



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

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Airports Authority of India studies 5 spots for Hosur airport

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CHENNAI, DHNS

At the request of the Tamil Nadu government, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has studied five potential sites in and around Hosur for the ambitious greenfield airport project being piloted by the DMK dispensation.

The five sites include the private airstrip owned by Taneja Aerospace and Aviation Limited (TAAL) in Hosur, in one of the initial steps towards realising an airport in the indus-

trial town located just outside Bengaluru.

Sources told *DH* that the study was akin to the AAI's survey of four sites in and around Chennai to develop a second airport for the Tamil Nadu capital—Parandur, chosen by the state government for building the new facility, was one of the locations suggested by the AAI.

“AAI's study has been completed. A total of five locations in the Krishnagiri district shortlisted by the state government have been surveyed. We are awaiting the AAI to submit

a report to the state government,” a source told *DH*.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin had on June 27 announced in the Assembly that Hosur will get an airport spread over 2,000 acres to handle about 3 crore passengers a year. The new airport, once commissioned, will have a single runway.

The government will keep in mind the concessionaire agreement signed between the Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL) that no airport should be constructed

within 150 km of the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru till 2033, sources said, adding that TN has been in touch with BIAL and TAAL for the past couple of years.

The source quoted above added that once the AAI submits its report with shortlisted names of locations, the government will work on the next step. “We will choose the best among the shortlisted locations and start preliminary work on land acquisition. We are just getting started,” the source added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2024

नोएडा हवाईअड्डे को एयरफील्ड ग्राउंड लाइटिंग सिस्टम उपलब्ध कराएगा हेल

नई दिल्ली। हनीवेल ऑटोमेशन इंडिया लि. (हेल) उत्तर प्रदेश के नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे पर एयरफील्ड ग्राउंड लाइटिंग सिस्टम लगाएगा। यह सिस्टम रनवे 10 एल-28आर और उससे जुड़े टैक्सीवे पर लगाया जाएगा। हवाई अड्डे के अगले साल की शुरुआत में चालू होने की उम्मीद है। सोमवार को यह जानकारी हेल की तरफ से दी गई।

हनीवेल का यह लाइटिंग सिस्टम खराब मौसम में भी विमान को सुरक्षित रूप से रनवे और टैक्सीवे पर चलने में मदद करेगा। इंटेलिजेंट लाइटिंग तकनीक का इस्तेमाल करते हुए यह सिस्टम कंट्रोल टॉवर



से मिलने वाली जानकारी के आधार पर स्वचालित तौर से लाइट्स को चालू और बंद करेगा। इससे पायलटों को विमान चलाना आसान होगा। पहले चरण में हवाईअड्डे में एक रनवे और एक टर्मिनल होगा और यह सालाना 1.2 करोड़ यात्रियों को संभाल सकेगा। सभी चार चरण पूरे होने के बाद हवाई अड्डे की क्षमता 7 करोड़ यात्रियों संभालने तक बढ़ जाएगी। एजेंसी

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट; कोलकाता, इंदौर के लिए बढ़ेगी कनेक्टिविटी, बंगलुरु की 1 फ्लाइट बंद होगी

27 अक्टूबर से लागू होगा विंटर शेड्यूल; मुंबई 10, दिल्ली, बंगलुरु, कोलकाता के लिए मिलेंगी 6-6 फ्लाइट्स, रोज 70 उड़ान का मूवमेंट

शिवांग चतुर्वेदी | जयपुर

जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर आने वाले दिनों में फ्लाइट्स के संचालन में कई बदलाव देखने को मिलेंगे। लंबे समय बाद ऐसा होगा जब जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर रोजाना संचालित होने वाली फ्लाइट्स आंकड़ा 70 को छू जाएगा। इससे पहले वर्ष 2017-18 में भी 70 फ्लाइट संचालित हुई थी। एयरपोर्ट पर फ्लाइट ऑपरेशन में बदलाव 27 अक्टूबर से लागू होंगे। हर साल मार्च और अक्टूबर के अंतिम रविवार को फ्लाइट्स के शेड्यूल में

बदलाव होता है। अक्टूबर का अंतिम रविवार 27 अक्टूबर को है, इस दिन जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर फ्लाइट्स का विंटर शेड्यूल लागू होगा। इसके साथ ही 27 अक्टूबर से टर्मिनल-1 से इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स भी शुरू हो जाएंगी। विंटर शेड्यूल में देश के 21 शहरों के लिए 63 घरेलू फ्लाइट संचालित होंगी। जबकि 6 विदेशी शहरों के लिए रोज 7 फ्लाइट संचालित होंगी। कोलकाता, इंदौर, उदयपुर के लिए फ्लाइट्स की फ्रिक्वेंसी बढ़ेगी। वहीं कुल्लू के लिए अभी 14 अक्टूबर से ही फ्लाइट शुरू होने जा रही है।

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर विंटर शेड्यूल में यह होगा बदलाव



- कोलकाता के लिए एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की नई फ्लाइट शुरू होगी।
- फ्लाइट IX-1955 जयपुर से शाम 8:50 बजे कोलकाता जाएगी।

- इंदौर के लिए इंडिगो एयरलाइन की नई फ्लाइट शुरू होगी।
- फ्लाइट 6E-7744 सुबह 6:15 बजे जाएगी इंदौर।
- कुल्लू के लिए 14 अक्टूबर से 91-805 सुबह 8:20 बजे शुरू हो रही अलायंस एयर की फ्लाइट।
- दिल्ली के लिए शाम 7 बजे अलायंस एयर की फ्लाइट 91-644 होगी बंद
- बंगलुरु के लिए इंडिगो की सुबह 10:05 बजे की फ्लाइट 6E-6142 होगी बंद।

इन 2 फ्लाइट्स का शेड्यूल बदलेगा... • एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की फ्लाइट आईएक्स-1132 का समय बदलेगा, ये फ्लाइट शाम 5:25 बजे पुणे जाती है, जो अब दोपहर 12:50 बजे जाएगी • एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की गुवाहाटी की फ्लाइट आईएक्स-1603 का नंबर और समय बदलेगा, ये अब नए नंबर आईएक्स-1953 से शाम 5:05 की बजाय दोपहर 2:15 बजे जाएगी

किस शहर के लिए कितनी फ्लाइट मिलेंगी

- जयपुर से मुंबई के लिए रोजाना सर्वाधिक 10 फ्लाइट मिलेंगी
- दिल्ली, बंगलुरु और कोलकाता के लिए 6-6 फ्लाइट संचालित होंगी
- अहमदाबाद और हैदराबाद के लिए रोजाना 5-5 फ्लाइट होंगी।
- पुणे, चंडीगढ़, इंदौर के लिए रोज 3-3 फ्लाइट संचालित होंगी।
- चेन्नई, लखनऊ, उदयपुर, देहरादून के लिए रोज 2-2 फ्लाइट मिलेंगी।
- गोवा, सूरत, गुवाहाटी, जोधपुर, बीकानेर, भोपाल, बेलगाम, कुल्लू के लिए 1-1 फ्लाइट संचालित होंगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2024

BACL breaks ground on major Bengaluru Business Park

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Bengaluru Airport City Limited (BACL), a subsidiary of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), broke ground for its ambitious two million sq. Ft. Business Park, aimed at promoting the city as a global hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

This comes as part of the Karnataka Government's new GCC policy (2024-2029), which aims to create 3.5 lakh jobs and contribute USD 50 billion to the economy, a BIAL statement said on Monday.

Located within the larger Kempegowda International Airport's (BLR Airport) campus, Bengaluru Airport City is being developed as a mixed-use destination, featuring business parks, an education & health district, R&D hubs, and multiple entertainment and hospitality options, it said.



The Business Park will be built over 17.7 acres.

Executive Director & CEO of BACL, Rao Munukutla, said: "The city has cemented its status as India's premier hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), with 36 per cent of India's GCC workforce driving growth across IT, biotechnology, automotive, and aerospace."

The upcoming Airport West metro station, located within

walking distance from the Business Park, will enhance connectivity to Bengaluru's city centre, providing faster and eco-friendly travel for employees and visitors, it was noted.

As a future entertainment and hospitality hub, plans include India's first 'Concert Arena' within an airport ecosystem and a Convention & Exhibition Centre, it added.

बम से उड़ाने की धमकी के कारण रोकनी पड़ीं तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें मुंबई से न्यूयॉर्क जा रहे विमान की दिल्ली में आपात लैंडिंग

नई दिल्ली। बम से उड़ाने की धमकी के कारण तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को रोकना पड़ा। इनमें से मुंबई से न्यूयॉर्क जा रही एअर इंडिया की उड़ान एआई-119 की सोमवार सुबह दिल्ली में आपात लैंडिंग कराई गई। वहीं, मुंबई से ही उड़ान भरने वाले इंडिगो के दो विमानों को धमकी मिली, जिनमें से एक मस्कट (ओमान) और दूसरा जेद्दा (सऊदी अरब) जाने वाला था।

इंडिगो के दोनों विमानों को मुंबई में ही रोककर गहन जांच की गई, लेकिन तीनों ही विमानों में कुछ भी संदिग्ध नहीं मिला। सूत्रों के अनुसार, एअर इंडिया के विमान में 239 यात्री और 19 चालक दल के सदस्य सवार थे, जबकि इंडिगो की दोनों उड़ानों में करीब 260 यात्री सवार थे। बम की धमकी के कारण रविवार



मुंबई-हावड़ा मेल को भी उड़ाने की धमकी... इस बीच, मुंबई-हावड़ा मेल ट्रेन (12809) को भी बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। ट्रेन को जलगांव स्टेशन पर रोककर जांच की गई। इसमें कोई संदिग्ध वस्तु नहीं मिली।

देर रात से सोमवार दोपहर तक अफरा-तफरी का माहौल कायम रहा। एअर इंडिया की तरफ से जारी एक बयान में बताया गया कि जेएफके, न्यूयॉर्क जाने वाली उड़ान को पुनः निर्धारित किया गया है, और अब यह मंगलवार सुबह दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से रवाना होगी। ब्यूरो

बम की अफवाह से दो अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रुकीं, एक डायवर्ट

दीपक पटेल

मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर बम की धमकी के बाद इंडिगो की दो अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में देरी हुई और एयर इंडिया की एक उड़ान का मार्ग परिवर्तन कर दिया गया। हालांकि, बाद में यह अफवाह साबित हुई। एयर इंडिया की मुंबई से न्यूयॉर्क जाने वाली उड़ान को दिल्ली भेजा गया। वहीं इंडिगो की जेद्दाह जाने वाली उड़ान 11 घंटे और मस्कट जाने वाली उड़ान 7 घंटे की देरी हुई।

एयर इंडिया के एक प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि उड़ान संख्या एआई-119 को विशेष सुरक्षा चेतावनी मिली और सरकार की सुरक्षा नियामक समिति के निर्देश पर विमान का

