



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

Calibration of key systems in Jewar airport complete

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GREATER NOIDA: The Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL), the agency entrusted by the Uttar Pradesh government to oversee the construction of the greenfield international airport in Greater Noida's Jewar, on Tuesday said the calibration of the instrument landing system (ILS) and precision approach path indicator (PAPI) has been completed, officials said, adding that both are key systems necessary for aircraft landing and take-off, before the airport gets operational on April 17, 2025.

A Beechcraft King Air 360ER from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) on October 10 started the calibration process and com-

pleted it on October 14. The completion of this process proves that the runway along with requisite equipment are ready for the operations, said officials.

"The AAI with assistance from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) conducted the calibration process. The completion of this process proves that the runway along with requisite equipment are ready for the operations and that all required safety standards for aircraft operations are ready," said Arun Vir Singh, chief executive officer of NIAL.

"The ILS is a radio navigation system, which provides precise guidance to pilots during approach and landing, particularly in low visibility conditions" said Singh.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

National Capital Region's second airport almost ready for operations



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region's second airport, Noida International Airport has successfully completed the calibration of the instrument landing system and precision approach path indicator to assess navigation systems. The calibration, carried out by Airports Authority of India (AAI) with support from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), represents a crucial milestone in the airport's journey towards operational readiness. The airport plans to apply for an aerodrome licence in December, this year. The airport is strategically

located at about 72 km from Indira Gandhi International Airport, about 52 kilometres from Noida, about 130 kilometres from Agra and about 90 kilometres from Multi-Modal Logistics Hub at Dadri. The Instrument Landing System (ILS) is a radio navigation system that provides precise guidance to pilots during approach and landing, particularly in low visibility conditions. The Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) is a system of lights positioned beside the runway to provide visual indication to pilots regarding their correct descent angle during the final approach.

"A Beech King Air 360ER from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) began the calibration process on Thursday, 10th October, with the process concluding on 14th October 2024," a media release stated on Tuesday.

Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zurich Airport International AG, is developing the airport. The foundation stone for the project was laid in November 2021. The concession period for Noida International Airport commenced on October 1 2021 and will run for 40 years. The airport, which aims to start commercial operations in April 2025, is expected to submit the application for aerodrome licence in December after completing the validation flights.

In the first phase, the airport will have one terminal, one runway, 10 aerobridges and 25 parking stands. Once all four development phases are completed, the airport will have a capacity to handle 70 million passengers per year.

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National Capital Region's second airport almost...

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Noida International Airport (IATA code - DXN) will connect the greater Delhi area and also Western Uttar Pradesh with other cities in the country and the world. "The airport will combine Swiss efficiency and Indian hospitality to offer rich experiences and comprehensive commercial attractions and services to its passengers. NIA is committed to an ambitious net-zero emissions goal supported by sustainable design and operations principles," said the airport.

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi laid the foundation stone of Jewar Airport on November 26, 2021. The airport is expected to be operational later this year, two years before IGI Airport reaches its threshold traffic handling capacity.

To facilitate connectivity between the airport and its catchment area, the Uttar Pradesh government has enlisted the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) to develop a proposal for a high-speed rail link. Additionally, plans are underway to integrate the RRTS in Ghaziabad with the forthcoming Noida airport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

AAI completes landing, takeoff gear calibration at Noida airport

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Noida: Noida International Airport (NIA) has successfully completed calibration of the Instrument Landing System (ILS), which guides pilots during descent and takeoff, particularly in low visibility.

Between Oct 10 and 14, a Beech King Air 360ER completed the calibration process — conducted by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) with help from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

With the airport — the second such international facility in Delhi-NCR — set to launch commercial operations on April 17 next year, the successful completion of the calibration process means that all equipment in the runway are ready for use.

Arun Vir Singh, the chief executive officer of NIAL —

the state govt's special purpose vehicle for the project — explained, "The runway, along with its requisite equipment, is ready for operations and has met all safety standards for landing and takeoff. ILS is a radio navigation system, which provides precise guidance to pilots during approach and landing, particularly in low visibility conditions. The system has two components—a localiser and glide path antenna. While the first helps align the aircraft with the runway centre line, providing horizontal guidance, the antenna ensures a safe and smooth descent through vertical navigation."

Apart from the ILS, the Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) was also put to test.

"ILS is a crucial safety apparatus that equips pilots in adverse weather conditions like rain, fog or haze. It also

minimises the possibility of flight delays at the airport. PAPI, which was also tested simultaneously, involves lights positioned along the runway, fitted to provide visual indication to pilots for their correct descent angle during the final approach," Singh said.

In the run-up to the April launch, the airport concessionaire is likely to apply for an aerodrome licence in Dec. The licence is expected to be issued by the middle of March.

Other essential information on the airport, such as codes and booking details, will be uploaded on the International Air Transport Association (IATA) website by Feb 6.

"Ticket bookings will open 90 days in advance for international flights and up to 60 days for domestic services. So, you can expect booking slots to open around Jan or Feb," Singh said.

विमानों के उड़ान भरने के लिए नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा तैयार

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 15 अक्टूबर (देशबन्धु)। देश का सबसे बड़ा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा विमानों के उड़ान भरने के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार है। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई ने इंस्ट्रूमेंट लैंडिंग सिस्टम (आईएलएस) और प्रिंसिजन एप्रोच पाथ इंडिकेटर (पीएपीआई) का कैलिब्रेशन सफलतापूर्वक पूरा कर लिया है। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) के एक बीच किंग एयर 360 एयरक्राफ्ट ने रनवे के ऊपर 10 अक्टूबर को भर कर उपकरणों की जांच शुरू की, और प्रक्रिया 14 अक्टूबर को समाप्त हुई। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय के सहयोग से सफल कैलिब्रेशन किया गया। इसके बाद डीजीसीए हवाई अड्डे पर विमान संचालन के लिए हरी झंडी प्रदान करेगा। इसके बाद 15 नवम्बर से 15 दिसम्बर तक एयरपोर्ट पर लगातार विमानों का ट्रायल किया जाएगा। 30 नवम्बर को पूरी क्षमता के साथ विमान का रनवे पर ट्रायल होगा।

बता दें कि आईएलएस एक रेडियो



- एयरपोर्ट पर चार दिन चला इंस्ट्रूमेंट लैंडिंग सिस्टम का सफल कैलिब्रेशन
- नोएडा हवाई अड्डा पर 15 नवम्बर से 15 दिसम्बर चलेगा विमानों के उड़ान भरने का ट्रायल

नेविगेशन प्रणाली है जो पायलटों को दृष्टिकोण और लैंडिंग के दौरान सटीक मार्गदर्शन प्रदान करती है, खासकर कम

दृश्यता की स्थिति में। सिस्टम में दो मुख्य घटक होते हैं।

लोकलाइजर क्षैतिज मार्गदर्शन प्रदान करते हुए विमान को रनवे केंद्र-रेखा के साथ संरेखित करने में मदद करता है। ग्लाइड पाथ एंटीना विमान को ऊर्ध्वाधर मार्गदर्शन प्रदान करता है जिससे सुरक्षित और सहज अवतरण सुनिश्चित होता है।

आईएलएस एक आवश्यक सुरक्षा प्रणाली है जो कोहरे, बारिश या अन्य प्रतिकूल मौसम स्थितियों के कारण दृश्यता काफी कम होने पर भी पायलटों को सुरक्षित रूप से उतरने में सक्षम बनाती है। यह क्षमता परिचालन दक्षता बनाए रखने और हवाई अड्डे पर देरी को कम करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

इसके अतिरिक्त, पीएपीआई रनवे के बगल में स्थित रोशनी की एक प्रणाली है, जिसे ऑटिम दृष्टिकोण के दौरान पायलटों को उनके सही वंश कोण के बारे में दृश्य संकेत प्रदान करने के लिए डिजाइन किया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

15 OCTOBER 2024

Ganja worth ₹5 cr seized at airport

Somendra Sharma

MUMBAI

The Airport Customs on Sunday caught a passenger, who had arrived from Bangkok, for allegedly smuggling around 5kg marijuana (ganja) worth Rs5.07 crore. The action comes a day after the Air Intelligence Unit nabbed a traveller, who too had from Bangkok, for allegedly possessing marijuana



worth Rs59.6 lakh. Several hours later, the officials seized gold worth Rs1.10 crore.

"In the latest seizure, ganja was concealed in food packets packed with gift wrappers, which were placed inside the trolley bag carried by the passenger, who was later arrested," said an official.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HARI BHUMI

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

एयर इंडिया के विमान में बम की सूचना से हड़कंप

अयोध्या एयरपोर्ट पर हुई सुरक्षित 'लैंडिंग'

हरिभूमि न्यूज || अयोध्या

एयर इंडिया का विमान जयपुर से चला था। बम होने की सूचना के बाद अधिकारियों के निर्देश पर अयोध्या के महर्षि वाल्मीकि

एयरपोर्ट पर विमान की लैंडिंग कराई गई। 24 घंटे के अंदर एयर इंडिया के विमान में बम रखने की दूसरी धमकी मिली है। कमिश्नर, एसएसपी और एसपी सिटी सहित सुरक्षा विभाग के अधिकारी मौके पर पहुंचे। किसी को आकस्मिक उपचार के लिए कोई

■ उस समय विमान में 139 यात्री सवार थे



असुविधा न हो इसके लिए एयरपोर्ट पर सीएमओ डॉक्टर संजय जैन भी उपस्थित रहे। फिलहाल, अभी तक विमान में किसी भी प्रकार का बम नहीं मिला है। एयरपोर्ट पर प्रशासन पूरी तरह मुस्तैद रहा। वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक राजकरण नथ्वर एयरपोर्ट से बाहर निकले पर उन्होंने फिलहाल कुछ भी बताने से इनकार कर दिया है।

नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के रनवे पर 15 नवंबर से ट्रायल शुरू करने की तैयारी तेज विमान उतारने के लिए उपकरणों की जांच पूरी



ग्रेटर नोएडा, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर नेविगेशन और रडार संबंधी उपकरणों की चार दिवसीय जांच पूरी हो चुकी है। भारतीय विमानन पत्तन प्राधिकरण के एयरक्राफ्ट बीच किंग एयर 360 ईआर ने दिन में लगातार कई बार उड़ान भरकर इंस्ट्रूमेंट लैंडिंग सिस्टम (आईएलएस) और प्रिंसिजन अप्रोच पाथ इंडिकेटर (पीएपीआई) की जांच सफलतापूर्वक पूरी की।

प्राधिकरण के अधिकारी ने बताया कि एयरपोर्ट पर कैट-1 और कैट-3 उपकरण स्थापित हो चुके हैं, जो कोहरे में विमान की ऊंचाई और दृश्यता की जानकारी देते हैं। डीजीसीए ने उपकरणों का निरीक्षण भी किया था। एयरपोर्ट पर इंस्ट्रूमेंट लैंडिंग सिस्टम (आईएलएस) को स्थापित किया जा चुका है, जिसकी एयरक्राफ्ट बीच किंग एयर 360 ईआर के जरिए 10 से 14 अक्टूबर तक जांच की गई। बताया जाता है कि आईएलएस



एक महीने तक ट्रायल चलेगा

एयरपोर्ट पर अगले वर्ष 17 अप्रैल से व्यावसायिक विमानों की उड़ानें शुरू हो जाएंगी। ऐसे में 15 नवंबर से 15 दिसंबर तक ट्रायल के लिए विभिन्न एयरलाइंस के खाली विमान पूरे महीने रनवे पर उतारे जाएंगे। 30 नवंबर को विमान उतारकर रनवे की टेस्टिंग होगी।

एक रेडियो नेविगेशन सिस्टम है, जो विशेष रूप से कम दृश्यता की स्थिति में दृष्टिकोण और लैंडिंग के दौरान पायलट को सही जानकारी देता है। इस प्रणाली में दो मुख्य घटक होते हैं, जिनमें लोकलाइजर और ग्लाइड पाथ एंटीना

शामिल हैं। आईएलएस एक आवश्यक सुरक्षा प्रणाली है, जो पायलटों को कोहरे, बारिश या अन्य प्रतिकूल मौसम स्थितियों के कारण दृश्यता काफी कम होने पर भी सुरक्षित रूप से उतरने में सक्षम बनाती है। परिचालन दक्षता

बनाए रखने और हवाई अड्डे पर देरी को कम करने के लिए यह उपकरण बेहद जरूरी है।

अब उड़ान के लिए जरूरी लाइसेंस के आवेदन की प्रक्रिया होगा। रनवे की टेस्टिंग 15 नवंबर से शुरू होगी।

17 अप्रैल 2025 से व्यावसायिक विमानों की उड़ानें शुरू होंगी

लाइसेंस के लिए आवेदन की प्रक्रिया शुरू

एयरपोर्ट पर 17 अप्रैल को कॉमर्शियल उड़ानें शुरू करने के लिए 90 दिन पहले सभी प्रकार के लाइसेंस लेना आवश्यक है। यदि तब समय में लाइसेंस प्राप्त नहीं होते हैं तो उड़ान में छह महीने तक देरी संभव है। ऐसे में उपकरणों की जांच समेत जरूरी लाइसेंस के लिए आवेदन की प्रक्रिया भी शुरू कर दी गई है। 25 नवंबर तक डीजीसीए से फ्लाइट ट्रायल के लिए अनुमति लेनी होगी। इसके बाद ही 30 नवंबर को कॉमर्शियल विमानों को रनवे पर उतारा जा सकेगा।

ग्रेनो से नोएडा के मेट्रो स्टेशनों तक ई-बसें चलेंगी

ग्रेटर नोएडा। शहर के लोगों को नए वर्ष में 10 रूट पर इलेक्ट्रिक बस सेवा मिलेगी। ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण ने सिटी बस सेवा के तहत ये रूट प्रस्तावित किए हैं। इससे सभी आवासीय सेक्टर, ग्रेटर नोएडा वेस्ट, नोएडा के मेट्रो स्टेशन, दादरी, सूरजपुर और दनकौर कस्बे जुड़ जाएंगे। गाजियाबाद रेलवे स्टेशन के लिए सिटी पार्क से सीधी बस चलेगी। बसों के संचालन के लिए निविदा जारी करने की तैयारी चल रही है।

शासन के दिशा-निर्देश पर जिले के तीनों प्राधिकरण नोएडा, ग्रेटर नोएडा और यमुना प्राधिकरण संयुक्त रूप से मिलकर पीपीपी (पब्लिक प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप) मॉडल पर ई-बसों का संचालन करेंगे। इनके संचालन में आने वाले खर्च और कमाई के अंतर की भरपाई प्राधिकरण करेंगे। योजना के प्रथम चरण में 150 से अधिक ई-बसें चलाने की तैयारी है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

15 OCTOBER 2024

City hospital opens clinic at airport

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

The Kauvery Group of Hospitals has opened a new clinic at Chennai airport on Monday to help air passengers and airport staff access medical care. Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises T. M. Anbarasan inaugurated the facility, said a press release.

