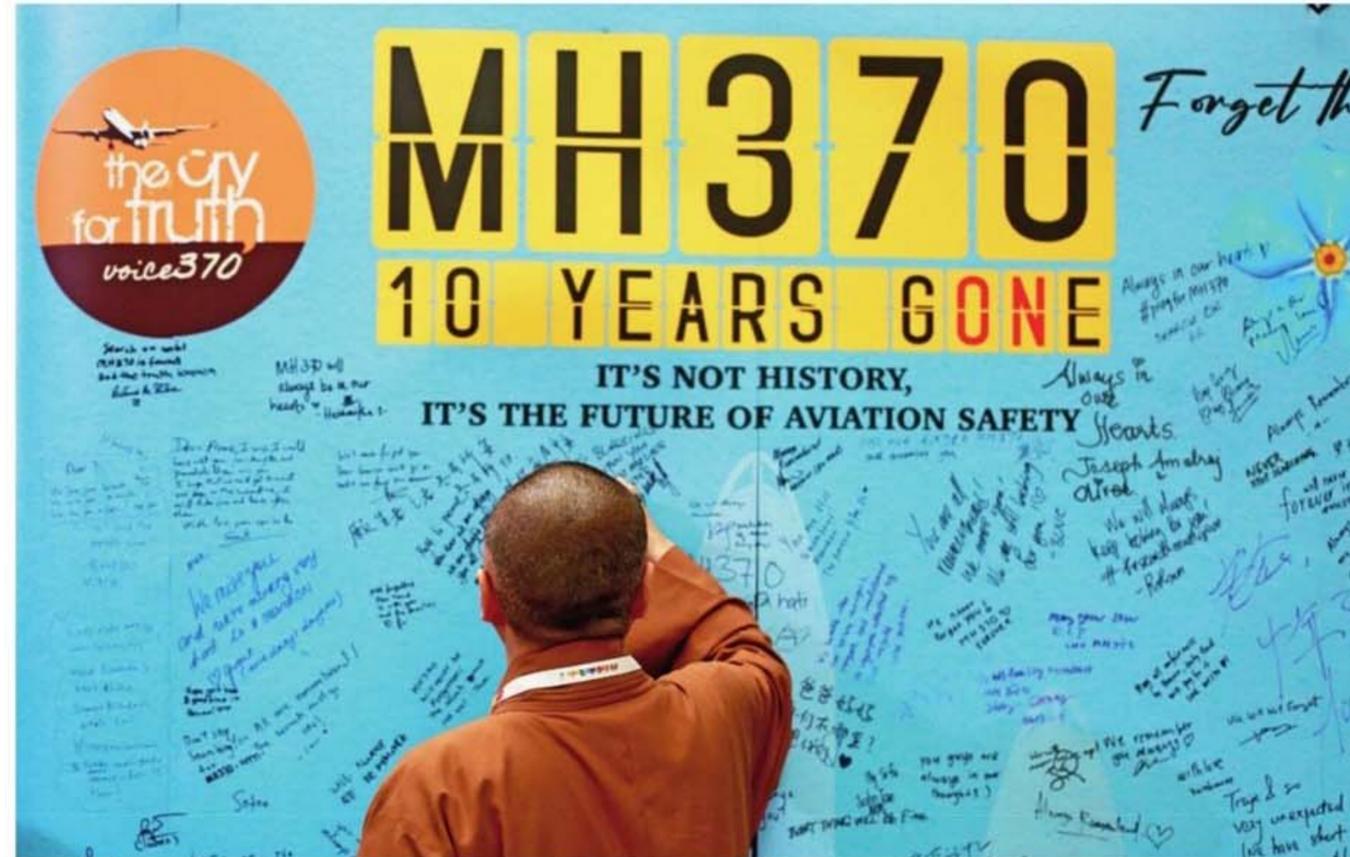
MH370 vanished from the radar en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, leading to extensive search efforts across the South China Sea, the Malacca Strait

**AI is playing an increasingly vital role in aviation. AI algorithms, delving into vast amounts of data, can predict potential equipment and part failures, reducing downtimes and increasing safety**

and the Indian Ocean. Despite years of search, only some scattered debris has been found, leaving many questions unanswered. The two black boxes seemed elusive, despite Australia launching an exhaustive underwater search with robots. After two years, the intensity of a \$200 million search campaign in air and sea slowed, as a sense of inevitability about disappointing outcomes crept in.