मार्ग परिवर्तित कर उसे दिल्ली भेजा गया। उन्होंने कहा, 'हम यह पुष्टि कर रहे हैं कि विमान के सभी 239 यात्री और 19 कू सदस्यों को सुरक्षित तरीके से उतार लिया गया है और फिलहाल सभी सुरक्षा प्रक्रिया से गुजर रहे हैं। यात्रियों के लिए नाश्ता आदि का इंतजाम किया गया है और हमारे सभी कर्मचारी अप्रत्याशित व्यवधान के कारण यात्रियों को होने वाली असुविधा दूर करने के लिए कार्य कर रहे हैं।' सुरक्षा 'प्रोटोकॉल' पूरा होने के बाद यात्रियों को होटलों में ले जाया गया। उड़ान का समय पुनर्निर्धारित कर दिया गया है और अब यह मंगलवार को सुबह दिल्ली से न्यूयॉर्क के लिए रवाना होगी।



मुंबई से जेद्दाह जाने वाली इंडिगो की उड़ान संख्या 6ई 57 में भी बम होने की धमकी मिली थी। इंडिगो के प्रवक्ता ने कहा, 'प्रोटोकॉल के तहत विमान को सुरक्षा जांच के लिए एक अलग स्थान पर ले जाया गया। यात्रियों की सहायता की गई और उन्हें

जलपान कराया गया और उन्हें हुई इस असुविधा के लिए हमें खेद है।' हालांकि, करीब 11 घंटे की देरी के बाद यह उड़ान दोपहर 1.15 बजे मुंबई हवाई अड्डे से रवाना हो सकी।

मुंबई से ही मस्कट जाने वाली इंडिगो की उड़ान संख्या 6ई 1275 पर भी बम होने की धमकी मिली थी। बाद में इस विमान को भी अन्यत्र स्थान पर ले जाया गया और वहां उसकी जांच की गई है। आखिरकार, सात घंटे की देरी के बाद सुबह 9.15 बजे यह रवाना हुई।

विमानन कंपनी के एक अधिकारी ने कहा, 'बम होने की अफवाहों के कारण आजकल उड़ानों के संचालन में अड़चन

आ रही है। इससे उड़ान में देरी, इसके रद्द होने की संख्या बढ़ रही है और सुरक्षा उपाय भी बढ़ाए जा रहे हैं। इन फर्जी खबरों से न केवल यात्रियों की परेशानी होती है बल्कि विमानन कंपनियों और हवाई अड्डों के लिए परिचालन भी महंगा हो जाता है।'

एक अन्य विमानन कंपनी के अधिकारी ने कहा कि इस तरह की धमकी मिलने के बाद लिए पूरी तरह से सुरक्षा जांच, उड़ानों के मार्ग में परिवर्तन करना पड़ता है या फिर विमान को दूसरे स्थान पर ले जाकर उसकी जांच करनी पड़ी है, जिसमें यात्रियों को बाहर निकालना पड़ता है। इस शेड्यूल प्रभावित होता है और अन्य उड़ानों पर भी इसका असर देखने को मिलता है।

Ops hit after 3 flights receive bomb threats

A-I flight diverted, two IndiGo flights delayed

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 14 October

Two IndiGo international flights were delayed, while one Air India flight originating from the Mumbai airport was diverted following bomb threats, which later turned out to be a hoax.

Air India's Mumbai-New York flight was diverted to Delhi. IndiGo's two flights scheduled for Jeddah and Muscat were delayed for 11 and seven hours respectively.

An Air India spokesperson stated that flight number AI-119 received a specific security alert and was diverted to Delhi as per the instructions of the government's security regulatory committee.

FALSE ALARM

- Air India's Mumbai-New York flight was diverted to Delhi
- 239 passengers and 19 crew were moved to hotels and the flight was rescheduled
- Mumbai-Jeddah IndiGo flight was taken to the isolated bay for security checks after receiving a bomb threat
- The flight departed from Mumbai airport after a delay of 11 hours

"We confirm that all 239 passengers and 19 crew have disembarked and are currently undergoing security procedures. Refreshments have been provided to the passengers. Our staff on



- Another IndiGo flight scheduled to operate from Mumbai to Muscat departed after a delay of 7 hours

ground are making sure to minimise the inconvenience caused to our guests by this unexpected disruption," the spokesperson said.

The passengers of this flight were

moved to hotels after security protocols were completed. The flight has been rescheduled for Tuesday morning.

IndiGo flight 6E 57, which was scheduled to operate from Mumbai to Jeddah, also received a bomb threat.

"As per protocol, the aircraft was taken to an isolated bay, and following the standard operating procedures, mandatory security checks were promptly initiated. Customers were provided with assistance and refreshments, and we sincerely regret the inconvenience caused," an IndiGo spokesperson said. This flight departed from the Mumbai airport at around 1.15 PM after a delay of about 11 hours.

IndiGo flight 6E 1275, which was scheduled to operate from Mumbai to Muscat, also received the threat. This plane was also taken to an isolated bay for checks. The plane departed at around 9.15 AM, after a delay of about seven hours.

रीजनल कनेक्टिविटी स्कीम • बेंगलुरु की स्प्रीट एयर कंपनी ने लिया स्लॉट

फरवरी से शिवपुरी, खंडवा, शहडोल और नीमच के लिए भोपाल से फ्लाइट

पहली बार भोपाल से छोटे शहरों के लिए होगा संचालन

भास्कर न्यूज | भोपाल

अब भोपाल की एयर कनेक्टिविटी छोटे-छोटे स्थानों से भी होने जा रही है। यह पहला मौका होगा, जबकि भोपाल से शिवपुरी, नीमच, खंडवा, मंडला और शहडोल जैसे स्थानों के लिए प्राइवेट एयरलाइन्स कंपनी द्वारा फ्लाइट का संचालन किया जाएगा। स्प्रीट एयर ने फरवरी 2025 से इन स्थानों के लिए फ्लाइट शुरू करने एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (एएआई) से स्लॉट लिया है। प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा छोटे शहरों को एयर कनेक्टिविटी के जरिए भोपाल से जोड़ने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। इसी कड़ी में एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी ने स्लॉट के अलॉटमेंट किए हैं।

उड़ान योजना: भोपाल से शिवपुरी, नीमच, खंडवा, मंडला और शहडोल के लिए फ्लाइट्स का संचालन केंद्र सरकार की फ्लाइट्स का संचालन केंद्र सरकार की रीजनल कनेक्टिविटी स्कीम (आरसीएस) उड़ान-5.2 के तहत किया जाएगा। बेंगलुरु की स्प्रीट एयर ने इन फ्लाइट्स को फरवरी 2025 से शुरू करने के लिए अपनी सहमति दी है। कंपनी के सीईओ कैप्टन सुबोध कुमार वर्मा ने बताया कि फ्लाइट्स शुरू करने की तैयारी है। हर सप्ताह इन स्थानों के लिए 8-8 फ्लाइट्स का संचालन किया जाएगा।

हर सप्ताह होगा 8-8 फ्लाइट्स का संचालन



1. भोपाल-शिवपुरी-भोपाल
 2. भोपाल-नीमच-भोपाल
 3. भोपाल-खंडवा-भोपाल
 4. भोपाल-मंडला-भोपाल
 5. भोपाल-शहडोल-भोपाल
- नोट: इन स्थानों के लिए 8-8 फ्लाइट प्रति सप्ताह चलाई जाएंगी।

8 पैसेंजर: मल्टी इंजन टर्बोप्रॉप कंपनी के एयरक्राफ्ट से इन फ्लाइट्स का संचालन किया जाएगा। 8 यात्रियों की क्षमता वाले इस एयरक्राफ्ट में दो क्रू-मैम्बर्स रहेंगे।

वंदे भारत से मात्र ₹1 हजार ज्यादा किराया दिल्ली फ्लाइट का

भोपाल | दीपावली पर दिल्ली जाने के लिए वंदे भारत के मुकाबले मात्र एक हजार रुपए ज्यादा किराया फ्लाइट के सफर का लग रहा है। हालांकि टिकट की बुकिंग अभी से करना होगा। वहीं, मुंबई जाने वालों के लिए भी हवाई किराए में फिलहाल राहत है। ट्रेन भी हवाई किराए में फिलहाल राहत है। ट्रेन के एसी-1 क्लास से 1300 रुपए ज्यादा देकर यात्री फ्लाइट से मुंबई का सफर कर सकते हैं। प्राइस वार के चलते इंडिगो ने कुछ स्थानों का किराया कम कर रखा है। ट्रेवल एजेंसी संचालकों का कहना है कि हवाई सेक्टर में प्राइस वॉर चल रहा है। इसी का नतीजा यह है कि पिछले साल के मुकाबले 20% किराया कम चल रहा है।

हवाई व ट्रेन किराया

कहां से कहां	हवाई किराया	ट्रेन किराया
भोपाल-दिल्ली	₹4171	₹3170
भोपाल-मुंबई	₹4706	₹3460
भोपाल-अहमदाबाद	₹4433	₹2735
भोपाल-अहमदाबाद	₹4433	₹2735

स्रोत: इंडिगो फ्लाइट्स व ट्रेन का 24 अक्टूबर का किराया। ट्रेन किराया एग्जीक्यूटिव व एसी-1 क्लास का।

• दीपावली के पहले के दिनों के लिए भोपाल से बेंगलुरु व हैदराबाद का हवाई किराया भी क्रमशः 5378 और 5903 रुपए लग रहा है। यह पिछले साल के मुकाबले 1500 से 2500 रुपए कम है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2024

कुल्लू-जयपुर हवाई सेवा शुरू, पर्यटन को लगेगा पंख

शिमला। हिमाचल प्रदेश में अंतरराष्ट्रीय कुल्लू दशहरा के ऐन मौके पर भुंतर के लिए पिंक सिटी व राजस्थान की राजधानी जयपुर से नई हवाई सेवा शुरू हुई है। सोमवार को जयपुर से उड़ान भरकर आए एलायंस एयर के एटीआर-72 जहाज का भुंतर हवाई अड्डे में वाटर केनन से स्वागत किया गया। पहले ही दिन हवाई जहाज पैक होकर आया है। उड़ान सेवा शुरू होने से पर्यटन को भी पंख लगेगा। पर्यटन कारोबारियों में भी खुशी की लहर है। क्षेत्रीय संपर्क योजना के तहत यात्री मात्र 2,500 रुपये में एलायंस एयर के जहाज में सफर कर सकेंगे। हफ्ते में यह सेवा जयपुर के लिए सोमवार और बुधवार को सुबह 10:35 बजे संचालित होगी। आगामी 28 अक्टूबर के बाद यह फ्लाइट सप्ताह में तीन दिन मंगलवार, गुरुवार और शनिवार को संचालित होगी।

BON VOYAGE

Increased capacity, 15% drop in oil prices contribute to lower fares

Airfares around Diwali drop 20-25%

New Delhi, Oct. 13: Air passengers may have something to celebrate this Diwali, as domestic airfares on many routes have dropped by 20-25 per cent compared to last year, according to an analysis.

Increased capacity and a recent dip in oil prices are seen as key factors driving the decrease.

Travel portal ixigo's analysis shows that average one-way fares, based on a 30-day advanced purchase, have dropped across several domestic routes.

For 2023, the data covers November 10-16, while for last year, it covers October

28-November 3, around the Diwali season.

The biggest fare drop is on the Bengaluru-Kolkata route, with a 38 per cent decline to ₹6,319 this year from ₹10,195 last year. Chennai-Kolkata fares have fallen by 36 per cent to ₹5,604 from ₹8,725.

Similarly, the Mumbai-Delhi route saw a 34 per cent drop to ₹5,762 from ₹8,788, and Delhi-Udaipur fares decreased by 34 per cent to ₹7,469 from ₹11,296. Routes like Delhi-Kolkata, Hyderabad-Delhi, and Delhi-Srinagar saw 32 per cent fare reductions.