The clinic is well-equipped and has a dedicated team of staff to handle passengers. The hospital has also stationed two ambulances at the airport.

S. Chandrakumar, founder and executive chairman of the hospital, said the initiative is aimed at providing immediate medical care to travellers. Aravindan Selvaraj, co-founder and executive director said, “We are looking at making healthcare accessible and efficient at this vital transit point.”



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

More bomb hoaxes keep airports on edge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Airport staffers and security agencies on Tuesday went into a tizzy to undertake specific counter-terrorist drills at various airports after five planes, including one bound for the United States, received bomb-threat messages through a social media handle on Tuesday.

The threats via microblogging platform X came a day after five hoax bomb threat messages to three international flights, a mail train and a university on Monday, caused trouble to hundreds of passengers and airline crew.

According to sources, an X handle issued threats on Tuesday to five flights, an Air India Express flight from Jaipur to Bengaluru via Ayodhya (IX765), a SpiceJet flight from Darbhanga to Mumbai (SG116), an Akasa Air flight from Bagdogra to Bengaluru (QP 1373), an Air India flight from Delhi to Chicago (AI 127) and an Indigo flight from Dammam (Saudi Arabia) to Lucknow (6E 98).

The Air India Express aircraft underwent a security check at the Ayodhya airport. The SpiceJet and Akasa Air planes have landed, according to flight-tracking websites. An Air India flight from Delhi to Chicago was diverted to Iqaluit Airport in Canada following a bomb



threat. "Flight AI127 operating from Delhi to Chicago on October 15, 2024, was the subject of a security threat posted online and, as a precautionary measure, has landed at Iqaluit Airport in Canada," the airline said.

It further said, "Air India notes that it, and other local airlines, have been subject to a number of threats in recent days. Though all have subsequently been found to be hoaxes, as a responsible airline operator all threats are taken seriously."

An Ayodhya-bound Air India Express flight also received a bomb threat, which was sent via phone call for the IX 765 flight that flew from Jaipur at 12.25 pm. The Boeing 737 Max8 aircraft with call sign AXB765 landed at Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya airport by 1.59 pm. The aircraft is currently parked in an isolated bay area of Ayodhya airport, while passengers have been alighted from the aircraft.

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More bomb hoaxes keep airports on...

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The SpiceJet aircraft landed safely at the Mumbai Airport and was directed to an isolation bay as a precautionary measure. "All passengers disembarked normally, and security agencies were immediately notified.

After thorough security checks, the aircraft has been cleared for further operations," a SpiceJet spokesperson said.

An Akasa Air spokesperson said their flight received a security alert on board.

"The captain followed all required emergency procedures and landed safely at the Kempegowda

International Airport, Bengaluru at 13:39 hours. All passengers were deplaned and the local authorities undertook the necessary safety and security checks after which the aircraft was released for operations," the spokesperson said.

Indigo said in a statement that it was "cognisant of a situation involving flight 6E 98 from Dammam to Lucknow".

The Dammam-Lucknow flight landed at the Jaipur airport following its diversion.

The aircraft has been sent to an isolation bay, an official at the Jaipur airport said.

The X handle tagged the airline and police handles, claiming that bombs were

placed on these planes, the sources said. Four different X handles had issued a similar threat to three international flights originating from Mumbai on Monday.

All the messages on Monday were declared a hoax after security and intelligence agencies as well as airlines and airport operators carried out stipulated anti-terrorist security drills that are activated in case of bomb or hijack threats, the sources said.

Officials said the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has sought the help of Indian cyber-security agencies and police to trace the person or people behind these threats.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

15 OCTOBER 2024

3 international flights from Mumbai get bomb threats; nothing suspicious found

MUMBAI, Oct 14: 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 aircraft – one bound for Muscat (Oman) and another for 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 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 the microblogging platform 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)." – PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

सात विमानों में बम की धमकी

■ दिल्ली-शिकागो उड़ान
को कनाडा में उतारा गया



नई दिल्ली। सात विमानों में सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट के जरिये बम की धमकी दी गई। ऐसी धमकी के बाद दिल्ली से शिकागो जा रहे एअर इंडिया के विमान को मंगलवार को कनाडा के हवाई अड्डे पर उतारा गया। इसके अलावा जयपुर से बंगलूरु वाया अयोध्या जाने वाली एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की उड़ान, दरभंगा से मुंबई की स्पेसजेट की उड़ान, सिलीगुड़ी से बंगलूरु की अकासा एयर की उड़ान में बम की धमकी दी गई। सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने विभिन्न हवाई अड्डों पर सुरक्षा बढ़ा दी है।

एलायंस एयर की अमृतसर-देहरादून-दिल्ली उड़ान, मदुरै से सिंगापुर एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की उड़ान व सऊदी अरब से लखनऊ की उड़ानों के लिए भी धमकी मिली। सऊदी के दम्माम से आई इंडिगो की उड़ान की जयपुर में आपात लैंडिंग करानी पड़ी।

सिंगापुर ने दो लड़ाकू विमानों से दी सुरक्षा : मदुरै से सिंगापुर पहुंची उड़ान में बम की धमकी के बाद सिंगापुर ने दो एफ-15 लड़ाकू विमानों को आसमान में भेजा और इसे सिंगापुर के चांगी एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षित उतारा गया। ब्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

डीजीसीए ने स्पाइसजेट को विशेष निगरानी व्यवस्था से बाहर किया

नई दिल्ली। विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए ने मंगलवार को कहा कि उसने स्पाइसजेट को विशेष निगरानी व्यवस्था से बाहर कर दिया है।



दरअसल, एयरलाइन ने कमियों को दूर करने के लिए कदम उठाए हैं और अपने दायित्वों को पूरा

करने के लिए धन जुटाया है। नागरिक उड़्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने 13 सितंबर को वित्तीय संकट के बाद स्पाइसजेट को विशेष निगरानी व्यवस्था के तहत रखा, जो विमान रखरखाव से संबंधित एयरलाइन के अनिवार्य दायित्वों को प्रभावित कर सकता था। एजेसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या छह फीसदी बढ़ी

मुंबई। चरेलू हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या सितंबर में 6.38 फीसदी बढ़कर 1.30 करोड़ रही है। सितंबर, 2023 में यह 1.22 करोड़ थी। सरकार के मुताबिक, इंडिगो का बाजार हिस्सा 63% और एअर इंडिया का 15.1% रहा। हालांकि, किसी भी कंपनी का विमान 70% से ज्यादा समय पर प्रदर्शन नहीं कर पाया है। एजेसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

Diplomatic strain hits airlines as visa delays impact travel

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Airlines, which have already been impacted by Canada's issuance of fewer student visas, are bracing for a tough winter following a strain in ties between India and the North American country. Over 2.2 million passengers flew between the two countries in CY 2023. Air Canada and Air India are the largest carriers in the market and accounted for 45 per cent of traffic last year.

Fresh capacity is being added to the market in the winter

schedule, intensifying competition. Air India is adding three extra flights between Delhi and Toronto from November 1, making it a double-daily service. In June, Air Canada announced the reintroduction of its winter seasonal flight to Mumbai and the launch of a one-stop flight between Calgary and Delhi via London. "Yields on the India-Canada routes have dropped in the July-September quarter," a senior airline executive remarked. Typically these months see a lot of student traffic from India but with Canada tightening visa issuance, demand has been low.

Moreover, certain West Asian airlines incentivise travel agents to sell lower fares, adding to pricing pressure.

"It has been a difficult year," added another executive. Traffic on India-Canada routes primarily comprises students, migrants, businessmen and visiting family and relatives.

SOURCE MARKET

Canada is also the fifth largest source market for tourism in India, accounting for 4 per cent of all arrivals in CY 2023. However, that largely consists of Canadian citizens of Indian origin visiting friends and

families in India.

While neither country has announced suspension of visa issuance, the withdrawal of diplomats is expected to slow down the process.

India withdrew six diplomats, including the High Commissioner, and expelled six Canadian diplomats amid escalating tensions over Canada's handling of Sikh extremism in the country.

In a statement on Monday, India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) rejected the Canadian government's assertions that Indian diplomats were involved in criminal acts.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

SpiceJet removed from DGCA surveillance after fundraise

Our Bureau
Mumbai

The Directorate General Civil Aviation, on Tuesday, removed SpiceJet from enhanced surveillance following the ₹3,000 crore fund infusion and rectification of operational deficiencies.

The DGCA had placed the low-cost airline under surveillance in August as a cash crunch led to payment delays and flight cancellations.

MARKET SHARE DROPS

Its domestic market share fell to 2 per cent in September from 2.3 per cent in August due to depletion in its fleet.

IndiGo and Air India have been gainers at SpiceJet's expense and the two airlines increased their market share to 63 per cent (from 62.4) and 15.1 per cent (from 14.7) respectively on a month on month basis.

Overall domestic airlines flew 13 million passengers in September compared to 13.1



million passengers in August. In a statement, DGCA said a total of 266 spot checks were carried out as part of the enhanced surveillance mechanism.

"It has been ensured that deficiencies and findings found during the spot checks have been subject to suitable rectification action by the operator. In light of the same and the financial infusion of additional funds into the company, Spicejet has been taken off the enhanced surveillance regime. However, random spot checks shall continue to be carried out across the operational fleet to ensure continuing safety of operations," the civil aviation regulator said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

Domestic air passenger traffic rises 6% in Sept

Press Trust of India
Mumbai

Domestic carriers flew 1.30 crore passengers in September, which is 6.38 per cent higher compared to the year-ago period, according to offi-

cial data released on Tuesday. In September last year, airlines carried 1.22 crore passengers. IndiGo's market share rose to 63 per cent while that of Air India climbed to 15.1 per cent in September 2024, as per the data released by the Direct-

orate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). AIX Connect, which was merged with Air India Express this month, topped the list of airlines in terms of On Time Performance (OTP) at 70.1 per cent, replacing Akasa Air, whose OTP slipped to 62.1 per cent.

