



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

17 OCTOBER 2024

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## **AAI signs MoU with MP govt for development of Shivpuri airport**

Considering the immense potential of civil aviation sector in Madhya Pradesh, Airports Authority of India and Government of Madhya Pradesh signed MoU for development of Shivpuri Airport under RCS and agreements for Operation & Maintenance and provision of Communication Navigation Surveillance/Air Traffic Management services on 10 October.

NV Subbarayudu, executive director, Sajith Kumar, General Manager (ATM/ATS) Delhi

and Ram Awasthi, Airport Director signed the agreements/MoU on behalf of AAI and Chandramouli Shukla, Commissioner, Aviation, Madhya Pradesh on behalf of Government of Madhya Pradesh.

The airport will be developed for accommodating 19 seater-type of aircraft in the initial phase and ATR-72 type aircraft in the near future.

For this purpose, state government will soon hand over 292 acres of land to AAI.

# Passenger flights to resume from British-era Rupsi Airport today

### CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, Oct 16: In a significant boost to regional connectivity and in response to the long-standing demands of the people of Dhubri, passenger flights will resume from the British-era Rupsi Airport starting October 17.

Under the Government of India's UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme, which aims to make air travel affordable and enhance regional air connectivity, the airline Alliance Air will operate flights from Rupsi Airport.

The initial flight operations will run three days a week – on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays – on the Guwahati-Rupsi-Kolkata route, offering a convenient travel option for residents and businesses in the region. The flights will be conducted using a 72-seater ATR-72 aircraft, a reliable and comfortable choice for regional travel.

This service will not only connect Dhubri district and its nearby areas with Assam's capital Guwahati but also with the bustling metropolis of

Kolkata. This resumption of air service is expected to enhance trade, tourism, and overall connectivity for the region.

As demand for the flight service is expected to grow, there are already plans in place to expand the frequency of the flights. Starting after October, the flights will operate five days a week, adding two more days to the current schedule. The increased frequency is expected to accommodate the rising number of passengers who have been eagerly waiting for the resumption of services from Rupsi Airport.

Rupsi Airport, located about 15 kilometres from Dhubri, carries a rich history. Originally built during the British colonial period, the airport played a crucial role in World War II, serving as a strategic military airfield. Despite its historical significance, the airport had remained largely dormant for several decades post Independence, until efforts to revive it under the Central government's UDAN scheme came into play.



On May 8, 2021, commercial operations resumed at Rupsi Airport after a long hiatus, with flights operated by Fly Big, which used the same ATR-72 aircraft model. The airline initially operated three days a week, but soon expanded to six days a week, due to high passenger demand. However, in an unexpected turn, Fly Big ceased operations

from Rupsi on November 7, 2023, without providing any prior notice, leaving the region without commercial air connectivity.

The airport was extensively renovated and upgraded at a cost of approximately Rs 100 crore, under UDAN-2 and UDAN-4, with the aim of making it a hub for regional air connectivity. The airport now

boasts modern facilities, a resurfaced runway, and an upgraded terminal, making it fully equipped to handle increased passenger traffic.

The resumption of flights by Alliance Air from October 17 marks a new chapter for Rupsi Airport and brings hope to the people of Dhubri and the surrounding areas. Alliance Air's commitment to operate

flights on the Guwahati-Rupsi-Kolkata route is expected to provide significant relief to frequent travellers and businesses, who previously had to rely on long and cumbersome road or rail journeys.

Local residents, traders, and tourism operators are optimistic that this renewed air connectivity will spur economic growth in the region. Moreover, the strategic location of Rupsi Airport – close to the international borders with Bhutan and Bangladesh – makes it a vital transportation hub, with potential for future international operations as well.

The announcement of flight services resuming has been met with widespread excitement and positivity. The people of Dhubri, Kokrajhar and other nearby districts have long awaited the return of regular air services, which were seen as critical for improving accessibility to Assam's remote areas. Many in the region see this as a step towards further development and integration with the rest of the country.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

17 OCTOBER 2024

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर एंटी टेररिस्ट मॉक ड्रिल

## एयरपोर्ट पर तीन आतंकी घुसे, सीआईएसएफ ने मार गिराया

जयपुर | जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर बुधवार को एंटी टेररिस्ट मॉक ड्रिल आयोजित की गई। सुबह 11 बजे सूचना मिली कि एयरपोर्ट बिल्डिंग के अंदर आतंकी प्रवेश कर चुके हैं। एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-1 पर आतंकीयों ने कुछ यात्रियों को बंधक बना लिया है। इनमें एक आतंकी कागों कॉम्प्लेक्स की तरफ गया, जबकि 2 आतंकीयों ने बिल्डिंग पर कब्जा कर लिया। सूचना पर सीआईएसएफ के विशेष कमांडो एयरपोर्ट बिल्डिंग के अंदर घुसे। कमांडोज ने 2 टीम बनाकर एयरपोर्ट के अंदर प्रवेश