Last year, airfares surged

due to limited capacity following the suspension of Go First airline.

This year, additional capacity has been added, resulting in a 20-25 per cent year-on-year dip across key routes for late October," said ixigo Group CEO Alope Bajpai.

He noted that a 15 per cent decline in oil prices also contributed to the drop.

While the ticket price has jumped 34 per cent on Ahmedabad-Delhi route to ₹8,758 from ₹6,533, the rise is 33 per cent on Mumbai-Dehradun route to ₹15,527 from ₹11,710, the analysis showed.

— PTI

FARE DROPS

38% (₹6,319
V/S ₹10,195)
BENGALURU-
KOLKATA

36% (₹5,604
V/S ₹8,725)
CHENNAI-KOLKATA

34% (₹5,762 V/S
₹8,788) MUMBAI-DELHI



34%
(₹7,469 v/s
₹11,296)
Delhi-
Udaipur

FARE INCREASE ON SOME ROUTES:

Airfare increased on routes like Ahmedabad-Delhi (+34%) and Mumbai-Dehradun (+33%).



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

14 OCTOBER 2024

Average airfares around Diwali drop 20-25% on many routes

NEW DELHI, PTI: Air passengers might have a reason to smile this Diwali season as average airfares on many domestic routes have dropped 20-25% compared to the year-ago period, according to an analysis.

Increased capacity and the recent fall in oil prices are considered to be among the factors for the fall in air ticket prices. The analysis by travel portal ixigo showed that average airfare on the domestic routes have declined in the range of 20-25%. The prices are for one-way average fare on a 30 days APD (advanced purchase date) basis.

For 2023, the time period considered is November 10-16 while it is October 28-November 3 for this year. This is the time around Diwali.

The maximum decline of average

airfare is 38% for a Bengaluru-Kolkata flight to Rs 6,319 this year from Rs 10,195 last year, as per the analysis. The ticket price on Chennai-Kolkata route has fallen 36% to Rs 5,604 from Rs 8,725.

The average airfare for Mumbai-Delhi flight has dropped 34% to Rs 5,762 from Rs 8,788. Similarly, there is a 34% decrease in ticket prices on Delhi-Udaipur route to Rs 7,469 from Rs 11,296. The decline is 32% on Delhi-Kolkata, Hyderabad-Delhi, and Delhi-Srinagar routes.

“Last year, airfares around Diwali had surged due to limited capacity, primarily driven by the suspension of Go First airline. However, this year we’ve seen some relief as additional capacity has been added since then,” ixigo Group CEO Alope Bajpai told PTI.

तीन विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी से मचा हड़कंप

मुंबई, प्रेट: तीन विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी से सोमवार को मुंबई में हड़कंप मच गया। सुरक्षा एजेंसियां सकते में आ गईं। इनमें एक विमान एअर इंडिया जबकि दो अन्य इंडिगो एयरलाइंस के थे। एअर इंडिया के मुंबई से न्यूयार्क जाने वाले विमान का रास्ता बदलकर उसकी दिल्ली में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग कराई गई जबकि इंडिगो के दोनों विमानों को मुंबई में उड़ने से पहले अलग क्षेत्र में ले जाकर गहन जांच की गई। जांच में कुछ नहीं मिला। इसके बाद इंडिगो की मस्कट जाने वाली फ्लाइट ने करीब सात और जेद्दा जाने वाली फ्लाइट ने करीब 11 घंटे की देरी से गंतव्य के लिए उड़ान भरी। एअर इंडिया की फ्लाइट अब मंगलवार सुबह दिल्ली से न्यूयार्क के लिए उड़ान भरेगी।



फजलुद्दीन नामक अकाउंट के जरिये विमानों और ट्रेन को उड़ाने की धमकी दी गई थी। बम की

धमकी मिलने के बाद एअर इंडिया की फ्लाइट एआइ 119 की दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई

अड्डे पर इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग कराई गई। एअर इंडिया की इस फ्लाइट में 239 यात्री और चालक दल के

- न्यूयार्क जाने वाले एअर इंडिया के विमान की दिल्ली में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग
- इंडिगो की मस्कट व जेद्दा जाने वाली दो उड़ानों को भी मिली बम की धमकी

ला यूनिवर्सिटी में बम की धमकी फर्जी निकली

गांधीनगर : गुजरात की राजधानी गांधीनगर में गुजरात नेशनल ला यूनिवर्सिटी (जीएनएलयू) को भी बम की धमकी वाला एक ईमेल मिला था। इसके बाद पुलिस द्वारा परिसर की गहन जांच की गई और दावा फर्जी पाया गया।

मुंबई-हावड़ा मेल को भी बम से उड़ाने की धमकी

सोमवार को मुंबई-हावड़ा मेल ट्रेन को टाइमर बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। सेंट्रल रेलवे के सीपीआरओ के मुताबिक, मुंबई-हावड़ा मेल ट्रेन को जलगांव स्टेशन पर रोककर जांच की गई। इसमें कोई संदिग्ध वस्तु नहीं मिली। इसके बाद ट्रेन रवाना की गई।

<< मुंबई से न्यूयार्क जा रहे एअर इंडिया के विमान को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिलने के बाद नई दिल्ली स्थित आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर लैंड करवाया गया। काकपिट से ज्ञाकता फायलट ● वीडियो गैब/इंटरनेट गीडिवा

19 सदस्य सवार थे। दिल्ली पुलिस के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा कि फ्लाइट को अलग रनवे पर ले

जाया गया। कई घंटों तक फ्लाइट की गहन जांच हुई। इस दौरान कुछ भी संदिग्ध नहीं मिला। मामले की जांच की जा रही है।

उधर, मुंबई से मस्कट के लिए रवाना हुई इंडिगो फ्लाइट 6ई 1275 और मुंबई से जेद्दा जा रही इंडिगो फ्लाइट 6ई 56 को भी बम से उड़ाने की धमकी दी गई थी। इंडिगो की दोनों उड़ानों में 280 यात्री सवार थे। हालांकि जांच के बाद दोबारा फ्लाइटों को अपने गंतव्य के लिए रवाना किया गया। इंडिगो प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि जैसे ही इन दोनों विमानों को बम की धमकी मिली, सुरक्षा प्रोटोकाल के तहत दोनों को तुरंत हवाई अड्डे से दूर ले जाया गया। हवाई अड्डे की सुरक्षा टीम, बम निरोधक दस्ते और अन्य जांच एजेंसियां ने विमान की जांच की। उसमें कुछ नहीं मिला। इंडिगो की ओर से कहा गया कि यात्रियों की सुरक्षा सर्वोपरि है।

दिवाली पर विमान यात्रा करना होगा सस्ता

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस: दिवाली के दौरान हवाई जहाज से घर जाना पिछले साल के मुकाबले सस्ता होगा। इसका बड़ा कारण यह है कि कई घरेलू मार्गों पर औसत हवाई किराये में पिछले साल की तुलना में 20-25 प्रतिशत की कमी आई है। दरअसल, बढ़ी हुई क्षमता और तेल की कीमतों में हाल ही में आई गिरावट को हवाई टिकट की कीमतों में गिरावट के कारकों में से एक माना जा रहा है।

ट्रैवल पोर्टल इक्सिगो ने 30 दिनों के अग्रिम खरीद तिथि के आधार पर एकतरफा औसत किराये के विश्लेषण से यह जानकारी दी है। 2023 में दिवाली की समयावधि 10-16 नवंबर के बीच थी। इस साल यह 28 अक्टूबर-3 नवंबर है। यह दिवाली के आसपास का समय है। इस साल औसत हवाई किराये में सबसे अधिक 38 प्रतिशत की गिरावट बेंगलुरु-कोलकाता उड़ान के लिए दर्ज की गई, जो पिछले साल के 10,195 रुपये से घटकर 6,319



- प्रमुख घरेलू मार्गों पर पिछले वर्ष के मुकाबले किराये में 20-25 प्रतिशत की कमी आई
- बढ़ी हुई क्षमता और तेल की कीमतों में हाल ही में आई गिरावट ने दिया बड़ा योगदान

रुपये रह गई है। चेन्नई-कोलकाता मार्ग पर टिकट की कीमत 8,725 रुपये से 36 प्रतिशत घटकर 5,604 रुपये हो गई है। मुंबई-दिल्ली उड़ान के लिए औसत हवाई किराया 8,788 रुपये से 34 प्रतिशत घटकर 5,762 रुपये हो गया है। इसी तरह, दिल्ली-उदयपुर मार्ग पर टिकट की कीमतों में 34 प्रतिशत की कमी आई है और यह 11,296 रुपये से 7,469 रुपये हो

इन मार्गों पर बढ़ा किराया

हालांकि, वर्तमान में बढ़ते भू-राजनीतिक तनावों के चलते तेल की कीमतें थोड़ी ऊपर की ओर हैं। इससे कुछ मार्गों पर हवाई किराये 34 प्रतिशत तक की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है। अहमदाबाद-दिल्ली मार्ग पर टिकट की कीमत 6,533 रुपये से 34 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 8,758 रुपये हो गई है, जबकि मुंबई-देहरादून मार्ग पर यह 33 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 11,710 रुपये से 15,527 रुपये हो गई है।

गई है। दिल्ली-कोलकाता, हैदराबाद-दिल्ली और दिल्ली-श्रीनगर मार्गों पर यह गिरावट 32 प्रतिशत है। पिछले साल दिवाली के आसपास हवाई किराए में सीमित क्षमता के कारण उछाल आया था, जो मुख्य रूप से गो फर्स्ट एयरलाइन के निलंबन के कारण हुआ था। किराये में कमी का दूसरा बड़ा कारण तेल की कीमतों में कमी आना है।

SpiceJet Faces Yet Another Insolvency Proceeding by Lessor

Suryash Kumar

New Delhi: SpiceJet Ltd is staring at fresh insolvency proceedings initiated by aircraft lessor Aviator ML 29641 Ltd over unpaid dues amounting to ₹58 crore.

The lessor claimed that the low-cost airline failed to pay rental charges for a Boeing 737 that it had leased.

SpiceJet's counsel said that the airline has disputed the debt, arguing that the lessor failed to mention the objections raised by it. "We have filed our reply to the demand notice and stated our objections regarding unpaid dues claimed by the lessor," said SpiceJet's counsel. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) refused to issue notice to the airline while directing the lessor to bring on record SpiceJet's reply and listed the matter for further hearing on November 11. SpiceJet is facing a slew of insolvency petitions initiated by its vendors and lessors although the NCLT hasn't admitted any petition till now. Lessors such as Wilmington Trust SP Services (Dublin), Willis Lease Finance, Celestial Aviation, Aircastle, Alternata Aircraft and AWAS 36698 Ireland have approached the tribunal against the airline.



Avg airfares around Diwali drop 20-25% on many routes

PTI
NEW DELHI

Air passengers might have a reason to smile this Diwali season as average airfares on many domestic routes have dropped 20-25 per cent compared to the year-ago period, according to an analysis.

Increased capacity and the recent fall in oil prices are considered to be among the factors for the fall in air ticket prices. The analysis by travel portal ixigo showed that average airfare on the domestic routes have declined in the range of 20-25 per cent.