डीजीसीए ने स्पाइसजेट से निगरानी हटाई

दीपक पटेल
नई दिल्ली, 15 अक्टूबर

विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट द्वारा पात्र संस्थागत नियोजन (क्यूआईपी) प्रक्रिया के जरिये 3,000 करोड़ रुपये जुटाने के बाद नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने उससे निगरानी हटा दी है। मगर नियामक ने स्पष्ट किया कि वह सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए स्पाइसजेट के विमानों की कभी भी जांच कर सकता है।

नियामक ने अपनी प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में कहा है, 'विमानन कंपनी द्वारा सामना किए जा रहे आर्थिक संकटों के बीच बीते 13 सितंबर को डीजीसीए ने स्पाइसजेट को बढ़ी हुई निगरानी के दायरे में रखा था, जो संभावित तौर पर विमान के रखरखाव के अनिवार्य दायित्वों को प्रभावित कर सकता है।'

बढ़ी हुई निगरानी के दौरान डीजीसीए ने अलग-अलग स्थानों पर 266 पर औचक निरीक्षण किया

13 सितंबर को विमानन नियामक ने कंपनी को बढ़ी हुई निगरानी के दायरे में रखा था

था। इसने कहा, 'यह पाया गया कि औचक निरीक्षण के दौरान पाई गई कमियों को विमानन कंपनी द्वारा उचित सुधार के लिए कार्रवाई की गई। इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए और अतिरिक्त रकम जुटाने के बाद स्पाइसजेट को इस बढ़ी हुई निगरानी की निरंतर सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए बेड़े में औचक निरीक्षण जारी रहेगा।' बढ़ी हुई निगरानी में रखे जाने के 10 दिन बाद यानी 23 सितंबर को विमानन कंपनी ने क्यूआईपी प्रक्रिया के जरिये वैश्विक निवेशक और म्युचुअल फंड से 3,000 करोड़ रुपये जुटाए थे।

विज्ञानेस स्टैंडर्ड ने पिछले हफ्ते

खबर दी थी कि विमानन कंपनी ने नियामक को बताया है कि वह अगले 24 महीनों में जमीन पर खड़े अपने 36 विमानों को परिचालन में लाने के लिए 400 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करेगी। क्यूआईपी प्रक्रिया के दौरान विमानन कंपनी ने खुलासा किया था कि उसके 58 में 36 विमान खड़े हैं और इसका प्रमुख कारण लेनदारों को भुगतान नहीं करना, आर्थिक संकट के कारण विमान के रखरखाव और कलपुर्जों की कमी है।

विमानन कंपनी बीते छह साल से घाटे में चल रही है। गुरुग्राम मुख्यालय वाली विमानन कंपनी का वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 की पहली तिमाही में सेमिकत शुद्ध लाभ एक साल पहले के मुकाबले 20 फीसदी कम होकर 158.1 करोड़ रुपये रहा गया। पिछली कई तिमाहियों से किफायती विमानन कंपनी विमान पट्टेदारों, इंजन पट्टेदारों और ऋणदाताओं को अवैतनिक बकाया पर कई कानूनी लड़ाइयों के बीच नकदी संकट से जूझ रही है।

स्पाइसजेट की घरेलू बाजार हिस्सेदारी रह गई 2 फीसदी

दीपक पटेल
नई दिल्ली, 15 अक्टूबर

विमान कंपनी स्पाइसजेट की घरेलू बाजार हिस्सेदारी इस साल सितंबर में कम होकर 2 फीसदी रह गई है। मंगलवार को जारी नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के आंकड़ों से यह जानकारी मिली है। पिछले साल जनवरी में आर्थिक संकटों का सामना कर रही इस विमानन कंपनी की बाजार हिस्सेदारी 7.3 फीसदी थी। उल्लेखनीय है कि बीते 23 सितंबर को स्पाइसजेट ने 3,000 करोड़ रुपये जुटाई है।

इस महीने की शुरुआत में विमानन कंपनी ने नियामक को कहा था कि वह इस 3,000 करोड़ रुपये का उपयोग जमीन पर खड़े अपने 36 विमानों को इस साल के अंत तक दोबारा परिचालन में लाने के लिए करेगी। इसके बाद उम्मीद है कि आने वाले महीनों में इसकी घरेलू बाजार हिस्सेदारी में इजाफा होगा क्योंकि इसके अधिक विमान परिचालन में आ जाएंगे। कुल मिलाकर, सभी भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों से कुल 1.30 करोड़ घरेलू यात्रियों ने यात्रा की, जो पिछले साल के मुकाबले 6.38 फीसदी अधिक है। देश की सबसे बड़ी विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो की घरेलू बाजार हिस्सेदारी पिछले महीने 63 फीसदी थी।

इंडिगो के वेंचर कैपिटल फंड को सेबी की मंजूरी

दीपक पटेल

नई दिल्ली, 15 अक्टूबर

भारत की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो ने मंगलवार को कहा कि उसके कॉर्पोरेट वेंचर कैपिटल फंड 'इंडिगो वेंचर्स' ने भारतीय प्रतिभूति एवं विनिमय बोर्ड (सेबी) से मंजूरी प्राप्त कर ली है।

एयरलाइन ने कहा, 'यह फंड उन स्टार्टअप में निवेश करेगा, जिनमें विमानन का कार्यालय करने की क्षमता हो तथा जो प्री-सीरीज ए, सीरीज ए और सीरीज बी फंडिंग से जुड़ेंगे। इनमें नए जमाने की प्रौद्योगिकियों और विमानन क्षेत्र में समाधान पर काम कर रहे स्टार्टअप शामिल हैं।' एयरलाइन ने कहा है कि इंडिगो वेंचर्स का निवेश अगले साल मार्च तक शुरू होने की संभावना है।

यह फंड उन कंज्यूमर स्टार्टअप्स में भी निवेश करेगा, जिनका यात्रियों की यात्रा से संबंध है, जैसे यात्रा, जीवनशैली, आतिथ्य और परिवहन।

एयरलाइन ने कहा है कि इंडिगो वेंचर्स ने निवेश-पूर्व गतिविधियां शुरू की हैं, जिनमें कुछ खास स्टार्टअप और उनके संस्थापकों के



साथ जुड़ाव शामिल है। उसने कहा है, 'गोइंडिगोवेंचर्स डॉटकॉम को एक पोर्टल के रूप में स्थापित किया गया है, जिससे फंड के बारे में और अधिक जानकारी प्राप्त की जा सकती है, जिसमें इसके निवेश सिद्धांत, संस्थापकों के लिए मुख्य मूल्यांकन प्रस्ताव और शासी संस्थाओं और उनकी सदस्यता के बारे में विवरण शामिल हैं।'

इंडिगो में मुख्य डिजिटल एवं सूचना अधिकारी नीतन चोपड़ा ने कहा, 'इंडिगो वेंचर्स के साथ इस नई यात्रा पर निकलते हुए, हम विमानन और उससे परे नवाचार को बढ़ावा देने, आकांक्षाओं को पंख देने के लिए पूरी तरह से प्रतिबद्ध हैं। स्टार्टअप को इंडिगो की गहन तकनीकी दक्षता और विविध भौगोलिक छाप का लाभ मिलेगा।'



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

सात विमानों में बम की धमकी, शिकागो जाने वाली उड़ान कनाडा डायवर्ट हुई

एजेंसी | नई दिल्ली

देश के अलग-अलग हवाई अड्डों से संचालित होने वाली 7 उड़ानों को मंगलवार को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। ये धमकियां माइक्रोब्लॉकिंग प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर दी गई थीं। हालांकि ये धमकियां फर्जी साबित हुई हैं। सोमवार को भी तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को ऐसी फर्जी धमकी के बाद सैकड़ों यात्रियों को परेशानी उठानी पड़ी थी। मंगलवार को जयपुर से अयोध्या होते हुए बेंगलुरु जाने वाली एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की फ्लाइट (आईएक्स-765), दरभंगा से मुंबई जाने वाली स्पाइसजेट की फ्लाइट (एसजी-116), बागडोगरा से बेंगलुरु जा रही अकासा एयर की फ्लाइट (क्यूपी 1373), दिल्ली से शिकागो जा रही एअर इंडिया की फ्लाइट (एआई-127), सऊदी अरब के दम्माम से लखनऊ आने

सिंगापुर ने फाइटर जेट भेजा

मदुरै से जाने वाली एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के एक विमान में बम की धमकी के बाद सिंगापुर ने फाइटर जेट रवाना कर दिया। दरअसल, उड़ान के दौरान एयरलाइन को ईमेल से बम की धमकी मिली। इसके बाद सिंगापुर वायु सेना ने अपने दो एफ-15एसजी लड़ाकू विमानों को विमान की सुरक्षा के लिए भेजा। ये लड़ाकू विमान को आबादी वाले इलाकों से दूर रखते हुए चांगी एयरपोर्ट ले गए। वहां इसकी आपात लैंडिंग कराई गई।

वाली इंडिगो की फ्लाइट (6ई 98), अमृतसर से देहरादून होते हुए दिल्ली जाने वाली एलायंस एयर की फ्लाइट (9आई-650) और मदुरै से सिंगापुर जा रही एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की फ्लाइट (आईएक्स 684) को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली थी। हालांकि, सभी में जांच के बाद कोई संदिग्ध वस्तु नहीं मिली। शिकागो जा रही फ्लाइट को धमकी के बाद कनाडा डायवर्ट करना पड़ा। इसे कनाडा के दूरस्थ इलाके में स्थित इकालत एयरपोर्ट पर उतारना पड़ा।

फ्लाइट उड़ाने की धमकी, तीन को मुंबई ले गई पुलिस

राजनांदगांव दो फ्लाइट को उड़ाने की धमकी देने वाले नाबालिग सहित उसके पिता और जिसने सोशल मीडिया पर पोस्ट किया था, उसे मंगलवार को मुंबई पुलिस ने गिरफ्तार कर लिया है। तीनों को टीम मुंबई ले गई है। मुंबई से मस्कट जा रही इंडिगो व मुंबई से न्यूयार्क जा रही इंडिया एयरलाइंस को उड़ाने की धमकी दी गई थी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

सितंबर में घरेलू एयर ट्रैफिक 6.38% बढ़ा जनवरी-सितंबर में 5% ज्यादा लोगों ने भरी उड़ान

बिजनेस संवाददाता | नई दिल्ली

भारत में 1 से 30 सितंबर के बीच घरेलू हवाई यातायात 6.38% बढ़कर 1.30 करोड़ पैसंजर तक पहुंच गया। यह सितंबर 2023 की तुलना में 6.38% की बढ़ोतरी है। उस दौरान 1.23 करोड़ यात्रियों ने देश के भीतर हवाई यात्रा की थी। जनवरी-सितंबर अवधि में देश में 11.85 करोड़ यात्रियों ने हवाई यात्रा की। यह 2023 की समान अवधि से 4.99% ज्यादा है। जनवरी-सितंबर 2023 में 11.29 करोड़ हवाई यात्रियों ने घरेलू यात्रा की थी। इंडिगो एयरलाइंस से बीते माह 82.12 लाख यात्रियों ने सफर किया और इसका मार्केट शेयर 63% तक पहुंच गया। अगस्त 2024 में इंडिगो का मार्केट शेयर 62.4% था। 19.69 लाख यात्रियों के साथ एअर इंडिया की हिस्सेदारी बढ़कर 15.1% हो गई। अगस्त में यह आंकड़ा 14.7% था।

एआईएक्स ऑन टाइम परफॉरमेंस में अक्वल

एआईएक्स कनेक्ट, जिसका इस महीने एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस में विलय हो गया था, 70.1% के साथ ऑन टाइम परफॉरमेंस (ओटीपी) के मामले में एयरलाइंस की लिस्ट में टॉप पर रही। इंडिगो का ओटीपी 69.2% रहा, उसके बाद विस्तारा 69.1% और एअर इंडिया 68.1% का नंबर रहा। सितंबर में एलायंस एयर और स्पाइसजेट का ओटीपी क्रमशः 53.8% और 30.4% रहा।

एअर इंडिया, एआईएक्स कनेक्ट और विस्तारा को मिलाकर एअर इंडिया ग्रुप का संयुक्त मार्केट शेयर 29.2% तक पहुंच गया। डीजीसीए द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों के मुताबिक पिछले महीने विस्तारा का मार्केट शेयर घटकर 10% पर आ गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

15 OCTOBER 2024

जयपुर से कुल्लू की सीधी फ्लाइट शुरू, पहले दिन 50 यात्रियों ने भरी उड़ान

जयपुर | एयरपोर्ट से कुल्लू मनाली के लिए सोमवार को सीधी उड़ान की शुरुआत हुई। एयरपोर्ट से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार विमान सेवा की शुरुआत अलायंस एयर ने 72 सीटर विमान के साथ की है। फ्लाइट 9आई-805 जयपुर से सुबह 8:20 बजे रवाना होगी, जो 10:15 बजे कुल्लू पहुंचेगी। वापसी में फ्लाइट 9आई-806 कुल्लू से सुबह 10:35



बजे चलेगी और दोपहर 12:40 बजे जयपुर पहुंचेगी। पहले दिन कुल्लू के लिए 50 यात्रियों ने उड़ान भरी। हालांकि कुल्लू से जयपुर आने में महज 21 यात्री ही रहे। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर स्टेशन प्रबंधक सुदीक्षा कृपलानी ने यात्रियों का स्वागत किया। वहीं उड़ान भरने से पहले पायलट और क्रू के साथ केक काटा। उधर, चीफ एयरपोर्ट ऑफिसर विष्णु मोहन झा और सीआईएसएफ के सीनियर कमांडेंट नरपत सिंह ने एयरलाइंस स्टाफ को बधाई दी। फ्लाइट सप्ताह में 2 दिन सोमवार व बुधवार को संचालित होगी। गौरतलब है कि अलायंस एयर देश की एकमात्र सरकारी विमानन कंपनी है।

घरेलू एयर ट्रेफिक 5 प्रतिशत बढ़ा स्पाइसजेट की बाजार हिस्सेदारी गिरी

नई दिल्ली, 15 अक्टूबर (एजेंसियां)। भारत में घरेलू विमान यात्रियों का ट्रेफिक 2024 के पहले नौ महीनों में बढ़कर 11.84 करोड़ हो गया है। इसमें पिछले वर्ष की समान अवधि के मुकाबले 4.99 प्रतिशत का इजाफा देखने को मिला है। डारेक्टर जनरल ऑफ सिविल एविएशन (डीजीसीए) के द्वारा मंगलवार को जारी किए गए डेटा में यह जानकारी सामने आई। मासिक आधार पर घरेलू यात्री ट्रेफिक सितम्बर में 6.38 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 1.3 करोड़ हो गया है, जो कि अगस्त में 1.22 करोड़ था।