Among the more sensational theories surrounding MH370 is the idea that it may have disappeared into a mini black hole, possibly influenced by extraterrestrial forces. This sounds like science fiction, but raises questions about our understanding of space and time. The mystery of the MH370 tragedy is

provocation enough for the aviation industry to shake off conservatism, and seek answers with rapid deployment of newer technologies, in newer ways. GPS guidance, for instance, finds extensive use in navigation, approach, landing and emergency procedures, but is vulnerable to interference and jamming. Even more, with geopolitical tensions on the rise. Alternatives



Visitors writing messages on the Day of Remembrance for MH370 in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, on March 3, 2024

like VORs (very high frequency omnidirectional ranges) and DME (distance measuring equipment) could suffer from such vulnerabilities too.

## AI IN AVIATION

Artificial intelligence is playing an increasingly vital role in aviation,

particularly in safety. AI algorithms, delving into vast amounts of data from sensors and past records, can predict potential equipment and part failures before they occur, evoking pre-emptive actions, reducing down times and increasing safety. AI tools can optimise scheduling, analysing

weather and congestion patterns, reducing fuel consumption and minimising the carbon footprint. And AI-driven systems provide real-time pilot assistance, including for avoiding potential air collisions.

Yet, there are many voices now demanding that AI systems be

designed with ethical guardrails to prevent them from acting against human interests, with a renewed emphasis on facilitating controlled learning. AI has to be leveraged, not as a replacement for human intelligence, but to create collaborative systems that enhance human comprehension and decision-making.

Quantum technology could make an even bigger difference to aviation safety and sustainability. Recent tests have successfully demonstrated that with quantum sensors, planes could maintain accurate positioning even when traditional GPS signals are compromised, which will revolutionise aircraft navigation.

The unique properties of quantum mechanics can be leveraged. Quantum particles existing in multiple states simultaneously can enable fast, parallel processing and solve optimisation problems, including fuel-efficient routes and better scheduling; quantum particles being linked regardless of distance is ideal for encrypted, secure communication and precision navigation; and quantum tunnelling that helps particles pass through barriers is useful in

developing alternative lightweight materials. Arguably, quantum computing could also put classical computing in the shade, solving problems in seconds that classical computers would take a thousand years or more to do.

Now imagine the impact of quantum AI. While it is universally accepted that AI can perform tasks much faster and far more comprehensively than humans, reservations about AI not having emotions, empathy, or an ethical core. When you add the raw computational power of quantum computing to the equation, we may

**Quantum tech could make a huge difference to aviation safety. With quantum sensors, planes can maintain accurate positioning even when traditional GPS signals are compromised**

well be traversing a path with unimaginable consequences.

The enigma surrounding MH370 serves as a poignant reminder of our limitations in understanding complex phenomena, be they technological failures or cosmic mysteries.

As we delve deeper into harnessing the power of emerging technologies, we must remain vigilant, ensuring that advancements serve humanity rather than pose unforeseen risks. We should prioritise ethical considerations and safety measures to ensure that our journey into this brave new world is enlightening and secure.

Lessons from Flight 370 may well guide us toward safer skies—and equally, to a more profound understanding of human significance within this vast cosmos.

*Nair is founder, Thinkstreet, and Haribhakti is an independent director on corporate boards*

# Airline lost your bag? Here's how to reunite with your luggage

Or at least be reimbursed if it's gone for good

CHRISTINE CHUNG

**WE'VE ALL BEEN** there, waiting impatiently at the baggage carousel, anxiously hoping for that first glimpse of our checked luggage. Then we breathe a sigh of relief, collect it and get on with our travels.

Or we don't. Last year in the United States, airlines lost or damaged one out of 200 checked bags. It's a small slice of the millions of bags flown each year, but a lost bag can have oversize consequences.

Airlines have a series of steps passengers need to follow to be reunited efficiently with their lost items — or at the very least, receive compensation for them. Brace yourself, though, as the process can be time-consuming.

First double-check, and wait at least another 20 minutes. When a bag fails to appear on the carousel, most airlines report that it's usually just delayed, not lost. Scan the carousel again, and also the separate oversize-luggage area. You can also use the airline's app, as some carriers, like Southwest Airlines, United Airlines and Delta Air Lines, allow you to track your bag in real time, with details about when it was loaded

or unloaded from the plane.

File a missing-bag report as soon as you can. If your bag is not to be seen, get the word out fast. To report a missing bag, you must typically file within a few hours of arrival for a domestic flight and within a week for an international flight. If you flew using more than one airline, you file with the carrier that operated the final leg of your trip. Before leaving the airport, check your airline's website or contact the carrier to determine how you should file a report: online, by phone or in person. Some carriers, like Alaska Airlines, require the documentation to be filed in person. This document, called a property irregularity report, can be filed at the baggage claim's service office. For all carriers, you'll need your flight's confirmation number and your baggage receipt or bag tag. You'll be assigned a file reference number, which will be crucial for correspondence later on in the process.