The prices are for one-way average fare on a 30 days APD (advanced purchase date) basis. For 2023, the time period considered is November 10-16 while it is October 28-November 3 for this year. This is the time around Diwali.

The maximum decline of average airfare is 38 per cent for a Bengaluru-Kolkata flight to Rs 6,319 this year from Rs 10,195 last year, as per the analysis.

The ticket price on Chennai-Kolkata route has fallen 36 per cent to Rs 5,604 from Rs 8,725.

The average airfare for Mumbai-Delhi flight has dropped 34 per cent to Rs 5,762 from Rs 8,788. Similarly, there is a 34 per cent decrease in ticket prices on Delhi-Udaipur route to Rs 7,469 from Rs 11,296.

The decline is 32 per cent on Delhi-Kolkata, Hyderabad-Delhi, and Delhi-Srinagar routes.

"Last year, airfares around Diwali had surged due to limited capacity, primarily driven by the suspension of Go First airline. However, this year we've seen some relief as addi-



An airline without call centre

After taking to the skies nearly seven months ago, FLY91 is on a steady flight path and that too with a difference. The regional carrier does not have a call centre for passengers. Focused on being a "digital native" company, the Goa-based carrier prepared a list of priorities before commencing operations and decided to do away with certain things that are traditionally done by the airlines. "We consciously wanted to go down that path (of not having a call centre)...," FLY91's Chief Technology Officer Prasanna Subramaniam said.

tional capacity has been added since then, leading to a 20-25 per cent YoY (year-on-year) dip in average airfares across key routes for the last week of October," ixigo Group CEO Alok Bajpai told PTI.

According to him, the decline in oil prices, down 15 per cent this year, may have also contributed to this downward trend, offering travellers more affordable options during the festive season.

SpiceJet hit with a fresh insolvency case

Krishna Yadav

krishna.yadav@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: Budget carrier SpiceJet is facing a new insolvency case in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), filed by aircraft lessor Aviator ML 29641 Ltd over unpaid rental dues of around ₹58 crore. The NCLT, which heard the plea on Monday, refused to issue a notice to SpiceJet, citing the absence of the airline's response to the demand notice in the lessor's petition. The tribunal gave the airline time to submit its reply to the demand notice, with the next hearing scheduled for Nov 11.

According to the lessor's plea, the default arose from a lease agreement dated 16 June 2017 for a Boeing 737 aircraft. The petition stated that as of 29 June 2024, the outstanding amount is nearly \$7.3 million, equivalent to ₹58 crore. The lessor's counsel noted that while SpiceJet has attempted to negotiate a settlement, no resolution has been reached, prompting the insolvency filing.

This case adds to a growing list of insolvency actions against SpiceJet for unpaid dues to various vendors and aircraft lessors. To date, none of these cases have



The NCLT has given the airline time to submit its reply to the demand notice. PTI

resulted in insolvency proceedings against the Gurugram-based airline. Some have been dismissed by the NCLT, while others have been withdrawn after settlements, with several still pending final decisions.

The parties filing various insolvency cases against SpiceJet include Wilmington Trust SP Services (Dublin), Willis Lease Finance, Celestial Aviation, Aircraft, and Alterna Aircraft. Additionally, three entities—AWAS 36698 Ireland, AWAS 36694 Ireland, and AWAS 36695—along with Shannon Engine Support Limited, Engine Lease Finance B.V., Raymach Technologies Pvt. Ltd., and software solutions startup Techjockey Infotech Pvt. Ltd. have also filed cases.

Hoax bomb threats to 3 int'l flights, 1 Bengal train

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Three international flights and one West Bengal-bound train originating from Mumbai received bomb threats on Monday, sending authorities and security agencies into a tizzy and leading to disruption in services, even though the warnings were later found to be a hoax, officials aware of the details said.

Nothing suspicious was found on the three flights – A New York-bound Air India flight and two IndiGo flights flying to separate cities in West Asia – and the Howrah-bound train that either departed or were scheduled to take off from Mumbai with several passengers onboard, the officials said.

The Air India flight was diverted to New Delhi and res-

cheduled for take off on Tuesday while the IndiGo planes were delayed by several hours, the officials added. The Mumbai-Howrah train mail was halted at Jalgaon station in Maharashtra and was thoroughly checked before it proceeded towards its destination, they said.

Police said the three flights received the threats roughly around the same time from a single user on X, who goes by the name of Fazluddin Nirban. “The sender has been traced to Chhat-tisgarh. A team has been dispatched to nab the accused,” an officer at Sahar police station in Mumbai said.

Police said the threat for the New York-bound Air India Flight AI 119 was issued after the plane with 238 passengers onboard took off from Mumbai’s Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Air-



Two IndiGo flights also received bomb threats.

port around 2am. “It said that six kilos of RDX and terrorists were on the flight and that the plane would be hijacked,” he said.

The flight was diverted to Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI), where it was thoroughly inspected. “Nothing suspicious was found during checking. All standard safety protocols were diligently followed to

ensure the safety of the passengers and the crew on board,” a senior Delhi Police officer said.

In a statement, the airline said the flight was diverted to Delhi on “instructions of the government’s security regulatory committee”. The flight has been rescheduled and will now depart for New York from Delhi on Tuesday morning.

Minister of state for civil aviation Murlidhar Mohol visited the Delhi airport to take stock of the situation. “While the due security checks & safety protocols are being diligently followed, directed the airport officials & the Air India staff to arrange all the necessary assistance as well as convenient accommodation for the passengers affected,” he said on X.

Likewise, two IndiGo flights – one headed to Muscat (6E 1275) and the other to Jeddah (6E 56) – also received bomb threats before

they took off, leading authorities to move the aircraft to isolation bays for security checks.

The officer from Sahar police station quoted above said: “The threat claimed that time bombs were placed in the Mumbai-Muscat flight that would go off once the aircraft landed.” A Mumbai Police officer said the two planes were checked thoroughly and “nothing (suspicious) was found”.

Separately, a threat message to blow up the Mumbai-Howrah Mail train with a timer bomb was received early on Monday, said Swapnil Nila, chief public relations officer of Central Railway. “The train was stopped at Jalgaon station for an inspection after the control room received the threat message around 4am. No suspicious object was found in it.”



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2024

Bomb scare for 3 international flights & a train from Mumbai

After hoax threats, two flights delayed, another diverted

**SIDDHANT KONDUSKAR
& SUKALP SHARMA**

MUMBAI, NEW DELHI,
OCTOBER 14

THREE INTERNATIONAL flights from Mumbai — two operated by IndiGo and one by Air India — received bomb threats on Monday, causing delays and a diversion. All the three threats were found to be hoax, according to sources.

A bomb scare also affected the Mumbai-Howrah Mail train. That threat, too, was found to be fake and the train was allowed to continue its journey.

Air India flight AI 119 from Mumbai to New York with 239 passengers and 19 crew was diverted mid-air to Delhi early Monday following a bomb threat, which was received via X. The flight has now been rescheduled for early Tuesday from Delhi.

IndiGo's Mumbai-Muscat and Mumbai-Jeddah flights, which also received bomb threats, were delayed by several hours due to the requisite security protocol.

"Flight AI 119 operating Mumbai to JFK (New York's John F Kennedy airport) on October 14 received a security alert and on instructions of the government's security regulatory committee was diverted to Delhi," an Air India spokesperson said Monday. "We confirm that all 239 passengers and 19 crew have disembarked and are currently undergoing security procedures. Our staff on ground are making sure to minimise the inconvenience caused to our guests by this unexpected disruption. Guests will be moved to hotels once security protocols are completed. The flight has been rescheduled to the morning of October 15."

Air India's Boeing 777 aircraft

departed Mumbai for New York at 2.27 am and landed around one-and-a-half hours late. Passengers were made to deplane around 4.10 am, but were asked to leave their bags on board.

IndiGo's Mumbai-Muscat flight scheduled to depart Mumbai at 2 am eventually took off at 9.12 am, while the Mumbai-Jeddah flight was delayed by over 11 hours instead of its scheduled departure at 2.05 am.

Regarding the fake bomb threat to the Mumbai-Howrah train, Central Railway spokesperson Swapnil Nila said: "The Mumbai-Howrah Mail was detained at Jalgaon railway station at 4.15 am. As Jalgaon was the train's next scheduled stop, railway authorities halted the train and conducted a thorough search for explosives. No suspicious items were found, and the train was cleared to continue its journey."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2024

For logistics along north, west borders, Army signs 1-yr deal for helicopters with civil aviation agencies

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

IN A first-of-its-kind initiative, the Army has entered into a contract with civil aviation service providers to procure helicopter support to meet the logistics needs for its winter cut-off posts along the northern and western

borders, defence sources said Monday. The one-year contract will ensure that 16 remote posts in the Jammu region are sustained throughout the year, while 28 posts in Kashmir and Ladakh will benefit from this support for 150 days next year.

They said the initiative marks a decisive shift in how the Indian Army maintains its critical posi-

tions in high-altitude regions during the harsh winter months.

Last week, *The Indian Express* had reported that the Army is looking to hire helicopters from civil agencies to carry out a range of jobs such as logistics supplies, carrying troops to forward locations and casualty evacuation along the northern borders.

These single-engine helicop-

ters will operate in specific sectors of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh such as Drass, Kargil, Batalik, Doda, Kishtwar and Gurez. The helicopters will mostly be used during winter, from November to April. "The helicopters will ferry food, fuel, medical supplies and other essential items, ensuring that these high-altitude positions remain fully operational during winter."

The contract currently covers the Northern Command, but plans are to expand the model to other strategic regions such as

Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the Northeast, said sources.

According to sources, a stand-out aspect of the contract is the use of civil aviation helicopters instead of the Indian Army's own aviation or Air Force assets. "...it is a strategic move to preserve the service life of military helicopters for more critical roles in combat or emergency scenarios," a source said. By leveraging civil aviation for routine logistics tasks, the Army ensures that its combat aviation fleet remains ready for more mission-critical operations.



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2024

एअर इंडिया के विमान में तकनीकी खराबी, वापस दिल्ली आया

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 14 अक्टूबर।

कोलकाता के लिए उड़ान भरने वाला एअर इंडिया का एक विमान तकनीकी खराबी के कारण सोमवार की सुबह राष्ट्रीय राजधानी लौट आया। एक सूत्र ने बताया कि उड़ान भरने के तुरंत बाद विमान के अगले पहिये में तकनीकी खराबी आ गई और उसे दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर वापस लाया गया। हवाई अड्डे पर विमान को उतारने के लिए आपात स्थिति की घोषणा भी कर दी गई। सूत्र ने बताया कि विमान को हवाई अड्डे पर सुरक्षित उतार लिया गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2024

SpiceJet hit with fresh case of insolvency from aircraft lessor

Krishna Yadav

krishna.yadav@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Budget carrier SpiceJet is facing a new insolvency case in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), filed by aircraft lessor Aviator ML 2964I Ltd over unpaid rental dues of around ₹58 crore.

The NCLT, which heard the plea on Monday, refused to issue a notice to SpiceJet, citing the absence of the airline's response to the demand notice in the lessor's petition. The tribunal gave the airline time to submit its reply to the demand notice, with the next hearing scheduled for 11 November.

According to the lessor's plea, the default arose from a lease agreement dated 16 June 2017 for a Boeing 737 aircraft. The petition stated that as of 29 June 2024, the outstanding amount is nearly \$7.3 million, equivalent to ₹58 crore.