किया। एक टीम ने आतंकीयों को एंगेज किया तो दूसरी टीम ने आतंकीयों को मार गिराया। सुरक्षा बलों ने यात्रियों को छुड़ा लिया। इस दौरान चीफ एयरपोर्ट ऑफिसर विष्णु मोहन झा व सीआईएसएफ के सीनियर कमांडेंट नरपत सिंह द्वारा स्टेकहोल्डर्स की जिम्मेदारी और उनकी परफॉर्मंस की भी समीक्षा की गई।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

## नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय विमान भर सकेंगे उड़ान, आईएटीए से मिली मंजूरी

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 17 अक्टूबर (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई से विमानों का उड़ान शुरू करने की दिशा में तेजी से काम चल रहा है। एयरपोर्ट पर रनवे पर उपकरणों की चार दिन तक चली जांच को सफलतापूर्वक पूरा करने के बाद के डीजीसीए ने विमानों के ट्रायल कराने का हरी झंडी दे दिया है। उम्मीद है कि डीजीसीए से कैलिब्रेशन रिपोर्ट के आधार पर ट्रायल की हरी झंडी मिलने के बाद नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर 15 नवम्बर से पहले विमानों का ट्रायल शुरू हो सकता है।

उधर नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से अंतरराष्ट्रीय विमानों के उड़ान का रूट निर्धारित करने के लिए यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट ने इंटरनेशनल एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट एसोसिएशन में आवेदन किया था। आवेदन के आधार आईएटीए ने तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय विमानों के रूट को अपने स्तर पर हरी झंडी

■ नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट ट्रांसपोर्ट एसोसिएशन ने अपनी रिपोर्ट केंद्र सरकार को भेजी

■ कैलिब्रेशन की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर डीजीसीए ने ट्रायल का जारी किया प्रमाण पत्र

■ नोएडा हवाई अड्डा पर 15 नवम्बर से पहले भी शुरू हो सकेगा विमानों के उड़ान भरने का ट्रायल

दे दी है। इसकी रिपोर्ट केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय को भेज दिया है। अब इस पर फैसला केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय को लेना है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय विमान के उड़ान का रूट इंटरनेशनल एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट

एसोसिएशन को करना होता है। घरेलू विमानों के उड़ान का रूट एयरलाइंस करती है। किसी रूट पर कितने विमान उड़ान भरेंगे इसकी रिपोर्ट एयरलाइंस डीजीसीए को देता है। इस पर फैसला डीजीसीए को लेना होता है। माना जा रहा है कि नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से शुरूआत में 25 घरेलू विमान, तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय और दो कार्गो विमान उड़ान भर सकते हैं।

बता दें कि भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) के किंग एयर 360 ईआर ने रनवे के उपर 10 अक्टूबर को भर कर उपकरणों की जांच शुरू की। रनवे के उपर से कई बार उड़ान भर इंस्ट्रुमेंट लैंडिंग सिस्टम आईएलएस और प्रिसिजन अप्रोच पाथ इंडिकेटर का सफल कैलिब्रेशन किया। जिसकी रिपोर्ट डीजीसीए को भेजी गई। डीजीसीए ने रिपोर्ट के आधार पर ट्रायल के लिए प्रमाण पत्र जारी कर दिया।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

17 OCTOBER 2024

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## Man arrested for attempting to grab airport security officer's rifle

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A 35-year-old man — Vikram Ramdas of Kasturi Nagar — was arrested by the airport police after attempting to seize a rifle from a security officer.

The incident occurred

around 7.30 am on October 14, when a CISF official on duty reported the attempted rifle-grab to the control room.

Following the alert, the commander and the Quick Response Team (QRT) arrived

at the scene, detained Ramdas, and handed him over to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) police for further questioning.

Police investigation revealed that Ramdas had ar-

rived in Bengaluru on a flight from Hyderabad earlier that morning.

According to a police officer, he had mistakenly picked up another passenger's luggage and left the terminal. When

the rightful owner of the luggage confronted him, a minor argument ensued, drawing the attention of CISF personnel. During this exchange, Ramdas reportedly tried to interfere with the officer's duties.