Your airline may cover necessary expenses while your bag is missing. Keep the receipts. While they search for your luggage, airlines will generally reimburse the cost of immediate needs like clothing, toi-



letries and other essential items that disappeared with your bag. Amounts vary: Korean Air offers a one-time \$50 reimbursement, while Delta will generally pay up to \$50 per day, for five days.

Not all airlines publicly disclose how much they reimburse. If you have expenses beyond essential items, such as equipment rentals, it's worth submitting them for reimbursement. Select credit cards will also reimburse these costs after a bag's been missing for a certain amount of time. The

United Explorer Card will cover up to \$100 a day in essential items for five days. Travel insurance may also cover these purchases. Additionally, some airlines, including Delta and Alaska, will provide bonus miles for the inconvenience of a missing bag if you notify them within a few hours of your flight's arrival.

In US, if your bag has been missing for over 12 hours for a domestic flight, or 15 hours after an international flight, you can request a refund for your checked bag fees.

Practise patience while airlines conduct a manual and electronic search. If the carrier finds your bag, you will be notified by email or phone and asked where to have it delivered. United will search for 30 days and will send regular email updates during this period. Other airlines, such as Delta, KLM and Air France, search for 21 days. Alaska says it will search for up to six weeks.

If an airline doesn't make a determination after a bag has been missing for an "unreasonable amount of time," it could be subject to enforcement by the US Transportation Department. As a last resort, file a complaint with the Transportation Department. After five days and no bag, you may need to file another claim. This can be completed on an airline's website, even for carriers that required an in-person filing of the initial claim. Again, you'll need documentation for the flight and your missing luggage, and the file reference number from that first report. You'll be asked for further details about your bag and its contents, and to estimate the value of the missing items. Use as much detail as possible here, including the colour, brand and size of various items.

If you submit receipts for items purchased while your bag was missing, these costs will be deducted from the final reimbursement if your bag is deemed lost. If it's truly gone, expect limits on the total reimbursement amount. For domestic flights, airlines will generally pay a maximum of \$3,800 per passenger. The compensation required by law for international flights is lower, about \$1,700 per person, though airlines can opt, in a case-by-case basis, to pay more.

For domestic travel, there are no cost limits for assistive devices, like canes or

wheelchairs, that are lost. Airlines won't cover certain items they say shouldn't be checked, including camera equipment, cash, jewellery, art, furs, antlers and historical artifacts. File an additional claim with a travel insurance provider, or with your credit card, if applicable.

This is considered a secondary benefit. You'll need your initial report from the airline and that file reference number, along with the same information about your itinerary and your belongings. Some credit cards, like American Express Platinum and Chase's Sapphire Reserve and Preferred cards, will reimburse up to \$3,000. You'll be asked for details about your claim with the airline and to show what the airline approved or denied. The process can be lengthy. Elad Schaffer, the chief executive of Faye, a travel insurance company, said most travel insurance policies will reimburse only after determining what the airline has already paid.

Consider these best practices to better your chances next time. Travel experts suggest placing a Bluetooth tracker, like an Apple AirTag in your bag; attaching a unique identifier, like a brightly coloured belt, to your bag; and photographing the bag's contents before heading to the airport. And don't skip the luggage tag, with your name and contact information. Finally, avoid short layovers when checking a bag, advised Byron Smith, the chief technology officer at Reunitus, a lost-item resolution company that works with airlines.

"The most common cause of baggage delays is short time windows," Smith said. "The good news is most bags get where they're supposed to."

—NYT



## Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL MUMBAI 2 NOVEMBER 2024

### Air India to deploy A350 services on ultra-long-haul routes

**PTI**

MUMBAI

Private carrier Air India on Friday commenced Airbus A350 services on ultra-long-haul routes with the deployment of the aircraft on the Delhi-New York route.

This comes at a time when the Tata-Group run carrier has temporarily cancelled some 60 flights to various US destinations between November 15 and December 31 on account of the non-availability of some of its widebody planes due to maintenance and supply chain issues.

Following the introduction of the A350-900 aircraft on the Delhi-New York flight, Air India said it will start a five times a-week A350 service from Delhi to Newark's Liberty International Airport from January 2 next year.

Air India currently has six Airbus A350-900 aircraft in its fleet.

Generally, ultra-long-haul



**Generally, ultra-long-haul flights are those having a duration of 16 hours or more. Air India operates such flights to North America**

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The loss-making Air India had inducted the first A350-900 in the fleet in December last year. Following this, the airline initially deployed the plane on domestic routes and later on for operating medium-haul long international flights including to London from Delhi.

"Guest feedback on the

aircraft and new customer experience has been exceptionally positive since it was launched on the Delhi-London Heathrow route in September, so we are excited to now bring it to New York," said Campbell Wilson, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Air India.