The lessor's counsel noted that while SpiceJet has attempted to negotiate a settlement, no resolution has been reached, prompting the insol-



The case was filed over unpaid rental dues of ₹58 crore. MINT

veny filing.

This case adds to a growing list of insolvency actions against SpiceJet for unpaid dues to various vendors and aircraft lessors. To date, none of these cases have resulted in insolvency proceedings.

Some have been dismissed, while others withdrawn after settlements, with several still pending final decisions.

The parties that have filed insolvency cases against SpiceJet include Wilmington Trust SP Services (Dublin), Willis Lease Finance, Celestial Aviation, Aircastle, and Alterna Aircraft. Three entities—AWAS

36698 Ireland, AWAS 36694 Ireland, and AWAS 36695—along with Shannon Engine Support Limited, Engine Lease Finance B.V., Raymach Technologies Pvt. Ltd., and software solutions startup Techjockey Infotech Pvt. Ltd. have also filed cases.

The NCLT rejected the pleas of Willis Lease Finance and Wilmington Trust SP, while SpiceJet settled with Celestial Aviation, Alterna Aircraft, and Raymach Technologies. Engine Lease Finance B.V. has also settled its case. All of these parties have either withdrawn their cases against the airline or are in the process of doing so.

The pleas from Aircastle, AWAS 36698 Ireland, AWAS 36694 Ireland, and AWAS 36695 remain pending, as do those from Shannon Engine Support Limited and Techjockey Infotech Pvt. Ltd.

Wilmington Trust and Willis Lease Finance have approached the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal to challenge the NCLT's dismissal of their insolvency pleas.

Read an extended version of this story at [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com).



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MINT

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15 OCTOBER 2024

WILL VINAY DUBE BE THIRD-TIME LUCKY?

After helming Jet Airways and Go Air, he is on a mission to make Akasa Air a strong third carrier in India

Pratik Chhabra is Mint's editor
MUMBAI/DELHI

When it fell on its second on 2 May 2023, Go First suggested that one issue alone was to blame for its downfall. It blamed Pratt & Whitney, saying problems with the American company's engines had forced it to ground half its fleet of Airbus A320neo aircraft. The airline had somehow hunched on amid flight cancellations, a drastically reduced schedule, layoffs and resignations. Eventually, however, the aphyxiating Wadia Group-owned low-cost carrier could not stave off respiratory failure—unable to meet its financial obligations, it voluntarily filed for insolvency.

Vinay Dube, who had been chief executive officer (CEO) of the airline for a short stint that had ended in August 2020, probably heaved a sigh of relief that he was not at the helm when Go First went under. He'd been in that situation once before, at Jet Airways four years earlier. It was a dubious distinction he was happy to avoid repeating, even if both airlines had been facing turbulence well before he joined them.

Dube is now the CEO of Akasa Air, which, like Go First, faces a recurring problem. Akasa Air's entire fleet is made up of one aircraft type, while this is a practice followed by airlines around the world, as it helps keep operations and maintenance costs in check, the plane that Akasa chose to operate is the Boeing 737 Max. It is an aircraft that has faced frequent problems since its inception. Akasa has ordered 226 Max planes for its fleet, getting a discount thanks to it not being the first choice for most airlines. The plane's frequent issues, however, pose a significant problem to the Indian airline.

Aircraft issues aside, the fledgling carrier is a bit player in its home market, which has effectively become a duopoly. It currently has just a 4.5% share in the market, which is overwhelmingly dominated by IndiGo with a 62.4% share, and to a lesser extent by the Air India group, with 29.4%. SpiceJet, the other contender, is now smaller than Akasa, and has been a staminate for a while now.

Analysts underline that it is imperative for Akasa to succeed, noting that India needs a strong third airline to protect consumers. A duopoly, they point out, would lead to an uncompetitive aviation market, where fares would be dictated by these carriers.

But in the face of the formidable challenge posed by IndiGo and Air India, can Akasa be a strong third player or even a third player on the fringes? When Mint posed that question, Dube retorted, "Why can we not be the first player?" His sanguine outlook aside, however, the carrier faces multiple challenges.

Moreover, while Dube has tons of experience following suits with foreign carriers such as Delta Air Lines and American Airlines, so far he has not had much success in India. This time, not only does he start with a clean slate, he also has skin in the game, having founded Akasa with former IndiGo CEO Aditya Ghosh and legendary investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, who passed away in 2022.

To be sure, India's aviation market is not for the faint-hearted. Many an airline has met its end in its tough operating conditions over the last three decades. While IndiGo is an outlier and worthy of a case study for the manner in which it has taken a stranglehold over the market, Akasa has managed to hold its own so far. The fledgling airline is now hoping to emulate the leader's success and thrive alongside, a feat Dube firmly believes it can pull off.

HATCHING AN AIRLINE

In 2022, as the world limped back from the impact of the covid pandemic, a team of aviation professionals led by Dube met in Mumbai to plot the launch of Akasa. Their plan was clear: keep costs in check, right from acquisition of the aircraft to maintenance. "70% of an airline's cost structure is determined on day one, or can be determined on day one, and that is based on the aircraft and engine maintenance deal that you negotiate," Dube told Mint.

Akasa launched its first commercial flight on 7 August 2022. Since then, it has made the right moves, including having a comfortable crew uniform that includes sweaters and allowing pets in the cabin and cargo. Akasa also created a world record by being the fastest to induct the first 20 aircraft in its fleet.

In statement, the airline said that since inception, it has served over 12 million passengers and now connects 27 cities with its fleet of 25 737 MAX aircraft. Akasa commenced international operations on 28



A file photo of Vinay Dube, chief executive officer of Akasa Air. He co-founded the airline with former IndiGo CEO Aditya Ghosh and legendary investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala.

March, offering non-stop flights from Mumbai to Doha. Internationally, it operates flights to Doha, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, Jeddah and Kuwait.

But all this has come at a cost. The carrier reported losses of over ₹2,400 crore in its first two years of operation, losing ₹1,670 crore in 2023-24 and ₹744 crore the year before. IndiGo, in contrast, had a loss of ₹74.13 crore in 2023-24 and ₹222.28 crore in 2022-23—the first two years of operations. The airline made a profit of ₹82 crore in its third year. While this was a decade and a half ago, a big factor in that short flight to profitability was its sale and leaseback (SLB) model, credited to co-founder Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, and one Dube plans to replicate.

AN INDIGO LEAF

Dube has no qualms admitting that he is taking a leaf out of IndiGo's playbook. "We are super thrilled to copy the best of the best, and Gangwal is an incredibly smart aviation professional, so it'll be an honour and a pleasure to copy him," he told Mint.

The sale and leaseback model played a role in IndiGo becoming India's largest and most profitable airline. Under it, aircraft are purchased in bulk to fetch the best of discounts, sold to a lessor upon delivery, and then leased back. The upside are hefty discounts at purchase and a neat margin during the resale to the lessor (there is generally a lag of some years between order and delivery and the list price of the aircraft increases during that period).

In purchasing the Boeing 737 Max, Akasa did the same. Dube claims that the timing of the purchase helped Akasa ink a fantastic deal. "We bought our aircraft when nobody in the world was buying. We bought our aircraft when Boeing planes were not being ordered (due to concerns over the computer system in the plane that had led to two crashes, when China was not taking deliveries)."

The total deal size, for 226 Boeing 737 Max planes, is estimated to be about \$30 billion based on the list price. Industry watchers put the discount Akasa got on the list price to be anywhere between 15% and 40%. While a good deal was one of the key reasons for choosing Boeing, another factor for choosing Boeing over the Airbus A320 was the longer delivery time needed by the European aircraft maker.

But industry observers feel Akasa should proceed with caution in trying to follow IndiGo's flight path. "There is no doubt that the model has worked for IndiGo and they survived the covid crisis on the back of a cash surplus generated over a period of

time through SLBs. But there is no guarantee that the same model will work for Akasa," said an industry veteran, pointing out that the Indian aviation market has changed a lot from the fragmented landscape of 2006, when IndiGo was launched. "There was no IndiGo-Air India group duopoly in 2006," added the veteran, who did not want to be identified.

"This is a different aviation market with two strong players. Cash flows will be higher than 18-19 years ago. They should avoid getting into this pit of funding losses through SLB earnings," said a second aviation industry insider.

Dube, however, justifies the model, saying that an airline needs capital initially and SLB provides that. "There's nothing that we are doing that is unusual or different from some of the world's best airlines. They've gone through the cycle, through an operating loss that you fund through cash," Dube explained. "At some point, your operation becomes big enough, and that, for us, is not that far off. We are set to turn profitable in three years or even sooner, in 24 months. Once that is achieved, we stop using that SLB income to fund losses."

The CEO added that the cash that the promoters had put in to start the airline is in the bank and has grown over a period of time. Jhunjhunwala had invested \$35 million (around ₹280 crore) for a stake of nearly 40% in the airline in 2022.

According to sources, however, Akasa is looking to raise funds to the tune of \$20 million from a couple of family offices to fund its operational costs since the Jhunjhunwala family does not want to put in any fresh equity to fund working capital requirements. The change in strategy came after Jhunjhunwala breathed his last on 14 August 2022. The family reportedly plans to consolidate its portfolios.

WOBBLY MAX PLANE

The biggest challenge that I see in Akasa's growth trajectory or survival is problems with the Boeing 737 Max aircraft, which keep reoccurring. Every other day the aircraft is facing one issue or the other," said Mark Martin, founder and CEO at Martin Consulting, aviation consultancy firm.

For instance, the aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) recently issued an advisory to airlines operating the Boeing 737 Max in India, including Akasa, warning of a potential problem in the rudder of the aircraft. Subsequently, a potential loose bolt issue in the rudder control system also became a concern, prompting the DGCA to issue another advisory last week. It warned airlines not to use Boeing 737 with that particular rudder part for low-visibility landings, where the plane lands with the help of computers and the instrument landing system.

mint SHORT STORY

WHAT

The Indian aviation market has become a duopoly, with IndiGo the runaway leader and Air India a distant second. Akasa Air and SpiceJet are just bit players.

NOW

Akasa Air, which is a new entrant, is hoping to increase its share and become a credible third player, by copying IndiGo's sale and leaseback model.

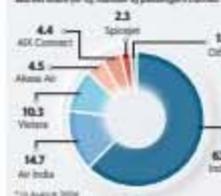
BUT

The airline's entire fleet comprises of 737 Max planes. The aircraft has faced frequent problems since inception and any widespread grounding will be problematic for Akasa.

SHARE OF THE SKY

IndiGo and Air India overshadow every other airline today but Akasa can emerge as the third alternative for Indian flyers.

Market share (air sq. number of passengers carried)*



* In August 2024

Source: DGCA, Mint research

Running full?

Vistara leads in passenger load factor, an indicator of revenue management, followed by Akasa.

Passenger load factor, August 2024 (in %)*



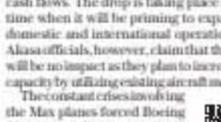
* The percentage of available seating capacity that has been filled with passengers.

Source: DGCA, Mint research

Time check

Akasa leads in on-time performance, an indicator of efficient operations.

On-time performance (in %)*



* In August 2024. On-time performance here implies flights that were on time in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai.