Ramdas was booked under Section 132 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from performing official duties. He was later released on station bail.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

## नोएडा एयरपोर्ट ने पास की पहली परीक्षा, डीजीसीए ने जारी किया प्रमाणपत्र

जागरण संवाददाता, ग्रेटर नोएडा: नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को कैलिब्रेशन व वैलिडेशन प्रक्रिया पूरी होने के बाद महानिदेशक नागर विमानन (डीजीसीए) ने प्रमाणपत्र जारी कर दिया है। इस प्रमाणपत्र के मिलने से एयरपोर्ट पर टेस्ट फ्लाइट शुरू करने का रास्ता साफ हो गया है। एयरपोर्ट के रनवे व वहां लगे उपकरणों को तकनीकी जांच में पूरी तरह से दुरुस्त पाया गया है। एयरपोर्ट पर 15 नवंबर से फ्लाइट ट्रायल प्रस्तावित है। यह 15 दिसंबर तक चलेगा। इसके बाद एयरपोर्ट की विकासकर्ता कंपनी कामर्सियल आपरेशन शुरू करने के लिए डीजीसीए के यहां एयरोड्रोम लाइसेंस के लिए आवेदन करेगी।

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट ने पहली परीक्षा पास कर ली है। एयरपोर्ट पर 10 अक्टूबर से 12 अक्टूबर तक इंस्ट्रूमेंट लैंडिंग सिस्टम (आइएलएस), प्रॉसिजन एप्रोच पाथ इंडीकेटर (पीपीआइ) के कैलिब्रेशन व वैलिडेशन की प्रक्रिया पूरी की गई। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण के बीच क्राफ्ट बी 300 ने एयरपोर्ट के रनवे

**15** नवंबर से एयरपोर्ट पर शुरू होगी टेस्ट फ्लाइट, ट्रायल 15 दिसंबर तक चलेगा

के ऊपर से उड़ान भरी। आइएलएस प्रक्रिया पूरी होने के बाद डीजीसीए के यहां प्रमाणपत्र के लिए आवेदन किया गया था।

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लि. के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी डा. अरुणवीर सिंह का कहना है कि

डीजीसीए ने नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को कैलिब्रेशन एवं वैलिडेशन प्रमाण पत्र प्रदान कर दिया है। इस प्रमाण पत्र मिलने के मायने हैं कि एयरपोर्ट एवं अन्य उपकरण आपरेशन के लिए उपयुक्त हैं। इसके साथ ही 15 नवंबर से टेस्ट फ्लाइट के लिए भी स्वीकृति मिल गई है। बिना यात्री के विमान एयरपोर्ट के रनवे पर उतरेंगे व उड़ान भरेंगे। यह ट्रायल 15 दिसंबर तक चलेगा।

## जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर हुई आतंकी हमले की मॉक ड्रिल



नवज्योति, जयपुर। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-1 में उस समय हड़कंप मच गया, जब बिल्डिंग में आतंकी घुसने की सूचना मिली। इसके बाद सीआईएसएफ मौके पर पहुंची और गहनता से जांच कर आतंकवादियों को पकड़ लिया। इसके बाद वहां मौजूद कर्मचारियों ने राहत की सांस ली।

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर शुक्रवार को आतंकी हमले की मॉक ड्रिल हुई। इसमें तीन आतंकियों ने एयरपोर्ट के भीतर प्रवेश किया,

जिनमें से एक कागों कॉम्प्लेक्स में और दो एयरपोर्ट बिल्डिंग के अंदर घुसे। आतंकियों ने टर्मिनल-1 की बिल्डिंग में यात्रियों को बंधक बना लिया। इसके बाद हरकत में आई सीआईएसएफ की कमांडो टीम ने आतंकियों को घेर लिया। एक टीम ने अराइवल गेट से प्रवेश कर आतंकियों को एंगेज किया, जबकि दूसरी टीम ने साइड से प्रवेश कर उन्हें मार गिराया। सुरक्षा बलों ने बंधक यात्रियों को भी सुरक्षित बचाने में सफलता प्राप्त की।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

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## ■ Sarla Aviation, BIAL Tie Up for e-flying Taxis



**NEW DELHI** Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport is set to be a key hub for cutting-edge urban air mobility solutions with Sarla Aviation joining hands with Bangalore International Airport (BIAL) to launch electric flying taxis. Last month, the two entities signed a statement of collaboration to explore sustainable air mobility.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

## नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर विमानों को उतारने की मंजूरी

### प्रोजेक्ट अपडेट | 1

ग्रेटर नोएडा, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के रनवे विमानों को उतारने की अनुमति मिल गई है। नागरिक विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने एयरपोर्ट पर चार दिनों तक चली आईएलएल जांच के सफल होने पर अपनी स्वीकृति दे दी है।