डीजीसीए के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, जनवरी से सितम्बर की अवधि के दौरान इंडिगो से 7.25 करोड़ से ज्यादा यात्रियों ने उड़ान भरी। इस दौरान कंपनी का मार्केट शेयर 61.3 प्रतिशत था। टाटा ग्रुप के नेतृत्व वाली एयर इंडिया में 1.64 करोड़ यात्रियों ने यात्रा की। इस दौरान टाटा ग्रुप के नेतृत्व वाली एयर इंडिया का मार्केट शेयर 13.9 प्रतिशत था। टाटा ग्रुप की अन्य एयरलाइन विस्तारा में जनवरी- सितम्बर के दौरान 1.15 करोड़ यात्रियों ने सफर किया। इस दौरान एयरलाइन का मार्केट शेयर 9.8 प्रतिशत रहा। एआईएक्स कनेक्ट, जिसका संचालन भी टाटा ग्रुप द्वारा किया जाता है। उसमें 61.02 लाख यात्रियों ने 2024 के पहले नौ महीनों में सफर किया। इस दौरान एयरलाइन का मार्केट शेयर 5.1 प्रतिशत रहा।



- विमान यात्रियों का ट्रेफिक 2024 के पहले नौ महीनों में बढ़कर 11.84 करोड़ हो गया
- मासिक आधार पर घरेलू यात्री ट्रेफिक सितम्बर में 6.38 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 1.3 करोड़ हुआ

जनवरी-सितंबर की अवधि में स्पाइसजेट में 47.42 लाख यात्रियों ने यात्रा की, इस दौरान एयरलाइन का मार्केट शेयर 4 प्रतिशत रहा। अकासा एयर में 54.03 लाख यात्रियों ने यात्रा की। इसकी बाजार हिस्सेदारी 4.6 प्रतिशत रही। संकटग्रस्त बजट एयरलाइन स्पाइसजेट का मार्केट शेयर लगातार कम हो रहा है। जनवरी से जुलाई की अवधि में यह 4.5 प्रतिशत था। शेड्यूल घरेलू उड़ान रद्द होने की दर सितंबर में 0.85 प्रतिशत रही है। डीजीसीए के डेटा के मुताबिक, शेड्यूल घरेलू एयरलाइन को यात्रियों से जुड़ी 765 शिकायतें मिलीं।

स्पाइसजेट ने दिवालियापन मामले के बीच सुलझाया 23.39 मिलियन डॉलर का विवाद

संकटग्रस्त एयरलाइन स्पाइसजेट ने मंगलवार को कहा कि उसने एयरकैसल (आयरलैंड) डेजिग्नेटेड एक्टिविटी कंपनी और विलमिंगटन ट्रस्ट एसपी सर्विसेज (डबलिन) लिमिटेड के साथ 23.39 मिलियन डॉलर के विवाद को कुल 5 मिलियन डॉलर में सुलझा लिया है। कुछ एयरक्राफ्ट इंजन के ट्रीटमेंट से जुड़े समझौते के साथ ही नया समझौता हुआ है।



विमानन फर्म ने एक बयान में कहा कि समझौते के तहत, 'पक्षों के बीच चल रहे सभी मुकदमे और विवाद वापस ले लिए जाएंगे।' पिछले सप्ताह, कम लागत वाली एयरलाइन ने अपने पट्टेदारों, होराइजन एविएशन 1 लिमिटेड, होराइजन II एविएशन 3 लिमिटेड और होराइजन III एविएशन 2 लिमिटेड के साथ विवादों को सुलझा लिया है। एयरलाइन ने 131.85 मिलियन डॉलर के विवाद को 22.5 मिलियन डॉलर में सुलझा लिया था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

15 OCTOBER 2024

3 FLIGHTS FROM MUMBAI GET BOMB THREATS

Mumbai, Oct. 14: 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 aircraft — 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.

तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी से हड़कंप

मुंबई, प्रेट्र : तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी से सोमवार को मुंबई में हड़कंप मच गया। सुरक्षा एजेंसियां सकते में आ गईं। इनमें एक फ्लाइट एअर इंडिया जबकि दो अन्य इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की थीं। एअर इंडिया की मुंबई से न्यूयार्क जाने वाली फ्लाइट का रास्ता बदलकर दिल्ली में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग कराई गई जबकि इंडिगो की दोनों फ्लाइटों 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 जरिए 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 19 सदस्य सवार थे। दिल्ली पुलिस के एक वरिष्ठ



विमान को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिलने के बाद इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर लैंड करवाया गया। काकपिट से झांकता पायलट • वीडियो गैब/इंटरनेट मीडिया

अधिकारी ने कहा कि जांच के दौरान कुछ भी संदिग्ध नहीं मिला। उधर, मुंबई से मस्कट के लिए रवाना हुई इंडिगो फ्लाइट 6ई 1275 और मुंबई से जेद्दा जा रही इंडिगो फ्लाइट 6ई 56 को भी उड़ाने की धमकी दी गई थी। इंडिगो की दोनों उड़ानों में 280 यात्री सवार थे। वहीं, मुंबई-हावड़ा मेल ट्रेन को टाइमर बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। गुजरात की राजधानी गांधीनगर में गुजरात नेशनल ला यूनिवर्सिटी को भी बम की धमकी वाला एक ईमेल मिला था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

15 OCTOBER 2024

जयपुर से कुल्लू के लिए नई फ्लाइट

नवज्योति, जयपुर। जयपुर से कुल्लू के लिए हवाई सेवा सोमवार से शुरू हो गई है।



अलायंस एयर ने 72 सीटर विमान के साथ इस नई सेवा की शुरुआत की है। पहली फ्लाइट जयपुर से

सुबह 8.20 बजे रवाना होकर कुल्लू एयरपोर्ट पर सुबह सुबह 10.15 बजे पहुंची। वापसी में कुल्लू से सुबह 10.35 बजे उड़ान भरकर जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर दोपहर 12.40 बजे पहुंची। पहले दिन कुल्लू के लिए 50 यात्रियों ने यात्रा की, जबकि कुल्लू से 21 यात्री जयपुर पहुंचे। स्टेशन प्रबंधक की ओर से यात्रियों के लिए बेहतर इंतजाम किए गए थे। पहली फ्लाइट के यात्रियों को गुड विसेज के साथ बोर्ड कराया गया और केक काटकर इस अवसर का जश्न मनाया गया। यह सेवा सप्ताह में दो दिन सोमवार और बुधवार को संचालित होगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

AS AIRLINE RAISES ₹3,000 CR VIA SHARE SALE

DGCA Takes SpiceJet Off Enhanced Surveillance

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Civil aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Tuesday removed SpiceJet from enhanced surveillance after the budget carrier reported infusion of fresh funds for carrying out its operations.

DGCA's move comes after the airline successfully raised ₹3,000 crore through a share sale process, the proceeds of which it said will be used to pay vendors and employees.

The airline was placed under enhanced surveillance by DGCA on September 13, 2024, in view of the financial constraints being faced

by the operator which could potentially affect discharge of mandatory obligations of aircraft maintenance.

Since then, 266 spot checks have been carried out by DGCA across various locations as part of the enhanced surveillance mechanism, the regulator said.



“In light of the same and the financial infusion of additional funds into the company, Spicejet has been taken off the enhanced surveillance regime. However, random spot checks shall continue to be carried out across the operational fleet to ensure continuing safety of operations,” the DGCA said in a statement.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

FUND GETS SEBI APPROVAL

IndiGo Ventures to Start Backing Startups this FY

Our Bureau

Mumbai: IndiGo Ventures, the new corporate venture capital fund of India's largest carrier IndiGo, expects to start investing in startups from this financial year.

The fund will focus on startups that have the potential to reshape the future of aviation and related sectors, offering pre-Series A, Series A, and Series B funding.

It will target startups working on innovative technologies in aviation as well as consumer-focused ventures in areas like travel, lifestyle, hospitality, and transportation, the company said in a statement.

The fund received approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) as an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) Tuesday.

IndiGo also launched the website, GoIndiGoVentures.com, which provides information on



the fund's investment strategy, value proposition for founders, and details about the governing entities.

IndiGo first announced its intention to launch a VC fund in August last year. On acquisition possibilities in an earlier interview with ET, CEO Pieter Elbers said the company had been focused on putting the necessary infrastructure in place for the fund.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

ET GRAPHICS

Domestic Flyer Traffic Rises 4.9% in September

Domestic air traffic increased by 4.9% to 13 million in September 2024, compared to 12.24 million flyers in September 2023, data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation showed.

Text: ARINDAM MAJUMDER



Airline	Market Share (%)	Flights on time (%)
IndiGo	63.0	69.2
Air India	15.1	68.1
Vistara	10.0	69.1
Akasa Air	4.4	62.1
Air India Exp	4.1	70.1
SpiceJet	2.0	30.4

NOTE: AirAsia has been merged into Air India Express; Akasa Air has registered best on time performance for six months of 2024

Source: DGCA



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

DOMESTIC AIR PASSENGER TRAFFIC RISES 6% IN SEPT



DOMESTIC CARRIERS FLEW 13 million passengers in September, 6.38% higher against the year-ago period, DGCA data showed on Tuesday. In September last year, airlines carried 12 million passengers. IndiGo's market share rose to 63%, while that of Air India climbed to 15.1%.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

IndiGo gets nod to launch VC fund

RAGHAV AGGARWAL
New Delhi, October 15

INDIGO VENTURES, THE corporate venture capital fund of India's largest carrier IndiGo, on Tuesday announced it has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to launch its Alternative Investment Fund (AIF), and it is expected to start investments by the end of FY25. The fund has already started pre-investment activities like meeting startup founders.

The airline had expressed its intention to launch such a fund in August last year. In September this year, the company board had approved the



IndiGo Ventures is expected to start investments by FY25 end

creation of a financial services arm with an initial capital of ₹30 crore.

In a statement, the airline said the fund will invest in startups that have the "potential to redefine the future of aviation and beyond", seeking pre-Series A, Series A and Series B funding.

"These include startups working on cutting-edge technologies and solutions within the aviation sector," it said. "The fund will also look to invest in consumer startups that have a touchpoint in the passenger journey, such as travel, lifestyle, hospitality, transportation, etc."

The airline has also launched a website, GoIndiGoVentures.com, providing information about the fund.

"The startups will benefit from IndiGo's extensive technical expertise and diverse geographical imprint, leading to the development of new products and services," said IndiGo's chief digital & information officer Neetan Chopra.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

India needs \$170 bn to fund aviation sector: Report

RAGHAV AGGARWAL
New Delhi, October 15

TO FINANCE NEW aircraft and boost its airport capacity, the Indian aviation sector will require over \$170 billion by 2030, S&P Global Ratings said on Tuesday.

In a report titled India Aviation: Funding Needs Will Soar, the credit ratings agency noted that Indian carriers would need ₹12 lakh crore (\$150 billion) to finance outstanding orders for 1,700 aircraft from Boeing and Airbus. This investment would triple the fleet size of the country's five largest carriers.

THE NUMBER GAME



■ Airlines will need ₹12L cr to finance outstanding orders for 1,700 aircraft from Boeing and Airbus

"Air India and InterGlobe Aviation (Indigo) together account for more than 80% of the orders," it said.

Additionally, ₹2 lakh crore (\$24 billion) will be needed to

₹2L cr will be needed to build new airports & expand existing ones

■ Govt aims to have 220 airports by 2030 and 300 by 2047

■ Currently, there are 145 airports in the country

build new airports and expand existing ones. Centre has set a target of having 220 airports by 2030 and 300 by 2047. As of July this year, there are 145 airports in the country.

S&P Global Ratings emphasised that India's travel growth potential is driven largely by its rising middle class.

"India has a bigger population than China but less than one-third of its air traffic capacity. Domestic passenger traffic may surge to 300 million annual passengers by 2030, up from 153 million in 2023, while international travelers could increase to 160 million annually, from 65 million over the same period," the report said.

To meet the rising demand, airlines and airports are expected to rely heavily on debt financing. "Much of that spend-

ing will be debt-financed," said S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Isabel Goh. However, improving revenues and "relatively attractive onshore rate and multiple financing options" are likely to support these investments.

"And in our view, the timing is right to support higher borrowing," the report added.

"Rising passenger air traffic, relatively cheaper domestic financing rates, and conducive government policies on foreign ownership should boost funding prospects for the sector," said S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Cheng Jia Ong.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

15 OCTOBER 2024

Spooky day for 3 overseas flights



FPJ Desk

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. Apart from the Air India flight, two IndiGo aircraft – one bound for Muscat (Oman) and another for Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) -- also received bomb threats. The IndiGo flights received the threats be-

fore they took off and the planes were moved to isolation bays for security checks on Monday morning. 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 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.