Source: DGCA, Mint research

Max beta

Akasa has an order book of over 200 Boeing 737 Max aircraft.

Current fleet size and aircraft to be delivered



* Current fleet size includes operational fleet. Source: DGCA, Mint research

Source: DGCA, Mint research

The Indian regulator cited a risk of "jamming" in the wake of an incident in February involving a United Airlines Boeing 737 Max flight in New Jersey. That incident had prompted the US National Transportation Safety Board to raise a new red flag over safety issues. In January, a door plug flew off a new Akasa Airlines Boeing 737 Max 9 aircraft, leading to intensified regulatory scrutiny on Boeing.

Earlier, the 737 Max had been grounded worldwide for nearly two years after two fatal crashes involving Indonesia's Lion Air (October 2018) and Ethiopian Airways (March 2019) killed 346 people. Both crashes were blamed on a new flight control system called MCAS that malfunctioned. Operations resumed gradually around the world from December 2020 after the problem was addressed and the aircraft cleared. But a similar grounding will cause serious problems for Akasa, which has all its planes in the Max basket.

Given its frequent issues, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has capped 737 MAX production at 38 per month to increase inspections. Due to supply delays, production has fallen below even this cap in recent months. Boeing could make just 32 units in August and 25 in July. It aims to ramp up production to 38 jets by the end of the year, but analysts are doubtful that will happen.

The slowdown in production of the Max will affect Akasa, as delayed deliveries will impact not just growth but also its SLB cash flows. The drop is taking place at a time when it will be priming to expand domestic and international operations. Akasa officials, however, claim that there will be no impact as they plan to increase capacity by utilizing existing aircraft more.

The constant crises involving the Max planes forced Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun to resign in March, with Kelly Ortberg appointed as his successor. In recent years, the American manufacturer has been burching from one crisis to another. In the latest setback, problems with the Starliner, its space crew transporter, have left two American astronauts stranded on the International Space Station.

Despite the many issues bedeviling the 737 Max, Dube is unfazed. "We're going to stick to our deliveries with Boeing," he declared. Akasa, he added, would be "disciplined" and not try to acquire aircraft in the secondary market, ruling out acquiring planes from a struggling airline even if they are available at a bargain.

Ankur Godil, the airline's chief financial

officer (CFO), who started his aviation career with IndiGo and then joined Akasa, said whatever challenges the airline faces today are normal for a new entrant. "I think people don't understand enough that the initial two-three years are the most difficult. Because your brand is building up, the cost structure is higher because of this fixed cost that we have," he explained.

Martin, however, felt that it would be best for Akasa to change its aircraft type so that there is some degree of certainty in its growth plans. But that is easier said than done. Changing aircraft midway would not only require cancelling the order but also a change in the cockpit and cabin crew as well as engineers. The engine-rolling bases, spare stock, etc. would also require changes. So, for now, Akasa is all in with the Boeing 737 Max.

If Boeing can address the issues dogging the plane once and for all, and if Akasa can execute its home and international market strategies without any hitch, it could eventually become a serious contender. When that happens, it would be good news for passengers—if fares come down.

mkul@huffpost.com



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2024

Air India Mumbai-New York flight diverted to Delhi after bomb threat

Nothing suspicious found

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI: Three international flights originating from Mumbai received bomb threats on Monday. While a New York-bound Air India flight was diverted to New Delhi and rescheduled, the other two, both operated by IndiGo, were delayed by several hours.

Nothing suspicious was found on any of the planes, police officials said.

"Flight AI 119 operating from Mumbai to JFK on October 14 received a specific security alert and on instructions of the government's security regulatory committee, (it) was diverted to Delhi," Air India said in a statement.

"Staff on ground are working to minimise the inconvenience caused to our guests by this unexpected disruption," it said.

All 258 people onboard the aircraft were disembarked and made to go through security procedures, it said.

There were 239 passengers and 19 crew members onboard the plane.

The flight has been rescheduled and will now depart for New York from Delhi on Tuesday morning, the airline said.

"The aircraft was thoroughly checked at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, and all standard safety protocols were diligently followed to ensure the safety of the passengers and the crew on board," a senior police officer said, adding that nothing suspicious was found during checking.

The bomb threat was received through a post on the microblogging platform X and the handle is being verified, the officer said.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol visited the Delhi airport to take stock of the situation.

"Upon landing in Delhi a while ago, took stock of the situation at Delhi airport regarding the diversion & emergency landing of flight AI 119, carrying 239 passengers.

Bomb scare for 3 int'l flights from Mumbai turns out to be a hoax

Air India flight, 2 IndiGo aircrafts receive bomb threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: Security agencies went into a tizzy after three international flights originating from Mumbai received bomb threats on Monday with one of them, a New York-bound Air India aircraft, getting diverted to New Delhi as travel plans of some 500 passengers went for a toss.

However, nothing suspicious was found on any of the planes after a thorough check by security agencies, police officials said. Apart from the Air India flight, two IndiGo aircrafts – one bound to Muscat (Oman) and another to Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) – also received bomb threats, as per officials.

The IndiGo flights received the threats before they took off and the planes were moved to isolation bays for security checks on Monday morning, the airline said without elaborating. The Air India aircraft had 239 passengers and 19 crew members on board, while the two IndiGo flights had around 260 passengers, according to sources. While the IndiGo's Muscat flight departed for its destination after a delay of nearly 7 hours at around 9.15 am after receiving security



The New York-bound AI flight was diverted to Delhi PIC/REPRESENTATIONAL

clearance, the Jeddah-bound aircraft took off at 13.14 pm, 11 hours behind its scheduled departure time of 2.05 am, as per the live flight tracking website Flightradar.com.

However, the Air India flight has been rescheduled and will now depart for New York from Delhi on Tuesday morning, as per the airline.

An Air India statement said: "Flight AI119 operating Mumbai to JFK (New York) on October 14 received a specific security alert and on instructions of the government's security regulatory committee it was diverted to Delhi."

"The aircraft was thoroughly checked at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, and all standard safety protocols were diligently followed to

ensure the safety of the passengers and the crew on board," a senior Delhi police officer said, adding nothing suspicious was found during checking.

The bomb threat was received through a post on X and the handle is being verified, the officer said.

The IndiGo's Mumbai-Muscat and Mumbai-Jeddah flights also received bomb threats, a Mumbai police official confirmed, but said "nothing was found (after inspection of the aircraft and passengers and baggage scanning)."

"IndiGo flight 6E 1275 operating from Mumbai to Muscat had received a bomb threat. As per protocols, the aircraft was taken to an isolated bay," the Gurugram-headquartered budget airline stated.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2024

Mumbai-NY flight diverted to Delhi after bomb threat, nothing found



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A Mumbai-New York Air India flight was diverted to Delhi early morning on Monday due to a bomb threat, according to officials. The aircraft was carrying 239 passengers.

"Flight AI 119 operating from Mumbai to JFK on October 14 received a specific security alert and on instructions of the government's security regulatory committee, (it) was diverted to Delhi," Air India said in a statement.

"Staff on ground are working to minimise the inconvenience caused to our guests by this unexpected disruption," it said. A thorough inspection was conducted by security of-

ficials and no suspicious item was found inside the aircraft, the police said.

All 258 people, including 19 crew members, were disembarked from the aircraft and shifted to hotels after the security protocols were completed.

The flight has now been rescheduled and will depart for New York from Delhi on Tuesday morning, the airline said.

"The aircraft was thoroughly checked at the Indra Gandhi International Airport, and all standard safety protocols were diligently followed to ensure the safety of the passengers and the crew on board," the news agency PTI quoted a senior police officer as saying.

The bomb threat was re-

ceived through a post on X and the handle is being verified, the officer said.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol visited the Delhi airport to take stock of the situation.

"Upon landing in Delhi a while ago, took stock of the situation at Delhi airport regarding the diversion & emergency landing of flight AI 119, carrying 239 passengers.

"While the due security checks & safety protocols are being diligently followed, directed the airport officials & the Air India staff to arrange all the necessary assistance as well as convenient accommodation for the passengers affected," he said in a post on X at 1 pm.

Besides the Air India flight, two IndiGo flights from Mumbai received bomb threats on Monday. One plane was bound for Muscat in Oman and the other for Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. The IndiGo flights received the threats before they took off and the planes concerned were moved to isolation bays.

फ्लाइट में बम की सूचना, दिल्ली में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग

■ एनबीटी न्यूज, नई दिल्ली

मुंबई से न्यू यॉर्क जा रही एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट में रविवार रात बम रखे होने की जानकारी X पर एक पोस्ट के जरिए जांच एजेंसियों को मिली। खबर मिलते ही फ्लाइट को तुरंत नई दिल्ली स्थित IGI एयरपोर्ट पर उतारा गया। जिसके बाद फ्लाइट में मौजूद सभी यात्रियों को एक-एक कर सुरक्षित बाहर निकाला गया। सभी यात्रियों के बाहर आने के बाद फ्लाइट की जांच की गई, लेकिन फ्लाइट से कुछ भी संदिग्ध नहीं मिला। इस घटना के अलावा रविवार रात मुंबई से उड़ान भरने वाले दो अन्य फ्लाइट में भी बम की सूचना मिली। किसी में कुछ संदिग्ध पुलिस को नहीं मिला है। सूत्रों की मानें तो एयर इंडिया द्वारा यात्रियों को देर शाम दूसरी फ्लाइट से न्यू यॉर्क भेजा गया।

पुलिस के मुताबिक, रविवार देर रात करीब 2 बजे एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट



संख्या 119 ने न्यू यॉर्क के लिए उड़ान भरी थी। इसमें 239 यात्री सवार थे। उड़ान भरने के कुछ देर बाद ही ट्वीट के जरिए एजेंसी को सूचना मिली कि फ्लाइट में बम है। फ्लाइट के पायलट को तुरंत दिल्ली डायवर्ट किया गया। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर इस फ्लाइट की इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग कराई गई। यात्रियों को नीचे उतारा गया। दिल्ली पुलिस के अलावा सीआईएसएफ की टीम मौके पर पहुंची। पूरी तलाशी लेने के बाद यात्रियों के सामान को चेक किया। घंटे तलाशी के बाद कुछ संदिग्ध नहीं मिला। फिलहाल लोकल पुलिस के अलावा अन्य जांच एजेंसी मामले की जांच कर रही है।

एक्स पर न्यूयॉर्क फ्लाइट में बम होने की सूचना

IGI पर उतारकर ली तलाशी

नई दिल्ली, 14 अक्टूबर (नवोदय टाइम्स): बीती रात दो बजे मुंबई छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे से न्यूयॉर्क जाने वाली एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट में बम होने की सूचना के बाद सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के हाथ पैर फूल गए। फ्लाइट में 239 यात्री सवार थे।

फ्लाइट को तुरंत दिल्ली डायवर्ट कर आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर उतारा और एक सुरक्षा जगह पर ले जाकर फ्लाइट की चैकिंग की। बम निरोधक दस्ते समेत

अन्य सुरक्षा एजेंसियों को घंटों की चैकिंग करने के बाद कोई भी संदिग्ध वस्तु नहीं मिली। बताया गया कि सोमवार को इंडिगो मुंबई-मस्कट 6ई1275 और इंडिगो मुंबई-जेद्दा 6ई56 फ्लाइट में भी बम की सूचना मिली थी। हालांकि ये दोनों फ्लाइट टेकऑफ की तैयारी में ही थीं। इसलिए समय रहते सुरक्षा एजेंसियों