नायल के अधिकारी ने बताया कि एयरपोर्ट पर कैट-1 और कैट-3 उपकरण स्थापित हो चुके हैं, जो कोहरे में विमान की ऊंचाई और

### 15 नवंबर से एक महीने तक रनवे पर ट्रायल चलेगा

एयरपोर्ट के रनवे पर 15 नवंबर से 15 दिसंबर तक ट्रायल के लिए विभिन्न एयरलाइंस के खाली विमान पूरे महीने रनवे पर उतारे जाएंगे। 30 नवंबर को तीन प्रकार के एयरक्राफ्ट और विमान उतारकर रनवे की टेस्टिंग होगी। उस दिन विमानों में कू मीबर से लेकर यात्री तक सभी मौजूद रहेंगे। 25 नवंबर तक डीजीसीए से व्यावसायिक उड़ान ट्रायल के लिए अनुमति लेना अनिवार्य होगा। इसके बाद ही 30 नवंबर को व्यावसायिक विमानों को उतारा जा सकेगा।

दृश्यता की जानकारी देते हैं। डीजीसीए ने उपकरणों का निरीक्षण भी किया। एयरपोर्ट पर 10 से 14 अक्तूबर तक भारतीय विमानन पत्तन प्राधिकरण के एयरक्राफ्ट ने कई बार उड़ान भरकर इंस्ट्रूमेंट लैंडिंग सिस्टम और प्रिंसिजन अप्रोच पाथ इंडिकेटर

की जांच की। सभी नेविगेशन और रडार संबंधी उपकरण ठीक से काम करते मिले। इसकी रिपोर्ट डीजीसीए को भेजी गई। किसी भी प्रकार की खराबी या आपत्ति न होने के बाद कंपनी को विमान रनवे पर उतारने के लिए प्रमाणपत्र जारी कर दिया गया।

### एलिवेटेड रोड बनाने की तैयारी तेज

### प्रोजेक्ट अपडेट | 2

गुरुग्राम, प्रमुख संवाददाता। एसपीआर (सर्दंन पेरिफेरियल रोड) पर एलिवेटेड रोड बनाने की तैयारी तेज हो गई है। इसके लिए जल्द सलाहकार नियुक्त किया जाएगा। गुरुग्राम महानगर विकास प्राधिकरण (जीएमडीए) इसके लिए अगले सप्ताह तक टेंडर आमंत्रित करेगा।

बताया जा रहा है कि अगले महीने

तक इस परियोजना की नई सिरे से डीपीआर तैयार करने का काम चिन्हित सलाहकार को सौंप दिया जाएगा। परियोजना पर करीब 750 करोड़ रुपये का खर्च आएगा। द्वारका एक्सप्रेसवे, गुरुग्राम-सोहना हाईवे और दिल्ली-मुंबई एक्सप्रेसवे को आपस में जोड़ने के लिए जीएमडीए ने यह परियोजना बनाई है। पांच किलोमीटर लंबा यह एलिवेटेड रोड गुरुग्राम-सोहना हाईवे से वाटिका चौक के समीप जुड़ जाएगा। इससे हजारों लोगों को लाभ होगा।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

# DGCA nod for Noida airport runway

**Vinod Rajput**

vinod.rajput@htlive.com

**GREATER NOIDA:** Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL), the Uttar Pradesh government's special purpose vehicle to oversee the construction of the Noida international airport, on Thursday said that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has approved the runway at the greenfield project and has issued it a calibration certificate, paving the way for trials to start.

"DGCA's calibration certificate proves that all systems are in place for landing and take-off

of aircraft... We were supposed to start the trials from November 15 till December 15. But now that DGCA has issued the calibration certificate, we can start trials at any time. We are happy that the project is ready for trials ahead of our deadline," said NIAL chief executive officer Arun Vir Singh.

The first commercial flight from Noida international airport is scheduled to take off on April 17, 2025, said officials.

The schedule was finalised by NIAL in consultation with Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL) — the concessionaire that will operate

the airport.

Officials said NIAL has asked the concessionaire to make sure that domestic and international flights take-off on the date, and that work is fast-tracked to meet the set deadline.

According to NIAL officials aware of the matter, the calibration of the instrument landing system and precision approach path indicator (PAPI) at the under-construction airport was completed on October 14, adding that both are key systems necessary for aircraft landing and take-off. The airport will be ready to start operations on April 17, 2025.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

## Sarla Aviation, Bengaluru airport launch electric flying taxis

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**B**engaluru's Kempegowda International Airport is set to be a key hub for cutting-edge urban air mobility solutions with Sarla Aviation joining hands with the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) to launch electric flying taxis.