Air India is also looking forward to commencing the full interior refit of existing aircraft in 2025 he added.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

NEW DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2024

## काठमांडू से आ रहे विमान में धमाके की धमकी

काठमांडू, एजेंसी। काठमांडू से नई दिल्ली आने वाली एक भारतीय एयरलाइंस की उड़ान में बम की धमकी मिली है। नेपाल के नागरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरण के अधिकारियों ने शनिवार को यह जानकारी दी।

अधिकारियों के अनुसार, विमान काठमांडू से दिल्ली के लिए उड़ान भरने

- सुरक्षा जांच में कोई भी संदिग्ध वस्तु नहीं मिली
- एक सप्ताह के अंदर दूसरी बार मिली धमकी

वाला था। अभी तक की सुरक्षा जांच के दौरान कोई भी संदिग्ध वस्तु नहीं मिली है। उन्हाई आगे पर स्थिति

फिलहाल सामान्य है।

इससे पहले सोमवार को नेपाल को एयर इंडिया की उड़ान एआई-216 में बम की झूठी सूचना मिली थी। अधिकारियों ने पुष्टि की कि नेपाल के त्रिभुवन अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे को एक सप्ताह के भीतर मिली यह दूसरी खरी सूचना थी।

# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

NEW DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2024

भारत ने सरगना की तलाश में अमेरिका-इंग्लैंड के साथ इंटरपोल से भी संपर्क साधा

## विमानों में बम की धमकी की तह में जाने को कई देशों से मांगी मदद

### सतर्कता

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। भारत में धमकियों से हवाई यात्रा को बाधित करने की कोशिश और स्कूलों को दहलाने के प्रयास का सरगना कौन है, यह तलाश अभी जारी है। भारतीय एजेंसियां अभी तक यह तय नहीं कर पाई हैं कि इनका मास्टर माइंड कौन है। ज्यादातर धमकियों के लिए ऐसे वीपीएन या इंटरनेट स्पेस का इस्तेमाल किया गया, जिनका मूल स्रोत विदेशी जमीन पर है। लिहाजा भारत अमेरिका, यूके सहित कई देशों की एजेंसियों के संपर्क में है।

खुफिया एजेंसियों के अलावा एनआईए और कई राज्यों की पुलिस मिलकर मामले की तह तक जाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं। पिछले दो हफ्तों में भारत में अंतरराष्ट्रीय और घरेलू हवाई यात्रा को बाधित करने वाली 400 से अधिक बम की अफवाहों की धमकियां मिली हैं। इनके अलावा सीआरपीएफ स्कूलों को भी धमकी दी गई। सूत्रों ने



400

से अधिक विमानों में बम होने की अफवाह वाली सूचनाएं मिलीं

### आतंकी किसी बड़ी साजिश को दे सकते हैं अंजाम

सूत्रों ने कहा कि भारतीय एजेंसियां हर धमकी को गंभीरता से ले रही हैं, क्योंकि अफवाहों के बीच में आतंकी गुट किसी बड़ी साजिश को भी अंजाम दे सकते हैं। सबसे ज्यादा संभावना इसी बात की है कि खालिस्तानी संगठन इस तरह का माहौल बना रहे हैं।

### खालिस्तान समर्थक समूह पर भी शक

अधिकारी ने कहा, इस बात के पुख्ता सबूत हैं कि कनाडा, यूके, पाकिस्तान, अमेरिका सहित कई देशों में खालिस्तानी समूह सक्रिय हैं और वे लगातार भारत विरोधी गतिविधियों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए तरह तरह के षड्यंत्र अपना रहे हैं।

### जर्मन-यूके के वीपीएन सर्वर का इस्तेमाल

सूत्रों के मुताबिक, 13 अक्टूबर से 28 अक्टूबर के बीच 15 दिनों में, 410 से अधिक घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को बम की झूठी धमकियां मिली हैं, एयर इंडिया को ऐसे दर्जनों कॉल प्राप्त हुए हैं। सूत्रों ने कहा कि भारत ने जर्मनी और यूनाइटेड किंगडम से भी इंटरनेट स्रोतों का पता लगाने के लिए संपर्क किया है। एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि हमें जर्मनी और यूके से फर्जी कॉल के बारे में विशेष जानकारी चाहिए, क्योंकि वर्चुअल प्राइवेट नेटवर्क (वीपीएन) सर्वर, जहां से ये कॉल और संदेश रूट किए जाते हैं, इन देशों में पाए गये हैं।

बताया कि भारतीय एजेंसियों ने मामले की जांच में मदद के लिए इंटरपोल से भी संपर्क किया है। भारतीय एजेंसियां यह खंगालने का प्रयास भी कर रही हैं कि कहीं भारत कनाडा के खराब हुए