ने इनकी जांच एयरपोर्ट पर ही शुरू की। कई घंटे की जांच के बाद फ्लाइट के अंदर कुछ नहीं मिला और सूचना फर्जी निकली। पुलिस अधिकारियों ने बताया कि पिछले कुछ महीने से फ्लाइट में बम होने आदि की आधा दर्जन से ज्यादा

■ बम निरोधक और सुरक्षा एजेंसियों को फ्लाइट से कोई संदिग्ध चीज नहीं मिली
■ फ्लाइट में 239 यात्री मौजूद थे, सोमवार को दो और विमानों में बम की सूचना मिली थी

मामले आए। लेकिन किसी भी मामले में कोई संदिग्ध वस्तु नहीं मिली। लेकिन हर एक कॉल को गंभीरता से लिया जाता है। क्योंकि हर एक जिंदगी उनके लिये महत्वपूर्ण है।

एयरपोर्ट अधिकारियों ने बताया कि सोमवार सुबह मुंबई एयरपोर्ट को एक्स (पूर्व में ट्विटर) पर न्यूयॉर्क जाने वाली फ्लाइट में बम की धमकी

के बारे में एक संदेश मिला। यह संदेश दिल्ली में सुरक्षा एजेंसियों को दिया गया और विमान को दिल्ली डायवर्ट करने का फैसला किया गया। आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर दिल्ली पुलिस समेत, बम निरोधक



दस्ता, दमकलकर्मी आदि मौके पर मौजूद रहे थे। एयरपोर्ट पर फ्लाइट को उतारने के बाद यात्रियों और चालक दल की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सभी मानक सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल का पूरी तरह से पालन कर उनको बाहर निकाला गया।

एयर इंडिया के प्रवक्ता ने एक बयान जारी करते हुए कहा कि 14

पांच दिनों में दूसरा मामला

पिछले 5 दिनों में फ्लाइट में बम की धमकी का यह दूसरा मामला है। 9 अक्टूबर को भी लंदन से दिल्ली के लिए उड़ी विस्तारा एयरलाइन की फ्लाइट 18 में बम की सूचना थी। फ्लाइट के दिल्ली पहुंचने से करीब साढ़े 3 घंटे पहले एक यात्री ने प्लेन के टॉयलेट में धमकी भरा टिशू पेंपर देखा। उसने क्रू मेंबर को सूचना दी। फ्लाइट में करीब 300 यात्री और क्रू मेंबर सवार थे। सुरक्षा जांच के चलते पैसेंजर्स करीब 5 घंटे एयरपोर्ट पर ही फंसे रहे। बीते 22 अगस्त को भी इसी तरह से धमकी मिली थी।

अक्टूबर को मुंबई से जेएफके के लिए उड़ान भरने वाली फ्लाइट एआई119 को एक विशेष सुरक्षा अलर्ट मिला था। सरकार की सुरक्षा नियामक समिति के निर्देश पर इसे दिल्ली की ओर मोड़ दिया गया। सभी यात्रियों को उतारा और उनको परेशानी का कारण भी बताया गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2024



Manic Monday for Air India

From page 3

"Upon landing in Delhi a while ago, took stock of the situation at Delhi airport regarding the diversion & emergency landing of flight AI 119, carrying 239 passengers. "While the due security checks & safety protocols are being diligently followed, directed the airport officials & the Air India staff to arrange all the necessary assistance as well as convenient accommodation for the passengers affected," he said in a post on X at 1 pm.

Apart from the Air India flight, two IndiGo flights

originating from Mumbai received bomb threats on Monday. One IndiGo flight was headed to Muscat and the other to Jeddah. The IndiGo flights received the threats before they took off and the planes concerned were moved to isolation bays for security checks.

"IndiGo flight 6E 1275 operating from Mumbai to Muscat had received a bomb threat. As per protocol, the aircraft was taken to an isolated bay, and following the standard operating procedure, mandatory security checks were promptly initiated," the

airlines said in a statement. Customers were provided with assistance and refreshments, and we sincerely regret the inconvenience caused," it added.

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Manic Monday for Air India

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a worrying trend, five hoax bomb threat messages to three international flights, a mail train and a university, made it a manic Monday for security agencies. Three separate international flights with 600 passengers on board departing from Mumbai received bomb threat messages early this morning. Besides, Gujarat based National Law University and Mumbai-Howrah mail train number 12809 also received bomb threat messages, which proved to be hoaxes. Since any threat is taken seriously, one flight Air India Mumbai-New York was diverted to Indira Gandhi international airport at New Delhi and two others delayed for being checked thoroughly before being allowed to proceed for their destinations. According to the Bureau of Civil Aviation (BCAS), the affected flights were AI 119, that was the Mumbai-New York Air India flight that diverted to IGI airport, IndiGo Mumbai-Muscat 6E 1275 and Mumbai-Jeddah

6E56. Hoax messages severely cripple flight schedules. On getting a threat like this airports/aircraft, passengers and baggage has to be thoroughly checked. Getting the all clear nod takes several hours and by then sometimes the maximum time for which crew can operate is about to lapse. "Flight AI 119 operating from Mumbai to JFK on October 14 received a specific security alert and on instructions of the government's security regulatory committee, (it) was diverted to Delhi," Air India said in a statement. "Staff on ground are working to minimise the inconvenience caused to our guests by this unexpected disruption, it said. All 258 people onboard the aircraft have disembarked and are currently undergoing security procedures. Once the security protocols are completed, the passengers will be moved to hotels, it added. There were 239 passengers and 19 crew members onboard the plane. The flight has been rescheduled and will now depart for New York from

Delhi on Tuesday morning, the airline said. "The aircraft was thoroughly checked at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, and all standard safety protocols were diligently followed to ensure the safety of the passengers and the crew on board," a senior police officer said, adding that nothing suspicious was found during checking. The Boeing 777 aircraft - VT-AER - departed Mumbai at 2:27 am, nearly 50 minutes behind its scheduled departure of 1:40 am, and landed around one-and-a-half hours later, according to flight tracking service Flightradar24. Passengers were made to deplane the aircraft at around 4:10 am, but were asked to leave their bags on board. The bomb threat was received through a post on the microblogging platform X and the handle is being verified, the officer said. Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol visited the Delhi airport to take stock of the situation.

Continued on page 4

Average air fares drop 20-25 per cent around Diwali

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Air passengers might have a reason to smile this Diwali season as average airfares on many domestic routes have dropped 20-25 per cent compared to the year-ago period, according to an analysis.

Increased capacity and the recent fall in oil prices are considered to be among the factors for the fall in air ticket prices.

The analysis by travel portal ixigo showed that average airfare on the domestic routes has declined in the range of 20-25 per cent.

The prices are for one-way average fare on a 30 days APD (advanced purchase date) basis.

For 2023, the time period considered is November 10-16 while it is October 28-November 3 for this year. This is the time around Diwali.

The maximum decline of average airfare is 38 per cent for a Bengaluru-Kolkata flight to Rs 6,319 this year from Rs 10,195 last year, as per the analysis.

The ticket price on Chennai-Kolkata route has fallen 36 per cent to Rs 5,604 from Rs 8,725.

The average airfare for Mumbai-Delhi flight has dropped 34 per cent to Rs



5,762 from Rs 8,788. Similarly, there is a 34 per cent decrease in ticket prices on Delhi-Udaipur route to Rs 7,469 from Rs 11,296.

The decline is 32 per cent on Delhi-Kolkata, Hyderabad-Delhi, and Delhi-Srinagar routes.

"Last year, airfares around Diwali had surged due to limited capacity, primarily driven by the suspension of Go First airline. However, this year we've seen some relief as

additional capacity has been added since then, leading to a 20-25 per cent YoY (year-on-year) dip in average airfares across key routes for the last week of October," ixigo Group CEO Alope Bajpai told PTL.

According to him, the decline in oil prices, down 15 per cent this year, may have also contributed to this downward trend, offering travellers more affordable options during the festive season.

Currently, oil prices are slightly on the upward trajectory amid rising geopolitical tensions.

Meanwhile, there has been a hike in airfares of up to 34 per cent on certain routes.

While the ticket price has jumped 34 per cent on Ahmedabad-Delhi route to Rs 8,758 from Rs 6,533, the rise is 33 per cent on Mumbai-Dehradun route to Rs 15,527 from Rs 11,710, the analysis showed.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

14 OCTOBER 2024

आराम से उड़ो : कई घरेलू मार्गों पर उड़ानें पिछले साल के मुकाबले सस्ती दिवाली पर हवाई किराया 25% तक घटा

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

नई दिल्ली. दिवाली की छुट्टियों में सफर करने वालों के लिए खुशखबर है। कई रूट पर हवाई किराया पिछले साल के दिवाली सीजन के मुकाबले 20 से 25 फीसदी तक घट गया है। यह गिरावट घरेलू मार्गों के लिए है। किराए में कमी यात्रियों की बढ़ती क्षमता और तेल की कीमतें घटने के कारण हुई। कई रूट पर हवाई किराया ट्रेन के किराए से भी कम है।

टैवल पोर्टल इक्सिगो ने 28 अक्टूबर से तीन नवंबर की समयवधि की अग्रिम खरीद तिथि

(एपीडी) के आधार पर घरेलू मार्गों पर औसत हवाई किराए का विश्लेषण किया। यह दिवाली के आसपास का समय है।

विश्लेषण के मुताबिक बेंगलुरु-कोलकाता उड़ान के लिए औसत हवाई किराए में सबसे ज्यादा 38 फीसदी की गिरावट आई है। इस रूट के लिए पिछले साल (10-16 नवंबर) किराया 10,195 रुपए था, जो इस बार घटकर 6,319 रुपए रह गया। दिल्ली-कोलकाता, हैदराबाद-दिल्ली और दिल्ली-श्रीनगर रूट पर टिकट की कीमतों में 32 फीसदी की गिरावट आई है।

किस मार्ग पर कितनी कमी



हवाई सफर ट्रेन के मुकाबले सस्ता...