Last month, the two entities signed a statement of collaboration to explore sustainable air mobility, specifically electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft.

This initiative, developed in Karnataka, aims to revolutionise air travel by introducing seven-seater electric flying taxis, which promise faster, cleaner, and more efficient transportation. While operations may still be two to three years away, Sarla



Aviation's electric taxis promise a cleaner, quieter, and more cost-effective alternative to traditional helicopter services previously offered in Bengaluru.

The Bengaluru-based company, co-founded by Adrian Schmidt, Rakesh Gaonkar and Shivam Chauhan, is at the forefront of this transformation.

Sarla Aviation plans to focus on four of India's most congested cities-Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi, and Pune -- bringing affordable electric aerial taxis to the public. The

company's proposed route from Bengaluru Airport to Electronics City would take just 19 minutes, compared to the 152 minutes required by road, with a fare of Rs 1,700.

"We aim to redefine urban air transport with operational efficiency, reduced carbon emissions, and scalable infrastructure. Our electric flying taxis will set new benchmarks in reliability and performance, aligning with global standards for sustainable aviation," said Schmidt, Sarla Aviation co-founder and CEO.

## सीआइएसएफ ने बंधकों को करवाया मुक्त मॉकड्रिल : जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर आतंकी हमला... दो ढेर, एक को जिंदा पकड़ा



पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क  
patrika.com

**जयपुर.** जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-1 पर बुधवार सुबह तीन आतंकीयों ने हमला कर दिया। उन्होंने कार्गो स्टेशन पर काम कर रहे एयरपोर्ट स्टाफ को बंदी बना लिया। एयरपोर्ट की सूचना पर सीआइएसएफ (केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल), बम निरोधक दस्ता और स्थानीय पुलिस तुरंत मौके पर पहुंच गए और पूरे टर्मिनल को घेर लिया।

सीआइएसएफ ने कार्गो स्टेशन में घुसकर एक आतंकी को मार गिराया और स्टाफ को मुक्त कराया। इसके बाद उन्होंने टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग में सर्च

अभियान चलाकर दो अन्य आतंकीयों को भी खोज निकाला। एक आतंकी क्रॉस फायरिंग में ढेर हो गया, जबकि दूसरे को पकड़ लिया। दरअसल, एयरपोर्ट पर यह मॉकड्रिल थी।

एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन के अनुसार 27 अक्टूबर से टर्मिनल एक से फ्लाइट का ऑपरेशन शुरू हो जाएगा। इसलिए मॉकड्रिल की गई। यह सुबह 11 से दोपहर 12.35 बजे तक चली। इसमें आतंकी हमले का सीन क्रिएट किया गया था। मॉकड्रिल के दौरान एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन के अलावा सीआइएसएफ, स्थानीय पुलिस, बम निरोधक दस्त, डॉग स्कॉयड मौजूद रहे।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

17 OCTOBER 2024

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## **BIAL, Sarla to develop flying taxis**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) announced a partnership with Sarla Aviation to create operational models for seven-seater electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft.

The tie-up envisages the use of eVTOL as electric flying taxis which could dramatically improve travel efficiency. Adrian Schmidt, chief executive and co-founder of Sarla Aviation, said: "Currently, a journey from Indiranagar to the airport can take 1.5 hours — very soon, we will reduce that to just 5 minutes with Sarla's fully electric flying taxis."

He commended the leadership at BIAL, which operates Kempegouda International Airport, for encouraging companies like Sarla to challenge conventional limits and redefine what is possible in air travel.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

17 OCTOBER 2024

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## Hoax bomb threat at Coimbatore airport

**C**oimbatore International Airport received a hoax bomb threat email Tuesday night, prompting a swift response from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Bomb



Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS). The email, received around 7:30pm, claimed an improvised explosive device (IED) had been planted on airport premises. The BDDS team, along with city police, fire personnel, and rescue teams, conducted a search until 12:05am on Wednesday, ultimately declaring the threat a hoax.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

17 OCTOBER 2024

## No bomb found on Air India Express plane: Singapore cops

SINGAPORE, Oct 16: No bomb was found aboard an Air India Express plane which landed in Singapore more than an hour after its scheduled arrival time, the police said on Wednesday.

The police said it found no bomb after completing security checks at Changi Airport on the low-cost carrier's aircraft from the Indian city of Madurai.

The airline received an e-mail about a bomb on flight AXB684 scheduled to land at Changi Airport in Singapore at 8.50 pm on Tuesday.