रिश्तों के बीच खालिस्तानी समूह तो इस तरह की हरकतों में शामिल नहीं हैं। पहले कई मौकों पर खालिस्तानी आतंकवादी गुरुपतवंत सिंह पन्नू खुले तौर पर विमानों पर हमले की धमकी दे

चुका है। इसलिए एक आशंका यह भी है कि इससे जुड़े संगठन की शह पर ऐसी धमकियां दी जा रही हों, जिनसे दहशत फैले। पन्नू ने एयर इंडिया के विमानों को हाल में धमकी दी थी।

# Corporate Communications Directorate

INDIAN EXPRESS

NEW DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2024

## Ammunition cartridge found on Air India plane

After it operated Dubai-Delhi flight on October 27; investigation on

**SUKALP SHARMA**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

IN WHAT is being seen as a major security lapse, an ammunition cartridge was found in a seat pocket of an Air India aircraft after it operated a flight from Dubai to Delhi last Sunday (October 27), and the matter is under investigation by the police on the basis of a complaint lodged by the Tata group airline. This comes at a time when Indian airlines have been hit by scores of fake bomb threats—mostly posted on social media platform X from anonymous and unverified accounts—over the past three weeks.

“One ammunition cartridge was found in the pocket of a seat

of our flight AI916 after it had landed from Dubai at Delhi on 27 October 2024 and all passengers had safely disembarked. A complaint was immediately lodged with the Airport Police by Air India strictly adhering to the laid down security protocols. We understand the matter is under investigation by the appropriate authorities. Safety and security of our passengers and crew remain the topmost priority for Air India,” an Air India spokesperson said in a statement on Saturday.

While the airline did not comment further on the incident, given that the police investigation is underway, sources indicated that the cartridge was found by airline staff during the aircraft’s routine cleaning after its arrival at the Delhi airport

from Dubai. Officials declined to comment on the status of the probe, the angles being investigated, and whether aviation security authorities of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been roped in to assist with the probe.

Notably, over 500 flights of Indian airlines have received bomb threats since October 14, sending the airlines, airports, and security agencies into a tizzy, and forcing a few flight diversions and strict post-landing security checks and screenings in a number of cases. A vast majority of these threats, all of which have turned out to be fake so far, were posted from anonymous and unverified social media handles.

As a result, the country’s aviation security ecosystem is on

high alert and security has been enhanced at various Indian airports with the number of security screenings at various checkpoints being increased. This has been done to be doubly sure that no suspected articles are carried on board the aircraft. However, the Indian government has no control over security arrangements at airports outside India.

The relevant government ministries—including the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)—and agencies have gone into a huddle in view of these bomb threats, and are working in close coordination to deal with the spate of threats as well as ensure robustness of aviation security in the country.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

## Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST KOLKATA 2 NOVEMBER 2024

### AI to deploy A350 services on ultra-long- haul routes

**MUMBAI:** Private carrier Air India on Friday commenced Airbus A350 services on ultra-long-haul routes with the deployment of the aircraft on the Delhi-New York route.

This comes at a time when the Tata-Group run carrier has temporarily cancelled some 60 flights to various US destinations between November 15 and December 31 on account of the non-availability of some of its widebody planes due to maintenance and supply chain issues.

Following the introduction of the A350-900 aircraft on the Delhi-New York flight, Air India said it will start a five times a-week A350 service from Delhi to Newark's Liberty International Airport from January 2 next year. Air India currently has six Airbus A350-900 aircraft in its fleet. Generally, ultra-long-haul flights are those having a duration of 16 hours or more. Air India operates such flights to North America.

The loss-making Air India had inducted the first A350-900 in the fleet in December last year. Following this, the airline initially deployed the plane on domestic routes and later on for operating medium-haul long international flights including to London from Delhi.

"Guest feedback on the aircraft and new customer experience has been exceptionally positive since it was launched on the Delhi-London Heathrow route in September, so we are excited to now bring it to New York," said Campbell Wilson, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Air India.

Air India is also looking forward to commencing the full interior refit of existing aircraft in 2025 he added.

# Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

NEW DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2024

## दुबई से आए एयर इंडिया विमान में मिला कारतूस

■ पीटीआई, नई दिल्ली

दुबई से दिल्ली आने वाली एअर इंडिया फ्लाइट में कारतूस मिलने का मामला सामने आया है। घटना 27 अक्टूबर की है, लेकिन जानकारी शनिवार को सामने आई है। एयरलाइंस ने इसकी शिकायत भी दर्ज कराई है।

एक पुलिस अधिकारी के अनुसार एयर इंडिया के कर्मों को 27 अक्टूबर को उड़ान की नियमित सफाई कर रहे थे, उसी दौरान सीट के पीछे लगी एक पॉकेट में यह कारतूस मिला। मामले में सशस्त्र अधिनियम के तहत केस दर्ज कर जांच शुरू की गई है। कारतूस मिलने की बात ऐसे समय सामने आई, जब एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट्स समेत कई कंपनियों को बम की फर्जी धमकी मिल रही है।