Spooky day for 3 ...

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

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

Not just planes, a train – the Mumbai-Howrah Mail (superfast train from CMST to Kolkata's HWH) received a threat that it will be blown up. As per ANI, around 4:00 am a message was received regarding a timer bomb onboard the train, following which it was halted at Jalgaon station.

▶ Contd on | nation



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

सात विमानों को उड़ाने की धमकी, आपात लैंडिंग कराई

नई दिल्ली, प्रमुख संवाददाता/एजेंसी। दिल्ली से शिकागो जा रहे एयर इंडिया के विमान सहित सात उड़ानों को मंगलवार को 'एक्स' पर बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। आनन-फानन में एयर इंडिया के विमान की कनाडा में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग करवाई गई। वहीं, बाकी विमानों को भी अलग-अलग जगहों पर उतारकर जांच की गई।

इनमें जयपुर से बेंगलुरु के लिए एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, दरभंगा से मुंबई के लिए स्पाइसजेट, सिलीगुड़ी से बेंगलुरु के लिए अकासा एयर, दम्माम (सऊदी अरब) से लखनऊ के लिए इंडिगो, एलायंस एयर की अमृतसर-देहरादून-दिल्ली और एयर इंडिया की मदुरै से सिंगापुर के लिए उड़ान शामिल हैं। जांच के बाद सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने धमकी को अफवाह करार दिया। विमानन सुरक्षा सूत्रों ने बताया कि एक्स पर एयरलाइन और पुलिस

- सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर दी गई धमकी
- कनाडा डायवर्ट किया एयर इंडिया का विमान

को टैग करते हुए दावा किया गया कि सात विमानों में बम रखे गए हैं। इसके बाद आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट से शिकागो उड़ान भरने वाले एयर इंडिया के विमान को कनाडा के इकालुईट एयरपोर्ट पर उतारा गया। जांच में कुछ भी संदिग्ध नहीं मिला।

अयोध्या में विमान को उतारा : एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के विमान की अयोध्या हवाई अड्डे पर आपात लैंडिंग कराकर जांच की गई। कुछ घंटे बाद स्पाइसजेट, अकासा एयर, इंडिगो, एलायंस और एयर इंडिया के विमानों को भी लैंडिंग कराई गई और यात्रियों के सामान की जांच हुई, लेकिन कुछ भी संदिग्ध नहीं मिला।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

स्पाइसजेट को निगरानी व्यवस्था से हटाया

नई दिल्ली। विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए ने स्पाइसजेट को अतिरिक्त निगरानी व्यवस्था से बाहर कर दिया है। एयरलाइन की तरफ से कमियों को दूर करने के लिए किए गए उपायों और दायित्वों को पूरा करने के लिए कोष जुटाए जाने के बाद यह कदम उठाया गया है। डीजीसीए ने 13 सितंबर को वित्तीय बाधाओं को देखते हुए एयरलाइन को अतिरिक्त निगरानी व्यवस्था के तहत रख दिया था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

Landing in Iqaluit, jets in S'pore: Bomb threats hit 7 Indian flights

HT Correspondents

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI: Seven flights, including an Air India plane headed to Chicago that was forced to land at a remote Canadian airport and an Air India Express service to Singapore that was escorted by two F-15 fighters away from populated areas, were diverted, delayed or subjected to a search on Tuesday after posts on social media said they had bombs on board.

Tuesday's disrupted flights come a day after three similar threats for airlines (and another for a train) were made, prompt-

THREATS TO THE FLIGHTS CAME FROM A SINGLE 'X' ACCOUNT, WHICH WAS CREATED EARLIER THIS MONTH

ing authorities to convene a high-level meeting on Wednesday.

None of the planes had any explosives on board, airlines and aviation officials said.

The threats were issued to Air India Express flight IX765 from

Jaipur to Bengaluru via Aodhya, SpiceJet flight SG116 from Darbhanga to Mumbai, Akasa Air flight QP1373 from Bagdogra to Bengaluru, an Air India flight AI127 from Delhi to Chicago, Indigo flight 6E98 from Dammam (Saudi Arabia) to Lucknow (6E98), Alliance Air flight 9I650 from Amritsar to Dehradun and Air India Express flight IX684 from Madurai to Singapore.

In all of these cases, the threats came from one X account, @schizobomber777, which was suspended during the day. The account, with no other identifier, was created earlier this month.

→PI3

Delays, diversions continue as 7 more flights get bomb threats

HT Correspondents

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI: Seven flights, including an Air India plane headed to Chicago that was forced to land at a remote Canadian airport and an Air India Express service to Singapore that was escorted by two F-15 fighters away from populated areas, were diverted, delayed or subjected to a search on Tuesday after posts on social media said they had bombs on board.

Tuesday's disrupted flights come a day after three similar threats for airlines (and another for a train) were made on Monday, prompting authorities to convene a high-level meeting for Wednesday. None of the planes had any explosives on board, airlines and aviation officials said. "Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Monday held a meeting with the Bureau of Civil Aviation, CISF (Central Industrial Security Force), and other senior officials in airport security over the bomb threats.

The ministry will hold a high-level meeting on Wednesday," news agency ANI reported.

The threats were issued to Air India Express flight IX765 from Jaipur to Bengaluru via Ayodhya, SpiceJet flight SGI16 from Darbhanga to Mumbai, Akasa Air flight QP1373 from Bagdogra to Bengaluru, an Air India flight AI127 from Delhi to Chicago, Indigo flight 6E98 from Dammam (Saudi Arabia) to Lucknow (6E 98), Alliance Air flight 9I650 from Amritsar to Dehradun and Air India Express flight IX684 from Madurai to Singapore.

In all of these cases, the threats came from one X account, @schizobomber777, which was suspended during the day. The account, with no other identifier, was created earlier this month.

The most dramatic of the consequences appeared to be for IX684, which was escorted away out to the sea by two F-15 combat jets of the Singapore Air Force.

"Air India Express received an email that there was a bomb on



An IndiGo aircraft from Saudi Arabia makes an emergency landing at Jaipur airport

board flight AXB684 that was bound for Singapore. Two of our RSAF F-15SGs scrambled and escorted the plane away from populated areas, to finally land safely at Singapore Changi Airport at around 10:04pm tonight," said Singapore's defence minister Ng Eng Hen in a post on X, adding that investigations are ongoing.

Flight tracking websites showed the IX684 was in a holding position to the east of Singapore, over the sea, for roughly an hour before it was given clearance to land. The other international flight affected was headed to Chicago

from Delhi, and was diverted to Iqaluit, the northernmost Canadian town of roughly 8,000 population. "Flight AI127 operating from Delhi to Chicago was the subject of a security threat posted online and, as a precautionary measure, has landed at Iqaluit Airport in Canada. The aircraft and passengers are being re-screened..." an Air India said. It was not clear if the flight left Iqaluit till the time of going to print.

The only other flight to be diverted was the Indigo plane from Dammam to Lucknow, which landed at Jaipur. The remaining underwent inspections after safely landing either at their layover spots or destinations. An Air India Express spokesperson said the flight from Ayodhya to Bengaluru was delayed by almost three hours as security checks were carried out at Ayodhya.

The SpiceJet aircraft from Darbhanga landed at its destination Mumbai and was directed to an isolation bay as a precautionary measure, the airline said.

An Akasa Air spokesperson said that, on its affected flight, the "captain followed all required emergency procedures and landed safely at the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru at 13:39 hours". The aircraft was released for operations.

An Alliance Air official said all "precautionary measures" were being taken for the Amritsar-Dehradun-Delhi flight, which was undergoing security checks at the Dehradun airport. An IndiGo spokesperson said, "We are working closely with relevant authorities and taking all precautions..."

On Monday, three international flights – A New York-bound Air India flight and two IndiGo flights flying to separate cities in West Asia – and one West Bengal-bound train originating from Mumbai received bomb threats that turned out to be a hoax. DCP of Mumbai Police's Zone 8 Manish Kalwaniya said two people have been detained over with those threats.

(With agency inputs)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

DGCA removes SpiceJet from enhanced surveillance regime

NEW DELHI: Aviation regulator DGCA on Tuesday said it has removed SpiceJet from enhanced surveillance regime in the wake of the airline taking actions to rectify deficiencies as well as raising funds to meet obligations.

On September 13, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) placed the carrier under the enhanced surveillance regime following financial constraints that could impact the airline's mandatory obligations related to aircraft maintenance.

A total of 266 spot checks have been carried out by DGCA across various locations as part of the enhanced surveillance mechanism, DGCA said in a release. According to the regulator, it has been ensured that deficiencies found during the spot checks have been subject to suitable rectification actions by the airline. "In light of the same and the financial infusion of additional funds into the company, SpiceJet has been taken off the enhanced surveillance regime," the regulator said.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

15 OCTOBER 2024

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 Indra 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."

With agency inputs

SpiceJet hit with new insolvency case from aircraft lessor

Krishna Yadav

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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 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 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 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



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

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 Pvt. Ltd. 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 Aircraft, 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.

Last week, SpiceJet announced a settlement with Irish aircraft lessor Babcock & Brown Aircraft Management, resolving a dispute worth \$131.85 million.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

15 OCTOBER 2024

Flight diverted to Delhi after hoax bomb threat

Press Trust of India

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NEW DELHI: A New York-bound Air India plane carrying 239 passengers from Mumbai was diverted to the national capital early morning on Monday due to a bomb threat, according to officials.

Police said following standard security protocols, a thorough inspection was conducted and no suspicious item was found inside the aircraft.

"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 state-

ment. "Staff on ground are working to minimise the inconvenience caused to our guests by this unexpected disruption, it said. All 258 people on-board 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 on-board the plane. The flight has been rescheduled and will now depart for New York from Delhi on Tuesday morning, the airline said. The bomb threat was received through a post on the microblogging platform X and the handle is being verified, the officer said.

Diversions, delays as 7 flights of Indian carriers receive bomb threats

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

MULTIPLE FLIGHTS of major Indian airlines Tuesday received bomb threats through social media, resulting in diversions and long delays. This comes a day after three international flights from Mumbai — two of IndiGo and one of Air India — received hoax bomb threats.

At least seven flights received bomb threats Tuesday. These included Air India's Delhi-Chicago flight, IndiGo's Dammam-Lucknow flight, Air India Express's Jaipur-Ayodhya-Bengaluru flight and Madurai-Singapore flight, Akasa Air's Bagdogra-Bengaluru flight, Spicejet's Darbhanga-Mumbai flight, and Alliance Air's Amritsar-Dehradun flight.

In most cases, the threats were found to be hoaxes and the aircraft were released by security agencies after thorough checks and passenger screening, per sources. All the threats came from the same account — @schizobomber777 — on social media platform X. The account has now been suspended by X.

Sources indicated that security agencies are probing the account to identify the person or group behind it. The nondescript account was set up on the social media platform only recently, a



An IndiGo aircraft from Saudi Arabia made an emergency landing after bomb threat at Jaipur airport, Tuesday. (PTI)

source in one of the airlines said.

Although most bomb threats turn out to be fake, airlines globally take them with utmost seriousness. "Flight AI127 operating from Delhi to Chicago on October 15, 2024, was the subject of a security threat posted online and, as a precautionary measure, has landed at Iqaluit Airport in Canada," an Air India spokesperson said. The Air India spokesperson said the carrier will also consider legal action against those responsible for the fake threats.

IndiGo's Dammam-Lucknow flight — 6E 98 — which was scheduled to arrive in Lucknow at 6:25 pm, was diverted to Jaipur, where the aircraft was undergoing the mandatory security checks. Air India Express's Jaipur-Ayodhya-Bengaluru flight IX765 was held up at the

Ayodhya airport for several hours due to the bomb threat. The flight finally departed for Bengaluru at 6:21 pm, after a delay of nearly three-and-a-half hours, per flight tracking data.

In the case of AI Express flight and the affected flights of Akasa Air and Spicejet, diversions were not required as the threats came in while the aircraft were already close to their respective destinations. Air India Express's Madurai-Singapore flight landed safely in Singapore in the evening. Singapore's Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen posted on X that the country had scrambled two jets to escort the plane away from populated areas.

Just last month, a Vistara flight from Mumbai to Frankfurt was diverted to Erzurum airport in Turkey's eastern region following a hoax bomb threat.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

ON REVIVAL PATH

DGCA takes SpiceJet off 'enhanced surveillance'

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

AVIATION SAFETY regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has taken SpiceJet off the "enhanced surveillance" regime following rectification of deficiencies by the airline and the recent fund infusion into the carrier, which had been financially distressed for some time.

Enhanced surveillance entails an increase in the spot checks and night surveillance of the airline's operations to ensure operational safety. On August 29, the DGCA had announced that it was placing SpiceJet under enhanced surveillance after the regulator found certain deficiencies during a special audit of the no-frills carrier's engineering facilities in August.

The audit was conducted amid a growing number of flight cancellations by the airline and reports of the airline going through a period of significant financial distress, as the latter could "potentially affect discharge of mandatory obligations of aircraft maintenance", per the DGCA.