The flight escorted by two F-15 fighter jets from the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) landed at 10.04 pm.

The police said they were informed of the bomb threat at 8.25 pm and completed checks after the plane landed, reported *The Straits Times*.

Investigations are ongoing and action will be taken against those who intentionally caused public alarm, the police said.

Flight tracker Flightradar24 showed the plane was circling for about an hour east of Singapore before landing.

Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen in a Facebook post said: "Two of our RSAF's F-15SGs scrambled and escorted the plane away from populated areas to finally land safely at Singapore's Changi Airport at around 10.04 pm tonight. Our Ground Based Air Defence systems and Explosive Ordnance Disposal team were also activated." - PTI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

17 OCTOBER 2024

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## Sarla Aviation developing electric flying taxis

NEW DELHI, Oct 16: Sarla Aviation is leading the charge in transforming urban air mobility by developing cutting-edge electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft.

Co-founded by Adrian Schmidt, the company aims to provide faster, cleaner, and more efficient transportation across India's most congested cities, including Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi, and Pune.

Sarla Aviation's flagship initiative includes seven-seater electric flying taxis, which promise to cut travel times significantly. For example, a journey from Bengaluru Airport to Electronics City, which typically takes over 150 minutes by road, will be reduced to just 19 minutes with fares starting at Rs 1,700 - making it a cost-effective alternative to helicopter services.

In a major step forward, Sarla Aviation recently partnered with Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), signing a statement of collaboration to explore advanced air mobility solutions. This partnership positions Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) as a key hub for Sarla's eVTOL aircraft, aimed at alleviating the city's infamous traffic congestion with sustainable air travel solutions. – IANS



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

17 OCTOBER 2024

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## Accused behind threat messages being identified: Civil Aviation Secretary

NEW DELHI, Oct 16: The issue of multiple hoax threat messages to various airlines, which have disrupted many Indian flights, came up before a parliamentary committee on Wednesday as the Civil Aviation secretary told parliamentarians that the accused are being identified and action taken.

Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlunmang Vualnam suggested in the meeting of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, which is headed by JD(U) MP Sanjay Jha, that investigators have gathered some information and are taking action. They are working on a few other cases of such hoax messages, he added.

He, however, cited the sensitivity of information due to the ongoing probe into the matter to decline to share more details, sources said.

They said Jha raised the issue of the number of hoax threat calls that airlines have received in the past couple of days, leading to the diversion of flights, including one bound for Chicago.

At least 10 flights have been disrupted due to bomb threat messages, mostly on social media, received by airlines. – PTI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

## अब फ्रैंकफर्ट और इस्तांबुल से आ रहीं विस्तारा, इंडिगो की उड़ानों को धमकी मुंबई में कराई आपात लैंडिंग, अलग जगह ले जाकर गहन जांच

मुंबई। विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की ऑनलाइन धमकी देने का सिलसिला बृहस्पतिवार को चौथे दिन भी जारी रहा। इस बार धमकी फ्रैंकफर्ट से मुंबई आ रहे विस्तारा एयरलाइंस और इस्तांबुल से भी मुंबई ही आ रहे इंडिगो के विमान को मिली। दोनों ही विमानों की मुंबई में आपात लैंडिंग के बाद अलग जगह ले जाकर जांच की गई।

पिछले चार दिनों में विभिन्न उड़ानों को धमकी से जुड़ी यह 22वीं घटना है। इससे पहले बुधवार को इंडिगो, स्पाइसजेट और अकासा की सात उड़ानों को धमकी मिली थी। विस्तारा के मुताबिक, फ्रैंकफर्ट से मुंबई के लिए उड़ान भरने वाले बोइंग 787 विमान की यहां सुबह करीब 7:45 बजे आपात लैंडिंग कराई गई। इसमें 134 यात्री और चालक दल के 13 सदस्य सवार थे। दूसरी तरफ, तुर्किये के इस्तांबुल से मुंबई खाना हुई इंडिगो की एक उड़ान 6ई-18 को भी अलर्ट मिलने के बाद मुंबई में गहन जांच की गई। एजेंसी



**10 सोशल मीडिया हैंडल किए गए सस्पेंड**  
विमानों को धमकियां मिलने के बाद साइबर सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने 10 सोशल मीडिया हैंडल को सस्पेंड या ब्लॉक कर दिया है। आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने बताया कि साइबर, विमानन सुरक्षा और खुफिया एजेंसियों की एक संयुक्त टीम ने इन हैंडल का विश्लेषण किया, जिसके बाद यह कार्रवाई की।