एयर इंडिया ने दर्ज कराई शिकायत, जांच शुरू



### सीट की पॉकेट से हुआ बरामद

एयरलाइंस के प्रवक्ता ने बताया, फ्लाइट AI916 जैसे ही दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर लैंड हुई। उसकी एक सीट की पॉकेट में कारतूस मिला। सभी पैसजर्स को सुरक्षित उतार लिया गया था। वहीं एयर इंडिया के प्रवक्ता का कहना है कि तय सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल का सख्ती से पालन करते हुए एयर इंडिया की ओर से एयरपोर्ट पुलिस में शिकायत दर्ज कराई गई है।

# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

NEW DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2024

## No longer a hoax, live cartridge found on Dubai-Delhi flight

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a major security breach, Air India on Saturday reported the discovery of an ammunition cartridge in the pocket of a seat on a flight from Dubai to Delhi on October 27. The cartridge was found on flight AI916 after it had landed at Indira Gandhi International Airport in the national capital, with all passengers safely leaving the plane. Following this, an FIR was registered under the Arms Act and a probe has been initiated.

"One ammunition cartridge was found in the pocket of a seat of our flight AI916 after it had landed from Dubai at Delhi on October 27, and all passengers had safely disembarked," an Air India spokesperson confirmed. The airline emphasised that passenger and crew safety is its top priority and assured the public that it is working closely with airport security and law enforcement to ensure all protocols are observed and the matter is thoroughly investigated.

The police shared news on Saturday, an Air India staff found the live round of ammunition during routine cleaning on a flight on October 27. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Indira Gandhi International Airport) Usha Rangnani said, "On October 27, Indira Gandhi International Airport Police registered an FIR under the Arms Act after Air India staff found a live round of ammunition during routine cleaning on a flight. "She added that



the case is under investigation and further details will be shared as the investigation progresses.

However, this incident raises questions about potential lapses in security measures either at the Dubai departure airport or during the screening process, and investigators are expected to examine surveillance footage and passenger records as part of their probe.

This comes after over 500 threat messages received by Indian carriers, many of which turned out to be hoaxes. Several air operators have reported such threats on their social media platforms, resulting in flight delays as thorough searches were conducted. To date, most of these threats have proven to be false alarms. Besides huge financial losses to airlines, these threats were spread across social media platforms, creating panic among the passengers.

Continued on page 2

## No longer a hoax, live cartridge...

From page 1

According to a police officer, an Air India staff found the live round of ammunition during routine cleaning on a flight on October 27. "A complaint was immediately lodged with the Airport Police by Air India, strictly adhering to the laid down security protocols" the airlines added on action taken. A cartridge, commonly known as a round or shell, is a type of pre-assembled ammunition packaging a projectile (bullet), propellant, and primer within a casing, typically made of metal. Cartridges are designed to be fired from

firearms, and their presence on an aircraft is strictly prohibited due to security concerns.

Earlier, an Air India flight AI 216 which was set to return to New Delhi on Monday received a bomb threat. It is the second hoax call that Nepal's

Tribhuvan International Airport has received within a week, officials confirmed. The Air India flight which landed at 2.41 pm (Nepal Standard Time) on Monday afternoon at Tribhuvan International Airport had received a bomb threat prompting authorities to activate the emergency protocol.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

TELEGRAPH KOLKATA 2 NOVEMBER 2024

## Jet fuel price raised by 3.3%

OUR SPECIAL  
CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: Jet fuel, or ATF, price on Friday was hiked by 3.3 per cent and the rate of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants increased by ₹62 per 19-kg cylinder in the monthly revision done in line with international oil price trends.

The aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was increased by ₹2,941.5 per kilolitre, or 3.3 per cent, to ₹90,538.72 per kl in the national capital, according to state-owned fuel retailers.

The hike comes after two rounds of reduction that had taken the rates to their lowest this year.

ATF price on October 1 was cut by 6.3 per cent (₹5,883 per kl) and by ₹4,495.5 per kl, or 4.58 per cent on September 1.

The ATF rate in Mumbai was increased to ₹84,642.91 per kl on Friday from ₹81,866.13 previously. Oil firms also increased the price of commercial LPG by ₹62 to ₹1,802 per 19-kg cylinder.

## Corporate Communications Directorate

TELEGRAPH KOLKATA 2 NOVEMBER 2024

# Boeing nears wage deal

Seattle: Striking Boeing will vote on Monday on an improved contract offer that includes a 38 per cent pay rise over four years, a larger signing bonus and carries the endorsement of their union, which told members it had extracted all it could from the plane maker.