In September, however, the airline had a successful Rs 3,000-crore fund raise through the qualified institutional placement



(QIP) route. Apart from this, the airline said that it will receive another Rs 736 crore from its earlier funding round. With the cash in hand, SpiceJet has been quick to clear pending salaries, provident fund deposits, and tax dues. The budget airline has also been settling disputes with some of its lessors, and has even announced a near-term fleet augmentation plan to add more aircraft to its operational fleet.

"A total of 266 spot checks have been carried out by DGCA across various locations as part of the enhanced surveillance mechanism. It has been ensured that deficiencies and findings found during the spot checks have been subject to suitable rectification action by the operator. In light of the same and the financial infusion of additional funds into the company, SpiceJet has been taken off the enhanced surveillance regime," the DGCA said Monday.

शरारत

धमकियां मिलने से खतरे में पड़ गई थी यात्रियों की जान

बम होने की धमकी मिलने के बाद नीचे उतारे गए सात विमान

दहशत

- एयरलाइन कू ने भी महसूस किया जान को खतरा
- जांच में फर्जी पाई गई विमान में बम होने की सूचना

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्य

एक सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट के जरिये मंगलवार को सात विमानों में बम की धमकी दी गई, लेकिन जांच के दौरान विमान में बम होने की सभी धमकियां फर्जी पाई गईं। इससे यात्रियों में न केवल दहशत पैदा हो गई, बल्कि उन्हें अपने गंतव्य तक पहुंचने में समय भी ज्यादा लगा। इससे एयरलाइन कू की जान भी खतरे में पड़ गई। धमकियां मिलने

के बाद सुरक्षा एजेंसियां फ़ौरन ही अलर्ट हो गईं।

एयर इंडिया की दिल्ली से शिकागो जा रही फ्लाइट में बम होने की बात कही गई। इसके बाद फ्लाइट को कनाडा की ओर मोड़ दिया गया। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की जयपुर-बंगलूरु वाया अयोध्या फ्लाइट में बम की धमकी दी गई। इस विमान को अयोध्या में उतारा गया और जांच की गई।

इसके अलावा स्याइसजेट के दरभंगा-मुंबई विमान और अकासा के सिलीगुड़ी-बंगलूरु विमान में भी बम होने की धमकी मिली। सूचना मिलने तक यह दोनों विमान लैंड कर चुके थे। एयरपोर्ट पर दोनों विमानों की सुरक्षा एजेंसियों और पुलिस बल ने जांच की। इंडिगो की



दम्मम-लखनऊ फ्लाइट, एलायंस एयर लाइन की अमृतसर- देहरादून दिल्ली फ्लाइट और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की मदुरै-सिंगापुर फ्लाइट में भी बम की सूचना मिली।

इसके अलावा एयर इंडिया की दिल्ली-शिकागो जा रही फ्लाइट में

भी बम होने की धमकी दी गई। यह फ्लाइट शिकागो रवाना हो चुकी थी। सूचना मिलने पर विमान को कनाडा के एयरपोर्ट की ओर मोड़ दिया गया। यहां फ्लाइट की जांच की गई।

एयर इंडिया के मुताबिक एयरक्राफ्ट और यात्रियों की फिर से

सुरक्षा जांच की गई। एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षा एजेंसियों को अलर्ट कर दिया गया। दम्मम-लखनऊ इंडिगो की फ्लाइट में भी बम होने की धमकी मिली तो फ्लाइट को जयपुर हवाई अड्डे पर उतारा गया। इंडिगो के प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि यात्रियों और चालक

दल की सुरक्षा हमारी सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता है। जयपुर हवाई अड्डे पर विमान को आइसोलेशन बे में भेज दिया गया है।

इसके साथ ही एलायंस एयर लाइन की अमृतसर-देहरादून-दिल्ली फ्लाइट में बम की धमकी मिली।

इसके बाद विमान की देहरादून हवाई अड्डे पर सुरक्षा जांच की गई है। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की मदुरै-सिंगापुर फ्लाइट में बम की सूचना पर अधिकारी सतर्क हो गए। संदिग्ध एक्स हैंडल ने संबंधित एयरलाइंस और कुछ पुलिस हैंडल को टैग करते हुए दावा किया कि इन विमानों में बम रखे गए थे।

मुंबई से न्यूयॉर्क जा रही एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट में भी बम होने की धमकी मिली थी, जिसे दिल्ली की तरफ मोड़ दिया गया, लेकिन सुरक्षा जांच के दौरान कुछ भी संदिग्ध नहीं मिला। हाल के दिनों में एयर इंडिया समेत कई स्थानीय एयर लाइन में बम होने की धमकी मिल चुकी है, लेकिन यह सभी धमकियां फर्जी निकली हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

इंडिगो फ्लाइट की इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग, सभी 70 यात्री सुरक्षित

जगदलपुर, एजेंसी। छत्तीसगढ़ के जगदलपुर के मां दंतेश्वरी एयरपोर्ट पर मंगलवार अपराहन एक बजे इंडिगो फ्लाइट की इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग कराई गई। राहत की बात यह है कि फ्लाइट में सवार सभी 70 यात्री सुरक्षित हैं। यह फ्लाइट एक बजे जगदलपुर से रायपुर के लिए उड़ान भरी थी, लेकिन उड़ान के महज 12 मिनट बाद ही खिड़की टूटने के चलते आपातकालीन लैंडिंग करानी पड़ी। फ्लाइट के एक हिस्से की खिड़की टूटने से यह आपात स्थिति उत्पन्न हुई। पायलट ने तत्काल सतर्कता दिखाते हुए फ्लाइट को सुरक्षित रूप से वापस एयरपोर्ट पर उतार लिया। यह लैंडिंग एक बजकर 12 मिनट पर कराई गई। राहत की बात यह है कि फ्लाइट में सवार सभी यात्री सुरक्षित हैं। एयरलाइंस की टीम द्वारा तकनीकी खराबी की जांच की जा रही है। उक्त फ्लाइट में कुल 70 यात्री सवार थे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

Domestic air passenger traffic increases 6% in September

Mumbai: Domestic carriers flew 13 million passengers in September, which is 6.38% higher compared with the year-ago period, according to official data released on Tuesday. In September last year, airlines carried 12.2 million passengers. IndiGo's market share rose to 63% while that of Air India climbed to 15.1% in September 2024, according to data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024



SpiceJet has been taking actions to fix deficiencies as well as raising funds to meet obligations. MINT

SpiceJet off DGCA's surveillance list

Aviation regulator DGCA on Tuesday said it has removed SpiceJet from enhanced surveillance regime in the wake of the airline taking actions to rectify deficiencies as well as raising funds to meet obligations.

On 13 September, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) placed the budget carrier under the enhanced surveillance regime following financial constraints that could impact the airline's mandatory obligations related to aircraft maintenance.

A total of 266 spot checks have been carried out by DGCA across various locations as part of the enhanced surveillance mechanism, the watchdog said in a release.

According to the regulator, it has been ensured that deficiencies found during the spot checks have been subject to suitable rectification actions by the airline.

"In light of the same and the financial infusion of additional funds into the company, SpiceJet has been taken off the enhanced surveillance regime," the regulator said.

DGCA also said that random spot checks across the operational fleet to ensure continuing safety of operations. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

Bomb scare forces diversions, emergency checks for 7 Indian Flights

Air India's Delhi-Chicago flight diverted to Canada

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Seven flights, including one heading to the United States, received bomb threats via social media on Tuesday, prompting security agencies to conduct counter-terror drills at multiple airports, according to official sources.



The threats, shared on the microblogging platform X, came just a day after three international flights departing

from Mumbai received similar threats, which were later confirmed as hoaxes, inconveniencing hundreds of passengers and crew.

On Tuesday, an X account issued threats to seven flights, including an Air India Express flight from Jaipur to Bengaluru via Ayodhya (IX765), a SpiceJet

Continued on P4

Bomb scare...

flight from Darbhanga to Mumbai (SG116), an Akasa Air flight from Bagdogra to Bengaluru (QP 1373), an Air India flight from Delhi to Chicago (AI 127), an Indigo flight from Dammam to Lucknow (6E 98), an Alliance Air flight from Amritsar to Dehradun and Delhi (9I 650), and an Air India Express flight from Madurai to Singapore (IX 684).

Following these threats, the X account was suspended after the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) contacted cyber-security agencies.

A spokesperson for Air India Express confirmed that they, along with other airlines, had received a "specific" security threat from an unverified social media account. "Security protocols were immediately activated as per the instructions of the government-appointed Bomb Threat Assessment Committee. The flight landed safely, and after completing the necessary security checks, the aircraft will be cleared for operations," the spokesperson added.

Similarly, SpiceJet reported that their aircraft landed safely in Mumbai and was moved to an isolation bay as a precaution. An Akasa Air spokesperson confirmed that their flight received a security alert mid-air, and the captain

followed emergency protocols, landing safely at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport at 13:39 hours. Passengers were deplaned, and the aircraft underwent safety checks before being cleared for further operations.

Air India's flight to Chicago was diverted to Iqaluit, Canada, after becoming the target of an online security threat. "The aircraft and passengers are currently being re-screened as per security protocols, and we are assisting passengers at the airport until the flight can resume," an Air India spokesperson stated.

Indigo also acknowledged the situation involving flight 6E 98 from Dammam to Lucknow, which was diverted to

Jaipur, where the aircraft was sent to an isolation bay for safety measures.

An official from Alliance Air mentioned that all necessary precautions were being taken for their Amritsar-Dehradun-Delhi flight, which was undergoing security checks at Dehradun airport. Meanwhile, the Air India Express flight from Madurai to Singapore was awaiting landing clearance from Singaporean authorities.

The X account responsible for the threats had tagged several airlines and police handles, claiming bombs were on board. On Monday, similar threats were posted by four other X accounts targeting international flights from Mumbai.

PM Modi pitches global rules for digital world and ethical AI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi cited the example of the aviation sector and said a similar framework is needed for the digital world

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday made a fervent pitch for putting in place a global framework for use of digital technology and ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI), saying security cannot be an afterthought in an interconnected world.

Speaking at the inauguration of the International Telecommunication Union - WTSA and India Mobile Congress here, he favoured clear 'dos' and 'don'ts' to safeguard citizens.

"There is a need for a global framework... guidelines for digital technology," he said. "Time has come when global institutions have to accept the importance of a rule-based framework for digital technology."

Digital rules are important not just because they involve personal privacy, media disinformation, the accountability of tech giants and other issues of societal importance, but also because trade in goods and services rely on international flows of data.

Stating that digital tools and applications are beyond any physical boundaries and no country alone can safeguard its citizens from cyber threat, the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses during the inauguration of the 8th ITU's telecom standard meet, in New Delhi on Tuesday

'There is a need for a global framework... guidelines for digital technology,' he said. 'Time has come when global institutions have to accept the importance of a rule-based framework for digital technology'

Prime Minister said, "dos and don'ts have to be framed at the global level". "For this, we have to work together. Global institutions have to take responsibility," he said.

He cited the example of the aviation sector and said a similar framework is needed for the digital world. Global avi-

ation regulations layout a set of technical, legal, and operational requirements to ensure the safety, security, and efficiency of international flights.

Stressing the need of creating a 'Do's' and 'Don'ts' for technology on the global level, the Prime Minister highlighted the borderless nature of digi-

Highlights

- » He highlighted the borderless nature of digital tools and applications & urged for global collaboration in combating cyber threats
- » He urged members of assembly to create standards that are inclusive, secure, and adaptable to future challenges, including ethical AI and data privacy standards
- » "Be it the ancient silk route or today's technology route, India's only mission is to connect the world and open new doors of progress," the prime minister said

ital tools and applications and urged for international collaboration in combating cyber threats and collective action by global institutions.

The Prime Minister urged the members of the assembly to create standards that are inclusive, secure, and adaptable to future challenges, including eth-

ical AI and data privacy standards that respect the diversity of nations.

Underscoring the need for consensus and connectivity in a world marred by conflicts, the Prime Minister said India is engaged in bringing the world out of conflict and connecting it.

"Be it the ancient silk route or today's technology route, India's only mission is to connect the world and open new doors of progress," he said.

The Prime Minister inaugurated the International Telecommunication Union - World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. He also inaugurated the 8th edition of India Mobile Congress 2024 during the programme. He took a walk-through of the exhibition show-cased on the occasion.

The Prime Minister emphasized the need for a human-centric dimension to the ongoing technological revolution, calling for responsible and sustainable innovation. He said that the standards set today will determine the direction of the future, stressing that principles of security, dignity and equity should be at the center of our discussions.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

DGCA removes SpiceJet from enhanced surveillance regime

NEW DELHI: Aviation regulator DGCA on Tuesday said it has removed SpiceJet from enhanced surveillance regime in the wake of the airline taking actions to rectify deficiencies as well as raising funds to meet obligations.

On September 13, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) placed the budget carrier under the enhanced surveillance regime following financial constraints that could impact the airline's mandatory obligations related to aircraft maintenance.

A total of 266 spot checks have been carried out by DGCA across various locations as part of the enhanced surveillance mechanism, the watchdog said in a release.