विदेशी आईपी से संचालित किए जाने की भी संभावना सूत्रों के मुताबिक, एजेंसियों ने ऐसे हर फर्जी बम संदेश मामले में पुलिस एफआईआर दर्ज करवाने के अलावा सोशल मीडिया और डार्क वेब पर साइबर पेट्रोलिंग बढ़ा दी है, ताकि संभावित लिंकेज या ट्रैड को जांच की जा सके।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

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## Akasa Air fined ₹30 lakh for training lapses

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**Mumbai:** The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Akasa Air ₹30 lakh for lapses in pilot training. This action follows a DGCA spot audit in May – revealing practical training sessions held by the airline without mandated regulatory approvals – and a show-cause notice in August. OUR BUREAU

# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

## Air India Express leads winter schedule with 46% flight growth, SpiceJet sees 39% drop

Our Bureau  
Mumbai

Air India Express will see the highest capacity addition among all airlines in the winter schedule, with a 46 per cent year-on-year increase in weekly domestic flights, while SpiceJet will see the sharpest drop, with a 39 per cent reduction in flights.

Domestic airlines have planned 25,007 flights per week – 3,572 daily flights in the winter schedule, which begins on October 27, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said on Thursday. This is an increase of 5.37 per cent over scheduled flights last winter and a 3 per cent increase over the ongoing summer schedule.

While airlines are reintroducing flights to Puducherry in the winter season, Pakyong and Tezu airports (in Sikkim



**HOT SEASON AHEAD.** Air India Express is set to make significant strides in the upcoming winter schedule

and Arunachal Pradesh, respectively) are falling off the aviation map.

The year 2023 saw 8 per cent year-on-year increase in scheduled flights in the winter season.

This year, planned capacity addition is lower amidst ongoing supply chain challenges.

While SpiceJet has seen a

reduction in its fleet, deliveries of Boeing aircraft have also been fewer due to regulatory issues and the workers' strike.

IndiGo is scheduled to operate 13,691 flights per week in winter — 54 per cent of all scheduled flights. Its planned schedule is 4 per cent higher than last winter.

SpiceJet will operate 1,297

weekly flights – 39 per cent lower than the previous year.

### MORE FLIGHTS

Air India Express, which completed its merger with AirAsia India earlier this month, is scheduled to operate 2,382 flights a week, which is 46 per cent higher than last winter.

The no-frills brand of Air India has added 34 aircraft in a year, and its fleet count stands at 88. It plans to increase its fleet to 100 by March 2025. Regional airline Star Air plans the second-highest capacity growth, adding 45.75 per cent more flights than last winter.

Air India and Vistara are set to merge on November 12, and their schedules have been approved separately now. Post-merger, Air India's weekly flights will see a 12 per cent increase over the previous winter.

# फर्जी कॉल कर उड़ान रोकने पर होगी सजा!

दीपक पटेल

नई दिल्ली, 17 अक्टूबर

नागर विमानन मंत्री के. राममोहन नायडू ने गुरुवार को बताया कि झूठी बम धमकियों और उड़ान में व्यवधान के लिए जिम्मेदार फर्जी कॉल करने वालों को दंडित करने के उद्देश्य से नया कानून लाया जाएगा। इस सिलसिले में नागर विमानन मंत्रालय अभी कानून व न्याय मंत्रालय और गृह मंत्रालय से बातचीत कर रहा है।

मंत्रालय ने यह कदम फर्जी फोन कॉल में तेजी से इजाफा होने के कारण उठाया है। दरअसल, बीते चार दिनों में 20 से अधिक फर्जी फोन कॉल के कारण उड़ानों के मार्ग को बदला गया है या उनमें विलंब हुआ है। नायडू ने कहा, 'हमारी पहली और सबसे अधिक प्राथमिकता ऐसी घटनाओं को रोकना है। हम यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहते हैं कि लोग इस तरीके को मजाक या बदले की भावना से नहीं करें। हम एयरलाइंस के दर्द को



समझते हैं। हम उनकी चिंताओं को समझने के लिए उनसे बातचीत भी कर रहे हैं।' उन्होंने गुरुवार शाम को कहा, 'मौजूदा नियमों और कानूनों में कुछ बदलाव की जरूरत है। हम सभी पक्षों के साथ बातचीत कर रहे हैं। इस क्रम में कानून और गृह मंत्रालय से भी बातचीत जारी है।' मंत्रालय के कुछ शीर्ष अधिकारियों ने बताया कि कठोर दंड के लिए कानून मंत्रालय से बातचीत जारी है। इस प्रस्तावित कानून में किसी व्यक्ति के फर्जी कॉल करने पर पांच साल तक उड़ान पर प्रतिबंध सहित महत्वपूर्ण रूप से आर्थिक दंड शामिल हो सकता है।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD DELHI 18 OCTOBER 2024

# New measures coming to tackle hoax calls disrupting flights

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 17 October

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) is in talks with the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to introduce new legislation aimed at penalising hoax callers responsible for false bomb threats and flight disruptions, Minister of Civil Aviation K Rammoan Naidu said on Thursday.