The latest offer, presented on Thursday, comes at a critical moment for Boeing, which this week announced it would raise up to \$24.3 billion to shore up its battered finances as a seven-week strike by more than 33,000 US West Coast factory workers worsens its cash burn.

"In every negotiation and strike, there is a point where we have extracted everything that we can in bargaining and by withholding our labour. We are at that point now and risk a regressive or lesser offer in



### END IN VIEW?

the future," the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) said.

Members rejected two earlier offers from Boeing.

The plane maker's shares rose 2.8 per cent in after-hours trading after the offer was announced earlier in an exclusive report by Reuters. Shares had closed down 3.2 per cent on Thursday.

Talks between the two sides were held this week with

the assistance of Acting US Secretary of Labour Julie Su, who praised the union and Boeing for their hard work in negotiating the deal.

The union vote will come the day before the US presidential poll, which is a dead heat between Democrat Kamala Harris, who would be expected to continue the Biden administration's pro-union policies, and Republican Donald Trump.

President Joe Biden congratulated the union and Boeing's leadership on negotiating a new contract proposal, a White House spokesperson said, adding Biden "believes Machinists at Boeing have sacrificed over the years and deserve a strong contract".

An approved deal would be a boost for new Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg.

Reuters



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
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## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA NEW DELHI 3 NOVEMBER 2024

# Amid hoax calls, cartridge found in flight from Dubai

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Amid almost a month-old deluge of hoax threats to flights, Air India on Oct 27 found an ammunition cartridge in the pocket of a seat of an aircraft that had flown into Delhi from Dubai. It is not yet known whether the cartridge was carried on board at Dubai by a passenger, indicating a security lapse at the airport there, or it was already in the aircraft when it arrived in Dubai for the return flight back home.

“One ammunition cartridge was found in the pocket of a seat of our flight AI916 after it had landed from Dubai at Delhi on Oct 27, 2024, and all passengers had safely disembarked. A complaint was immediately lodged with the airport police by Air India, strictly adhering to the laid down security protocols,” said an Air India spokesperson, adding that the matter is under investigation.

According to a police officer, an Air India staffer found the live cartridge during the routine cleaning of the flight. Fol-

lowing this, an FIR was registered under Arms Act and a probe has been initiated, he said.

Since Oct, hundreds of flights, both domestic and international, by Indian carriers and a few of foreign airlines have been receiving hoax threat messages, which disrupted flight schedules, causing huge passenger inconvenience and losses to airlines. While the authorities have managed to keep diversions due to these threats at a bare minimum, the aircraft have to undergo thorough check on landing after getting a threat, causing delays.

On Saturday, a number of flights got threats. IndiGo alone was threatened for 15 flights, of which three were diverted — Goa-Kolkata (6E162) diverted to Hyderabad, Delhi-Jharsuguda (6E458) to Lucknow and Bengaluru-Jeddah (6E77) to Mumbai. “In line with our strict safety protocols, all necessary precautions are being taken and we are working closely with the relevant authorities. The safety and security of our customers

and crew remain our highest priority. We regret any inconvenience caused to our customers and appreciate their understanding during this time,” IndiGo said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), which is the nodal agency for aviation security, is headless after its director general, Zulfikar Hasan, retired on Oct 31. Senior IPS officer Amrit Mohan Prasad, director general of Sashastra Seema Bal, is holding additional charge as BCAS DG. “A full-time BCAS chief is yet to be finalised,” said a senior official.

Aviation industry insiders say they hope a full-time BCAS chief is appointed at the earliest given the spate of hoax bomb threats being received since early Oct. With threats continuing to pour in almost daily, airlines say a full-time crisis needs a full-time BCAS head.

Without compromising safety, BCAS has tweaked the protocol for handling the current deluge of threats to keep diversions to a minimum.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA BANGALORE 2 NOVEMBER 2024

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## Lufthansa to launch first-class suites

**Bengaluru:** Lufthansa is set to introduce its Allegris first class suites on Bengaluru-Munich flights starting Nov 9, and Mumbai-Munich ones will get them from Nov 15. These premium flights will operate alternately, showcasing the new first class experience on long-haul routes.

Equipped with two individual suites and the exclusi-

### **MUNICH FLIGHT**

ve 'Suite Plus' on the A350-900 aircraft, the first class travel marks a significant upgrade in luxury and comfort, airline sources said.

Designed to set new standards, each first class suite features an almost one-metre-wide seat with customisable heating and cooling, ceiling-

high walls, and a lockable door for added privacy. Guests will enjoy a large personal screen, wireless over-ear headphones and individual lighting to create a personalised ambience. The suite includes a personal wardrobe too.