According to the regulator, it has been ensured that deficiencies found during the spot checks have been subject to suitable rectification actions by the airline.

"In light of the same and the financial infusion of additional funds into the company, Spicejet has been taken off the enhanced surveillance regime,"

the regulator said.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation also said that random spot checks across the operational fleet to ensure continuing safety of operations.

Last month, crisis-hit SpiceJet raised Rs 3,000 crore from institutional investors and since then, it has cleared various dues, paid pending salaries to staff and reached settlements with some of the aircraft lessors. Shares of SpiceJet were trading with gains over 1.66 per cent to Rs 66.80 apiece in afternoon trade on the BSE. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

SpiceJet meets DGCA's safety norms; out of enhanced surveillance regime

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

IN a major relief for SpiceJet, aviation regulator DGCA on Tuesday said it has removed the low-cost carrier from enhanced surveillance regime. This action comes as the regulator is satisfied that SpiceJet is taking actions to rectify deficiencies following the fundraising.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had placed SpiceJet under enhanced surveillance on September 13, 2024 over a severe cash crunch at the airline which had impacted its ability to discharge mandatory obligations of aircraft maintenance. This action had resulted in increased spot checks and night surveillance to ensure the safety of the airline's operations. DGCA said 266 spot checks were conducted at various locations as part of monitoring effort. It said deficiencies identified during these checks were addressed appropriately by the airline.

"In light of the same and the



financial infusion of additional funds into the company SpiceJet has been taken off the enhanced surveillance regime," DGCA said in a statement. DGCA will continue to carry random spot checks across the airline's operational fleet to ensure safety standards. Since the enhanced surveillance was placed, SpiceJet has successfully raised ₹3,000 crore via sale

of shares to qualified institutional buyers. It is using this money to pay lenders and expand its fleet.

SpiceJet said on Tuesday it has settled a \$23.39 million dispute with Aircastle (Ireland) Designated Activity Company and Wilmington Trust SP Services (Dublin) Limited for an aggregate sum of \$5 million, together with agreement in relation to the treatment of certain aircraft engines. This came a day after it was reported that SpiceJet 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 SpiceJet failed to pay rental charges for a Boeing 737 that it had leased.

Creditors caused delay in Jet resolution process: JKC

NEW DELHI: Jalan Kalrock Consortium (JKC), resolution applicant (SRA) who acquired ownership of Jet Airways, on Tuesday argued the Supreme Court that they can't be held solely responsible for delays caused by security clearances and procedural hurdles in reviving the airline. *ENS*



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

स्पाइसजेट से हटाया निगरानी का दायरा

■ विस, नई दिल्ली : स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइंस में वित्तीय संकट की वजह से एविएशन रेगुलेटर डीजीसीए ने एयरलाइंस पर 13 सितंबर से निगरानी रखना शुरू किया था, जिससे एयरक्राफ्ट के रखरखाव और उड़ान संबंधित अन्य कार्यों के लिए यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि पैसों की कमी की वजह से किसी सेवा पर असर तो नहीं पड़ रहा है। इसके साथ ही अगर असर पड़ रहा है तो वह कितना व्यापक है। अब डीजीसीए ने स्पाइसजेट पर बढ़ाए गए अपने निगरानी दायरे को हटा लिया है।



Manic Monday for Air India

From page 1

"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. "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 Gurugram-headquartered budget airline said in a statement. On the Mumbai-Jeddah flight, it said, "The flight

had 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." IndiGo, however, did not share other specific details such as the number of persons on board or the status of the two flights. According to the live flight tracking website Flightradar24.Com, the Muscat flight, which was to depart at 2 am on Monday, took off for its destination at 9.15 am, after a delay of more than 7 hours, while

flight 6E-57 (Mumbai-Jeddah) was scheduled to depart at 2.05 am and was showing an estimated departure at 12.15 pm. Not just planes, a train, the Mumbai-Howrah Mail (train no 12809, superfast train from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CMST) to Kolkata's HWH) received a threat to blow up the train with a timer bomb. No suspicious objects were found during the checking. After this, the train continued its journey to its destination, CPRO, Central Railway's Chief Public Relations Officer

said. Earlier on October 5, Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar International Airport located in Madhya Pradesh's Indore received a bomb threat email following which the police registered an FIR. The mail sender also threatened to blow up other airports in the country. Similarly, Vadodara Airport received a bomb threat via email, which promoted a thorough search on October 5. Meanwhile, security has been tightened following the received threat and authorities are currently investigating the matter.+

Monday for Air India

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 8

Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

स्पाइसजेट ने एयरकैसल से विवाद सुलझाया

मुंबई (भाषा)।

विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट ने दो विमान पड़ावताओं एयरकैसल और विलमिंगटन ट्रस्ट के साथ 2.339 करोड़ अमेरिकी डालर के विवाद को सफलतापूर्वक सुलझाने की मंगलवार को घोषणा की।

इससे कुछ दिन पहले उसने अमेरिका स्थित विमान पड़ा देने वाली कंपनी बीबीएएम के साथ भी इसी तरह का विवाद सौहार्दपूर्ण तरीके से सुलझाया था। विमानन कंपनी ने बयान में कहा कि समझौते के तहत दोनों पक्ष संबंधित सभी मुकदमों और विवाद उचित मंचों पर वापस लेंगे। कंपनी ने कहा कि हमने एयरकैसल और विलमिंगटन ट्रस्ट से विवाद हल कर लिया है।

डीजीसीए ने स्पाइसजेट को अतिरिक्त निगरानी से मुक्त किया

■ विमानन कंपनी में खामियां दूर करने के उपाय लागू होने के बाद विमानन नियामक ने लिया यह फैसला

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए ने मंगलवार को कहा कि उसने स्पाइसजेट को अतिरिक्त निगरानी व्यवस्था से बाहर कर दिया है। एयरलाइन की तरफ से कमियों को दूर करने के लिए किए गए उपायों और दायित्वों को पूरा करने के लिए कोष जुटाये जाने के बाद यह कदम उठाया गया है।

नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने 13 सितम्बर को

वित्तीय बाधाओं को देखते हुए एयरलाइन को अतिरिक्त निगरानी व्यवस्था के तहत रख दिया था। वित्तीय बाधाएं विमान रखरखाव से संबंधित एयरलाइन के अनिवार्य दायित्वों को प्रभावित कर सकती थीं।

नियामक ने एक बयान में कहा कि बड़ी हुई निगरानी



व्यवस्था के तहत डीजीसीए ने विभिन्न स्थानों पर कुल 266

‘स्पॉट’ जांच की। डीजीसीए के अनुसार यह सुनिश्चित किया गया है कि जांच के दौरान पाई गई खामियों को दूर करने के लिए एयरलाइन उपयुक्त कदम उठाए। नियामक ने कहा, ‘खामियों को दूर करने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों और कंपनी में अतिरिक्त राशि

जुटाने के मद्देनजर, स्पाइसजेट को बड़ी हुई निगरानी व्यवस्था से हटा दिया गया है।’

वित्तीय समस्याओं में फंसी स्पाइसजेट ने पिछले महीने संस्थागत निवेशकों से 3,000 करोड़ रुपये जुटाए थे। उसके बाद से कंपनी ने विभिन्न बकाया देनदारियों को चुकाया है, कर्मचारियों को लंबित वेतन का भुगतान किया है और विमान पड़े पर देने वाली कुछ कंपनियों के साथ भी समझौता किया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

15 OCTOBER 2024

एयर इंडिया के बाद इंडिगो के दो फ्लाइट्स को मिली बम से उड़ाने की धमकी

नई दिल्ली। मुंबई एयरपोर्ट पर इंडिगो एयरलाइंस के दो अंतरराष्ट्रीय विमान को आज बम से उड़ाने की धमकी दी गई। इससे पहले मुंबई से न्यूयॉर्क जाने वाली एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट को भी बम से उड़ाने की धमकी दी गई थी। धमकी मिलने के बाद एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट की दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग कराई गई। मुंबई से मस्कट के लिए रवाना हुई इंडिगो फ्लाइट 6ई 1275 और मुंबई से जेद्दा जा रही इंडिगो फ्लाइट 6ई56 को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी दी गई थी। इंडिगो के दोनों फ्लाइट्स में 258 यात्री सवार थे। हालांकि, जांच के बाद दोबारा फ्लाइट्स को अपने गंतव्य के लिए रवाना किया गया। नागरिक उड्डयन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो (बीसीएएस) के अनुसार, कुल तीन विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली है। इंडिगो प्रवक्ता के अनुसार, जैसे ही इन दोनों विमानों को बम की धमकी मिली, सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल के तहत दोनों को तुरंत हवाई अड्डे से एक अलग एरिया में दूर ले जाया गया। इसके बाद विमान की जांच हुई। इस प्रक्रिया में हवाई अड्डे की सुरक्षा टीम, बम निरोधक दस्ते और अन्य संबंधित एजेंसियां शामिल थीं। इंडिगो की ओर से कहा गया है कि यात्रियों की सुरक्षा उनकी प्राथमिकता है, और हर कदम उठाया जा रहा है ताकि सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि यात्रियों को कोई नुकसान न पहुंचे। धमकी मिलने के बाद एयर इंडिया फ्लाइट की भी जांच हुई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

Domestic air passenger traffic clocks 5 pc growth: India's domestic air passenger traffic reached 11.84 crore in the first nine months of the year, up against 11.28 crore during the corresponding period of the previous year, marking an annual growth of 4.99 per cent, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) data showed on Tuesday. On a month-to-month (MoM) basis, domestic air passenger traffic grew 6.38 per cent to 1.3 crore in September from 1.22 crore in August. During the nine-month period (January-September), budget carrier IndiGo carried more than 7.25 crore passengers, docking a market share of 61.3 per cent, followed by Air India flying over 1.64 crore passengers with 13.9 pc share.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

15 OCTOBER 2024

Air India flight diverted to Delhi after bomb threat



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 14 OCTOBER

An Air India flight from Mumbai to New York was diverted to Delhi on Monday following a bomb threat.

All passengers and crew members on board the flight are reported to be safe.

The flight, which had departed from Mumbai for JFK International Airport in New York, received a special security alert. Following this, the aircraft was diverted to

Delhi as per instructions from the government's security regulatory committee.

The Delhi Police confirmed that the flight was diverted to Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport due to security reasons. They stated that all passengers disembarked safely and are now at the airport terminal. Standard security protocols were followed to ensure the safety of both the passengers and the crew.

An Air India spokesperson mentioned that after receiving the security alert, immediate action was taken, and the flight was safely redirected to Delhi. The plane landed safely at IGI Airport, and all passengers were safely deboarded.

A thorough security check of the aircraft was carried out and no suspicious material was recovered.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

15 OCTOBER 2024

Flights

Calcutta: Malaysia Airlines will launch a direct flight between Calcutta and Kuala Lumpur, starting December 2. The airline will operate five weekly flights on this route (Boeing 737-800 aircraft).

The flight will leave Calcutta at 12.10am every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

It will leave Kuala Lumpur every Monday and Tuesday at 9.35pm, said a spokesperson for the airline.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

15 OCTOBER 2024

Plane to NY diverted, Howrah Mail halted

Bomb hoaxes hit flights and train

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi: Bomb hoaxes relating to three flights and a Howrah-bound train, one of them arriving while the plane was mid-air, disrupted travel in the country on Monday, triggering chaos and passenger panic.

Air India's Flight AI-119 from Mumbai to New York, carrying 239 passengers and a 19-member crew, was diverted midair to Delhi in the early hours because of a bomb alert, which an inspection revealed to be a hoax.

The false bomb alerts to IndiGo's Flight 6E-56 (Mumbai to Jeddah) and Flight 6E-1275 (Mumbai to Muscat) arrived before take-off. The planes were moved to an isolated bay at Mumbai airport and thoroughly checked.

The Mumbai-Howrah Mail (12809) too was the subject of a hoax message early on Monday morning that said there was a time bomb on the train.

The bomb alert to the Air India flight was tweeted immediately after the plane had taken off from Mumbai around 2am.

"The passengers were made to deplane (at Delhi air-

port) around 4.10am but were asked to leave their bags on board. In such instances, the aircraft is subject to a thorough security inspection before being allowed to take off again," a Delhi police officer said.

The flight is now expected to leave for New York from Delhi on Tuesday morning, the airline said.

"Flight AI119 operating Mumbai to JFK on October 14 received a specific security alert and on instructions of the government's security regulatory committee was diverted to Delhi," an Air India spokesperson said.

"We confirm that all 239 passengers and 19 crew have disembarked and are currently undergoing security procedures. Refreshments have been provided to the passengers. Guests will be moved to

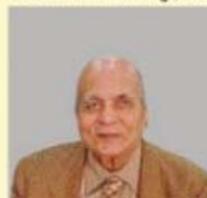
hotels once security protocols are completed."

IndiGo said: "IndiGo flight 6E 56 operating from Mumbai to Jeddah and 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 procedures, mandatory security checks were promptly initiated. Customers were provided with assistance and refreshments, and we sincerely regret the inconvenience caused."

The Mumbai-Howrah Mail was halted at Jalgaon station around 4am and given a thorough security inspection. No suspicious object was found, and the train resumed its journey.