दिवाली के समय कई रूट पर ट्रेन का किराया हवाई किराए के बराबर या ज्यादा है। दिल्ली-मुंबई रूट पर 28 अक्टूबर को राजधानी एक्सप्रेस ट्रेन की फर्स्ट क्लास का टिकट 4,751 रुपए का है। मेक माई ट्रिप के मुताबिक इसी दिन इंडिगो की फ्लाइट का किराया 4,042 रुपए है।

इसलिए गिरावट: इक्सिगो के सीईओ आलोक बाजपेयी ने बताया कि पिछले साल सीमित क्षमता के कारण हवाई किराए में उछाल आया था। इस साल अतिरिक्त क्षमता जोड़ी है। इससे किराए में कमी आई है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

14 OCTOBER 2024

चेम्बर ने सूरत की फ्लाइट शुरू करने केंद्रीय विमानन मंत्री को भेजा पत्र



पत्रिका ब्यूरो @ रायपुर.
छत्तीसगढ़ चेम्बर ऑफ कॉमर्स
एंड इंडस्ट्रीज ने रायपुर से सूरत
के लिए सीधी फ्लाइट शुरू करने
केन्द्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री
राममोहन नायडू को पत्र लिखा
है। चेम्बर प्रदेश अध्यक्ष अमर
पारखानी ने पत्र में बताया है कि
राजधानी रायपुर में छत्तीसगढ़
का सबसे बड़ा कपड़ा एवं
सराफा बाजार है। यहां से बड़ी
संख्या में कारोबारी खरीदारी
करने के लिए सूरत जाते हैं।
रायपुर से सीधी फ्लाइट नहीं होने
के कारण याया मुंबई,
अहमदाबाद और पुणे होते हुए
जाना पड़ता है। इसके कारण
अतिरिक्त रकम खर्च करने के
साथ ही समय भी खराब होता है।
रायपुर एवं सूरत के बीच हवाई
सुविधा चालू होने से दोनों राज्यों
के मध्य आर्थिक गतिविधियां
बढ़ने के साथ ही कारोबार में
इजाफा और नए रोजगारों का
सृजन होगा जिससे अतिरिक्त
राजस्व की प्राप्ति होगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2024

तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को उड़ाने की धमकी

मुंबई (भाषा)। मुंबई से उड़ान भरने वाली वाली तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में सोमवार को बम की धमकी मिलने के बाद सुरक्षा एजेंसियों में खलबली मच गई, जबकि न्यूयॉर्क जाने वाली एअर इंडिया की एक उड़ान का मार्ग परिवर्तित कर उसे दिल्ली में उतार दिया गया।

एअर इंडिया की उड़ान के अलावा इंडिगो की मस्कट और जेद्दा जाने वाली दो उड़ानों को भी बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली थी। इंडिगो के विमानों को उड़ान भरने से पहले ही धमकियां मिल गईं और संबंधित विमानों को सोमवार सुबह सुरक्षा जांच के लिए अलग स्थान पर ले जाया गया। एअर इंडिया ने कहा, '14 अक्टूबर को मुंबई से जॉन एफ कैनेडी (जेएफके) अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे

■ एअर इंडिया के अलावा इंडिगो की मस्कट और जेद्दा जाने वाली दो उड़ानों में भी बम होने की मिली थी सूचना



जाने वाली उड़ान संख्या एआई-119 को विशेष सुरक्षा चेतावनी मिली और सरकार की सुरक्षा नियामक समिति के निर्देश पर विमान का मार्ग परिवर्तित कर उसे दिल्ली भेज दिया गया।' पुलिस ने बताया 'विमान फ़िलहाल इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा पर मौजूद है और यात्रियों तथा चालक दल की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सभी मानक सुरक्षा 'प्रोटोकॉल' का पालन किया जा रहा है।'

दूसरी ओर इंडिगो मुंबई-मस्कट और मुंबई-जेद्दा उड़ानों को भी बम की धमकी मिली थी, लेकिन उन्होंने कहा कि 'विमान और यात्रियों की जांच तथा सामान की स्कैनिंग के बाद कुछ भी नहीं मिला।'

3 Bomb Hoax Threats Spell Chaos For Flyers

AI's Mumbai-NY Flight Among Those Affected

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Bomb threats made it Manic Monday for three international flights and close to 600 passengers onboard them. One flight — Air India's Mumbai-New York — was diverted to Delhi and two others were delayed for thorough checks before being allowed to proceed to their destinations. Aviation security officials confirmed later that the threat messages proved to be hoaxes.

The Air India flight received a bomb threat on social media platform X. Usha Rangnani, DCP (IGI), said the aircraft carrying 239 passengers made an emergency landing at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi. "A thorough inspection following standard security protocols was conducted. No suspicious items were detected," Rangnani said.

Airport sources said that soon after the threat was received, a bomb threat assessment committee was convened. An airport official said, "After it landed around 3.40am on Monday, the Air India flight was immediately diverted to an isolation bay for a thorough check."

Two IndiGo flights, 6E1275 and 6E56, bound, respectively, for Muscat and Jeddah, also underwent security inspections at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai after receiving bomb threats. A CISF official said the threat on X was termed as specific as it claimed the flights would be hijacked mid-air or were carrying a bomb that would go off in the sky. "However, nothing suspicious was discovered during the inspection," said an official.

An Air India spokesperson said, "Flight AI119 operating from Mumbai to JFK on Oct 14 received a specific security alert and, on instructions of



Bloomberg/Photo for representation

TURBULENCE ON GROUND

the govt's security regulatory committee, was diverted to Delhi. We confirm that all 239 passengers and 19 crew disembarked and are currently undergoing security procedures."

The spokesperson added, "Our staff on the ground are making sure to minimise the inconvenience caused to our guests by this unexpected disruption. Guests will be moved to hotels once security protocols are completed. The flight has been rescheduled to the morning of Oct 15."

An airport official said another aircraft, AI1119, will depart for New York on Tuesday at 5am with the passengers of AI119. Murlidhar Mohol, Union minister of state for civil aviation and cooperation, who landed at IGI hours after the incident, reviewed the situation. "While the due security checks and safety protocols are being diligently followed, directed the airport officials & the Air India staff to arrange all the necessary assistance as well as convenient accommodation for the passengers affected," Mohol posted on X.

Hoax messages severely cripple flight schedules. On getting a threat like this, air-

ports/aircraft, passengers and baggage have to be checked thoroughly. Getting the all-clear nod takes several hours and sometimes by then the maximum time for which a crew can operate lapses, leaving the airlines to arrange for additional crew.

Given the increasing frequency of such calls, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security had proposed on June 18 that anyone indulging in hoax threats against flights, airports or an aviation-sector related facility should be put on the no-fly list for five years across airlines. That day, BCAS director general Zulfikar Hasan had announced, "Six people have already been arrested so far for issuing hoax threats."

Meanwhile, another Air India flight on its way to Kolkata was forced to return mid-air on Monday soon after taking off from Delhi with the airline saying the reason was a technical issue. "The aircraft landed safely for precautionary checks," said an Air India spokesperson. Alternative arrangements were made to fly the passengers to Kolkata alongside full refund on cancellation and complimentary rescheduling to another date.

Tatas Plan to Beef Up AI Express with Air India and Vistara Planes

Look to transfer planes with all-economy seating configuration

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: Tata Group is planning to expand the aircraft fleet of its budget carrier, Air India Express, with all-economy configuration planes from its full-service airlines, Air India and Vistara, as part of a strategy to better compete with market leader Indigo.

People aware of the plan said planes from Air India and Vistara with all-economy seating configuration will be transferred to Air India Express.

The first phase will see the transfer of 17 Airbus A320 Neo aircraft from Air India to Air India Express, while 10 of Vistara's all-economy A320 Neo aircraft will join the airline after Vistara's merger with Air India is completed, they said, adding that the transfer will be completed by the middle of 2025.

Spokespersons for Air India and Air India Express did not respond to ET's request for comment.

The salt-to-tech conglomerate is restructuring its aviation business which will see it merging four airlines into two--Air India and Air India Express--to compete in the premium and no-frills segments, respectively.

"The group intends to be very clear in terms of positioning of brands.



Hoax Bomb Calls Delay Flights, Trains

New Delhi: Air India's Mumbai-New York flight was diverted to Delhi and two international flights of IndiGo were delayed at the Mumbai airport after receiving bomb threats on Monday. The threats, after investigation, turned out to be hoax.

Indian Railways officials reported that a hoax bomb threat targeting Mumbai-Howrah Mail was received by its control room. As a precaution, the train was stopped at Jalgaon station for a thorough inspection. — **Our Bureau**

These aircraft are in all-economy seating and fit better in Air India Express, which will be the brand in the no-frills segment," a person involved in the process said.

Air India Express, he said, will be adding 17 planes from Air India and another 15 Boeing 737 Max planes from its own order by the middle of next year, giving capacity expansion a boost.

Over the last 10 months, the airline has added 26 new Boeing 737-8 aircraft to its fleet.

According to data from global travel data provider OAG, India has the highest share of low-cost carriers (LCCs) in terms of overall airline seats, accounting for 71% of the capacity deployed.

Earlier this month, Air India Express got the final nod from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to merge with itself the business of erstwhile AirAsia India, becoming a single entity.

"We will ride upon our huge fleet and network expansion, in the domestic India market and short-haul international region--unlocking synergies with the merger of the two entities, and network integration with Air India," the person cited earlier said.

2mn travel to US & UK from Hyd, but few direct flights

Need More Flights To Overseas From RGIA: Passengers

Sunny.Baski@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Despite nearly two million passenger's travelling from Hyderabad to overseas destinations in 2023-24, the city has only a handful of international flights departing from the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), according to data collected by the airport authorities.

In fact, RGIA currently has no direct flights to key destinations such as the US, African countries, Australia, Vietnam and Indonesia.

Incidentally, more than a million people travelled to American cities such as Dallas, Washington DC, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Atlanta and Houston last financial year.

Telugus sign petition for Hyd-Dallas connectivity

Such is the demand for direct flights to the US that a few months ago, as many as 5,500 Telugus signed a petition urging Air India to start a service between Hyderabad and Dallas, the US city with one of the largest populations of NRIs from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Even the UK, another popular destination, where nearly 5 lakh passengers travelled from Hyderabad in the last financial year, has only one direct flight.

In contrast, cities such as Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru have at least three daily flights to the UK.

"Hyderabad airport boasts a large student population travelling. There is also robust demand for leisure, education and business travel. Hydera-

HYD'S AIR TRAVEL JOURNAL

- RGIA has no direct flights to US, African countries, Australia, Vietnam and Indonesia

- Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru have at least three daily flights to UK



2023-24 Hyd passenger traffic

Destination	Traffic
Europe	4.9 lakh
US	10.2 lakh
Australia	1.3 lakh
Indonesia	67,185
Africa	1.08 lakh
Vietnam	17,938

- Several airlines stopped direct flights from Hyderabad to Vietnam & Maldives due to low passenger numbers, said travel agents

- Airlines need to conduct market research in Hyderabad to assess demand for international air travel, said agents

bad ranks third after Delhi and Mumbai in the number of passengers flying to US without a direct flight, with similar trends for Europe and Australia," said an RGIA official.

Travel agents urged the state govt to take up matter with ministry of civil aviation and international airlines.

"Several airlines have stopped direct flights from Hyderabad to Vietnam and the Maldives, citing low passenger numbers. Before the pandemic, there was a direct flight between Hyderabad and Chicago twice a week, but that service has also been discontinued," said Abdul Majeed Faheem, chairman of the Travel Agents Federation (Hyderabad). "For a long time, Turkish Airlines has been expressing interest in establishing a direct route between Istanbul and Hyderabad, but it has yet to materialise."

Calling for more focus on Hyderabad, another travel agent, Moez Meghani, said airlines need to conduct thoro-

ugh market research in Hyderabad to assess the demand for international air travel and, based on their findings, introduce direct flights on routes that need such services.

Airlines focus on Mum, Del & B'luru for direct flights to US

"At present, airlines are prioritising cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Bengaluru for direct flights to the US, UK and Australia. As for Hyderabad, the focus of direct flights is on the Middle East region," he added, suggesting that this base be expanded.

This lack of direct flights has forced passengers to rely on flights with layovers in Mumbai, Delhi, Dubai, London and Singapore. "Direct flights to Dallas would cut travel time by six to eight hours. We urge the airlines, especially Air India, to provide direct flights between Hyderabad and various destinations in the US," said B Srinivas, a frequent flier whose son lives in the American city.