Suite Plus offers an additional level of comfort by allowing guests to travel with a partner in a shared space.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA CHENNAI 2 NOVEMBER 2024

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## **SriLankan airlines adds Trichy-Colombo service**

**Trichy:** SriLankan Airlines has added one more service between Trichy and Colombo, raising the number of services a week to eight. Aviation analysts said the new flight on Thursdays and a service each on other days of the week would benefit passengers heading to London, Kuwait city, Doha, Riyadh and Dammam. TNS

## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA HYDERABAD 2 NOVEMBER 2024

# Fares soar as cancellation of AI's 60 US flights leaves travellers stranded

### Travel Season Hit As Other Airlines Too Fully Booked

Amisha.Rajani  
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**Hyderabad:** The cancellation of 60 Air India (AI) flights on the US-India route has disrupted holiday plans for many, including students headed home for their winter break. The reduced services has led to a surge in fares of other airlines, with economy-class prices rising by 15% to 20% and business-class fares seeing an unprecedented 100% increase.

The steepest fare hikes are observed in the second half of December, a peak travel season when thousands prepare for holiday trips.

"A round trip to San Franci-



**ECONOMY CLASS SEES 15% RISE, BIZ 100%**

- Cancellation of 60 flights to US triggered soaring fares
- Round trip to San Francisco in business class doubled to ₹7L

- AI offered to postpone flights or rebook with partner airlines
- Partner airlines fully booked; postponing not feasible for many
- Students face increased financial strain due to fare hikes
- Many frustrated by inability to rebook or change plans

co, for example, which usually costs around Rs 3.5 lakh in business class, has now jumped to touch Rs 7 lakh. International airlines like Emirates are quoting even higher prices. The economy class tickets have also soared from the usual Rs 1.5 lakh for a round trip to Rs 1.8 lakh," said Abdul Majeed Faheem, chairman of the Travel Agents Federation of India (Telangana and AP Chapter).

"The real impact on bookings due to these price hikes will be clearer as we approach the peak period in the latter part of December," he added.

The impact of the cancellations has particularly left students troubled, many of whom planned their trips months in advance. Meenakshi Parvathi, a graduate student at Columbia University who had saved for over months to afford her

trip to Hyderabad to spend winter holidays with her family is crest-fallen.

"I did everything to avoid the December rush, and was set to book in the first week of November," Meenakshi shared. "Last month, my round-trip fare was around Rs 1.5 lakh, but I was waiting to save up the full amount. Now, the price has surged to about Rs 2 lakh," said the graduate student.

"Their partner airlines too are fully booked, and postponing dates isn't feasible for many of us. We only get a week or, at most, 10 days off during the holidays — changing the dates isn't a realistic solution," said Keerthi Takkellapatti, a Hyderabad-based tech professional. "Also, the refund process takes time. Else, we could have used the same funds to book ourselves on another flight," he added.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

NEW DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2024

## **Ammo found inside AI flight, probe launched**

**TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

**NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2**

The police are investigating a security breach after a live cartridge was found in the seat pocket of an Air India flight that had recently arrived from Dubai, police officials said on Saturday. Officials said that the incident occurred on October 27 during routine cleaning.

DCP (IGI Airport), Usha Rangnani said, "An Air India staff member found the live round of ammunition during routine cleaning on the flight." A case under the Arms Act has been registered and a formal probe launched.

Air India confirmed the incident in a statement, "One ammunition cartridge was found in the pocket of a seat of our flight AI916 after it had landed from Dubai at Delhi on October 27, and all passengers had safely disembarked." The airline said they strictly adhered to the security protocols. This incident occurred against the backdrop of heightened tension as security agencies reportedly received over 400 hoax calls in the last two weeks alone.



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THE TRIBUNE

NEW DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2024

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## Probe underway as cartridge recovered from Air India flight

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

The police are probing a case of security breach after a live cartridge was found in a pocket seat of an Air India flight

landing from Dubai recently.

According to the police, staff found the live ammunition during cleaning on a flight on October 27. —PTI



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# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TRIBUNE

NEW DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2024

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## Amid rise in hoax bomb cases, SSB chief Prasad gets charge of civil aviation bureau

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Over 300 flights were impacted in October

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NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

Amid rising cases of hoax calls regarding bombs on airplanes, which have led to disruptions across the Indian airlines' operations, senior IPS officer and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Director General Anrit Mohan Prasad has been given additional charge of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

Sources said Prasad took charge at the BCAS headquarters on November 1, a day after incumbent Zulfiqar Hasan retired on October 31.

The temporary measure had to be taken as nobody's candidature had yet been finalised to head the BCAS, which is the key body for combating any kind of security threats to the

Indian aviation sector.

While BCAS is responsible for prescribing security measures by laying aviation security standards in accordance with Annexure 17 to the Chicago Convention of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the CISF implements the rules prescribed by BCAS.