Central Railway's chief public relations officer confirmed the incident.

ओम नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

IndiGo gets Sebi nod to launch VC fund

Mumbai: IndiGo's corporate venture capital fund has received Sebi's approval to launch an alternative investment fund. The fund will invest in seed to mid-stage startups within the aviation sector. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

16 OCTOBER 2024

Delhi-Chicago flight diverted to Canada as bomb hoaxes disrupt operations for 2nd day

Saurabh Sinha & V Narayan | TNN

Singapore scrambles fighters to escort plane

New Delhi/Mumbai: A rash of bomb threats on social media disrupted at least 10 Indian flights the past two days, prompting diversions and security checks. Flights such as Air India's Delhi-Chicago and IndiGo's Damnam-Lucknow were diverted Tuesday, following Monday's diversion of AI's Mumbai-New York flight. All threats were later confirmed as hoaxes.

Authorities intensified their crackdown, with Mumbai police detaining two suspects, including a Chhattisgarh businessman's 17-year-old son. UP officials traced 22 bomb threats targeting several flights such as those to Lucknow and Ayodhya within five hours to an X handle, @schizobomber777, which has since been suspended.

Flights affected Tuesday included AI Express Jaipur-

Singapore Armed Forces on Tuesday scrambled two fighter jets to escort Air India Express flight IX 684 away from populated areas following a bomb threat before the aircraft landed safely at Singapore's Changi airport on Tuesday night.

Singapore's defence minister Ng Eng Hen said AI Express had received a mail that there was a bomb on board the flight from Madurai to Singapore. "Two of our RSAF F-15SGs scrambled and escorted the plane away from populated areas, to finally land safely at Changi Airport," he wrote on X. The ground-based air defence systems and explosive disposal squad were also activated. Once on ground, the plane was handed to the airport police, he said and added that investigations are going on. PTI

Ayodhya, SpiceJet's Darbhanga-Mumbai and Akasa's Bagdogra-Bengaluru flight.

Affected airlines followed standard protocols, isolating aircraft for checks. Long-haul flights faced additional delays due to crew duty limits and passenger management challenges at remote airports.

The AI flight was mid-air when it received the threat and was diverted to Iqaluit in Canada. The airline con-

firmed that AI127 was undergoing re-screening, with support provided to stranded passengers. It is considering legal action to recover losses and urged stricter govt action against such disruptions.

Airlines, including IndiGo & SpiceJet, emphasised that passenger safety is their top priority and expressed regret for any inconvenience caused.

Bureau of Civil Aviation Security had in June pro-

posed that people making hoax threats be added to a no-fly list, but the move awaits legal backing. BCAS chief Zulfikar Hasan reassured travellers: "Indian skies are absolutely safe." He said law enforcement is working to track down those responsible.

A Mumbai police team arrived in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon to probe three threats — AI's flight to New York, & IndiGo flights 6E1275 to Muscat and 6E56 to Jeddah.

They detained two suspects Tuesday: Fazluddin Nirban (34) — a shop owner, and a 17-year-old student, identified as the primary suspect. The teen, a self-taught tech expert, allegedly posted three threats on X using accounts @fazluddin69 and @fazluddin27077, falsely claiming AI119 carried "6kg of RDX and six terrorists". Authorities suspect the boy misused Nirban's account due to a personal feud.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

15 OCTOBER 2024

Hoax bomb threats from C'garh target 3 int'l flights from Mumbai

V Narayan & Manju V | TNN

Mumbai: Three international flights of Air India and IndiGo out of Mumbai, scheduled in the early hours of Monday, were hit after a Chhattisgarh resident posted a series of targeted bomb threat messages on X. One of the messages claimed that "six terrorists with 6kg of RDX" were on board one of the flights. The threats turned out to be a hoax. A team from Sahar police is in Chhattisgarh looking for the man, who used the name Fazluddin Nirban on X.

The Air India flight AI119 to New York, which had taken off from Mumbai around 2.30am, was diverted to Delhi, while the IndiGo flights—6E1275 to Muscat and 6E56 to Jeddah—were taken to an isolation bay at Mumbai airport for security checks.

As per the FIR registered by Sahar police under various sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Aviation Security Act, the man posted three messages between 1.32am and 3.09am on Monday using the

Fake bomb threat holds up train from Mumbai at Jalgaon station for 2 hrs

Nashik: Mumbai-Howrah Mail (12809) was held up at Jalgaon station for at two hours on Monday following a bomb threat received at RPF headquarters in Mumbai. The threat was found to be a hoax. The train, which left Mumbai on Sunday night, had about 1,800 passengers on board.

Ity Pandey, divisional railway manager, Bhusawal, said, "I received a call from the RPF headquarters at 3.30am on Monday alerting me to a threat of a bomb planted on the train. Since the train was about to reach Jalgaon, security forces decided to carry out a search operation at the station."

The train arrived at Jalgaon station at 4.15am and a bomb detection and disposal squad from city police and a dog squad from RPF inspected all 21 coaches. "The passengers were informed about the security check and it was ensured that there was no panic. The passengers cooperated with the security agencies. When nothing suspicious was found on the train, it was declared fit for further journey. It departed the station at 6.21am," said Pandey.

Swapnil Nila, Central Railway's public relations officer, said teams were investigating the threat call to ascertain the motive behind it. "Such threats are never taken lightly by the administration and the security forces. The security forces swung into action as soon as they received the threat. They also checked the identity of the passengers to ensure that they were travelling with proper tickets," he said. TNN

handles @fazluddin69 and @fazluddin27077.

The first tweet, posted at 1.32am, targeted IndiGo flight 6E1275, which was scheduled

to depart at 2am, claiming that a timer-triggered bomb was on board and that it would explode before arrival at Muscat. The second tweet, posted

at 2.12am, targeted 6E56, which was to depart at 2.05am, saying a larger bomb was on board that IndiGo flight. The third tweet, posted from @fazluddin27077 and in which Air India was tagged, claimed: "Six terrorists with 6kg of RDX on board. This flight will be hijacked in next 20 min and will be blown up in sky."

After the Air India flight was diverted to Delhi airport, passengers underwent security procedures. A bomb disposal and detection squad and other agencies scanned the IndiGo flights. Flight 6E1275 finally left at 9am and flight 6E56 took off at 1.14pm. The Air India flight will depart Delhi airport on Tuesday.

Both Air India and IndiGo released statements confirming the incidents and the measures taken to ensure passenger safety. Air India said passengers were to be moved to hotels after completion of the security protocols. IndiGo said standard operating procedures were followed, with the aircraft being taken to an isolation bay for mandatory security checks.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2024

Alliance Air launches Kullu-Jaipur direct flight

ABHINAV VASHISHT

KULLU, OCTOBER 14

The Alliance Air commenced direct operations between Jaipur and Kullu through 70-seater ATR-72 aircraft from today. The aircraft was welcomed with water cannons at the Kullu-Manali airport at Bhuntar, 10 km from here. Though the Governor and Deputy Chief Minister are on visit to Kullu for the Dasehra festival, only a small ceremony was held for the launching of the operations for the first time between Jaipur and Kullu.

The operations will be carried out on Mondays and Wednesdays till October 23 and from October 29 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The one way flight will be of around 2-hour duration. It will depart from Jaipur at 8.20 am and arrive in Kullu at 10.15 am. Then it will return back at 10.35 am and arrive at Jaipur at 12.40 pm. The flights between Jaipur and Kullu



Water cannons welcome the inaugural flight between Kullu and Jaipur at Bhuntar airport in Kullu on Monday.

OPS ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS TILL OCT 23

- The operations will be carried out on Mondays and Wednesdays till October 23. From October 29 these will be on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- The one-way flight will be of around two-hour duration. It will depart from Jaipur at 8.20 am and arrive in Kullu at 10.15 am. Then it will return back at 10.35 am and arrive at Jaipur at 12.40 pm.
- One-way fare is ₹2,509.

have been launched under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), commonly known as UDAN.

The seats from Kullu to Jaipur are not available on the website of the airline till October 31.

Corporate Communications Directorate

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What kind of military power does India need



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SOME unrelated events of the last week draw attention to India's modest trans-border military (TBM) capability and the manner in which certain disruptive technologies are impacting the conduct of war. The military operations in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war (that began in February 2022) and the spiral of violence triggered by the Hamas terror attack on Israel (in October 2023), now roiled by the entry of Hezbollah and Iran, testify to the latter trend to a certain degree. Some preliminary policy inferences can be drawn that are relevant for India.

The first development pertains to the October 9 Cabinet Committee on Security approval for the acquisition of two nuclear propelled submarines (SSN); these platforms are also referred to as attack submarines or hunter-killers. They will be indignously designed and built at Visakhapatnam. This is a major policy decision and an ambitious one at that.

India was yet to acquire the

requisite level of technological competence to design and build a conventional diesel-electric submarine, but yet it had moved straight to design and build a SSBN (a nuclear powered submarine with nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles) — the INS Arihant. The SSBN has a strategic role, which is to ensure credible second-strike capability to render nuclear deterrence more robust. India joined this select group of nations in 2018, one which includes the USA, Russia, the UK, France and China.

After a long gestation period of almost 17 years since the acquisition of an SSN was first mooted, India is now embarking on the project, though this approval has to be followed by adequate budgetary allocations. An SSN is a totally different platform by way of technological features and as is the case with the first type of any naval platform, the journey will be long, arduous and expensive.

The two SSNs are reported to cost Rs 15,000 crore each, though this is an initial estimate. When these two boats enter service in an operational manner — with full ordnance payload, which means submarine-launched missiles — India will have a credible underwater capability, wherein the SSN can be tasked with attack, surveillance and special operations roles, depending on the tactical exigency. In essence, the SSN can remain on extended underwater 'prowl', and unfriendly navies will have to



VITAL: The military should move towards acquiring a holistic national TBM capability. *ILLUSTRATION*

factor this capability when operating in maritime areas of relevance to India.

In the same week, on October 7, the CCS also approved phase III of the Space Based Surveillance system (SBS), which will allow India to launch 52 spy satellites in low earth and geostationary orbits. Expected to cost Rs 27,000 crore, the trans-border surveillance capability of this cluster will be enhanced by artificial intelligence and give a fillip to India's comprehensive TBM index.

Air power is a core element of a nation's TBM capability and this aspect came into focus with the assumption of office by the new air chief, Air Chief Marshal Anwar Preet Singh, who took over in end-September. During the traditional

India should acquire the desired degree of TBM capability so that Delhi acquires the appropriate degree of equipoise in engaging with Beijing.

media interjection in the run-up to the Air Force Day on October 8, ACM Singh noted the gap between India and its principal strategic challenger, China, in the air power domain and dwelt on the need to ramp up domestic production of fighter jets to redress dwindling numbers. Moreover, he said, his first effort would be not to allow 'the fighter aircraft strength go down below 30 squadrons' and that HAL should stick to its promise to deliver 24 aircraft every year to bridge the numbers gap.

The 30 squadron figure has to be seen against the aspiration of the IAF to have 42 fighter squadrons to deal with a two-front operational requirement against China and Pakistan. This number

was arrived at after the 1965 war with Pakistan; and none other than the legendary JRD Tata, an accomplished pilot and founder of Air India, was a member of the group that made this assessment.

The manner in which air power has been transmuted is evident in the Russia-Ukraine war as well as the violence in West Asia, where the use of relatively less expensive unmanned drones and missiles/rockets have replaced the once-familiar deployment of fighter aircraft and long-range bombers. The writing on the wall, air power experts agree, is that the days of the land-based, manned fighter aircraft are numbered.

While modern fighter aircraft are moving from the fifth to the sixth generation, and will be even more technologically advanced with recent strides made in avionics and the entry of AI, the cost of designing and manufacturing such platforms has become truly astronomical.

Major military powers are grappling with how to acquire affordable and effective air power that is also sustainable. India, too, is in a complex and difficult spot. There is no denying that air power is an imperative tool for ensuring national security. The question, of course, is, what kind of air power — manned or unmanned platforms — and in what distribution (Air Force, Navy, Army and space-cyber commands). That will be a complex issue to resolve for the higher defence

management hierarchy, both military and civilian.

TBM capability is a combination of the classical military tripod — the ability to deliver ordnance over long ranges with proven accuracy; ensure surveillance, both defensive and offensive, incorporating the latest technologies in communication warfare; and being capable of moving tangible military assets to distant theatres when warranted.

The Indian military is going through a period of transition towards greater jointness, while theatre commands have been mooted. There is a case for the evolving military architecture to objectively review individual service or domain-specific trans-border capabilities across the tripod — and move towards acquiring a holistic national TBM capability.

The specific scenario where this would come into play is in relation to China. Even as the geo-economic and trade compulsion introduces one layer of robust bilateral interaction, there is a need for India to acquire the desired degree of TBM capability in a progressive manner, so that Delhi acquires the appropriate degree of equipoise in engaging with Beijing — and does not need to be either deferential or belligerent.

Later this month, the truma of October 20, 1962 will be recalled. It is hoped that the right policy cues regarding TBM will be internalised by the Indian security apex.