This move comes in response to a recent dramatic surge in hoax calls, with over 20 incidents in the past four days leading to flight diversions and delays.

Naidu said, "Our first and foremost priority is to not let these kinds of things happen. We have to make sure that people do not use this method as an act of prank or revenge. We also understand the pain of the airlines. We are speaking to them too to understand their concerns."

"There needs to be some change in current rules and legislation. This is what we are exploring with other stakeholders, including the Ministry of Law and MHA," he told reporters during an official event on Thursday evening. Referring to the minor arrested by Mumbai Police on Wednesday for issuing bomb threats for three

## PLAN OF ACTION

■ The ministry is considering various international models to shape the new rules

■ The proposed law could impose severe consequences on individuals making false threat calls, including a five-year flying ban

■ Significant penalties are under consideration to minimise the financial impact these hoax calls cause



“THERE NEEDS TO BE SOME CHANGE IN CURRENT RULES AND LEGISLATION. THIS IS WHAT WE ARE EXPLORING WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS”

**K Rammoan Naidu**  
Minister of Civil Aviation

flights, he said: "Some person, without thinking what kind of inconvenience it would cause, is doing this because of certain petty issues. From our side, we are taking it very seriously."

"All others responsible for the disruptions will be identified and duly prosecuted," he added.

On Thursday, a Mumbai-bound Vistara flight with 147 persons on board made an emergency

landing here on Thursday upon its arrival from Frankfurt in Germany following a bomb threat to the aircraft, a source said.

Top ministry officials said that discussions are underway with the Ministry of Law to develop a legal framework for harsher penalties. The proposed legislation would impose severe consequences on individuals making false threat calls, including a potential five-year flying ban

## Airlines will operate 25K weekly flights in winter

Indian airlines will operate 25,007 flights every week to and from 124 airports in the winter schedule starting October 27, according to aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The number of flights is three per cent higher than 24,275 departures per week from 125 airports in the current summer schedule. In comparison to the winter schedule 2023, the number of flights has increased by 5.37 per cent. The winter schedule is from October 27, 2024 till March 29, 2025. PTI

and substantial monetary fines.

Under current Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) regulations, a no-fly list already exists, but it is designated for unruly passengers involved in disruptive behaviour. The new legislation would expand this list to include hoax callers.

This proposed flying ban for hoax callers is expected to last up to five years and would act as a

deterrent, alongside hefty monetary penalties.

While discussions are still ongoing, the ministry is considering various international models to shape the new rules. In some countries, heavy fines and jail terms are imposed on individuals making hoax calls to airlines or airports, officials observed. The MoCA did not respond to Business Standard's request for a statement on this matter. Considerable penalties are under consideration to minimise the financial impact these hoax calls cause, another MoCA official mentioned. "The disruption caused by these hoax calls not only leads to financial losses for airlines but also puts passengers and airport operations under unnecessary stress. We need to take strict action to prevent this," the official added. Naidu had on Wednesday chaired a meeting with the officials of DGCA, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, the Central Industrial Security Force, MHA, and MoCA.

During the meeting, Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlunmang Vualnam informed members that the individuals responsible are being identified and appropriate measures are being taken. Vualnam, speaking at the standing committee on transport, tourism and culture led by Janata Dal (United) Member of Parliament Sanjay Jha, mentioned that investigators have made some progress and are continuing efforts on other similar cases.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

## सर्दियों में 3 फीसदी अधिक उड़ानें, हर हफ्ते 25007 फ्लाइट संचालित होंगी

एजेसी | नई दिल्ली

देश में सर्दियों में 124 हवाईअड्डों से हर हफ्ते 25,007 उड़ानें संचालित होंगी। यह गर्मियों में प्रति सप्ताह 24,275 उड़ानों से 3% अधिक है। जबकि 2023 के सर्दियों की तुलना में उड़ानों की संख्या में 5.37% इजाफा हुआ है।

इंडिगो 13,691 फ्लाइट के साथ सबसे अधिक संख्या में साप्ताहिक घरेलू उड़ानें संचालित करेगी। नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के अनुसार इस साल विंटर शेड्यूल 27 अक्टूबर 2024 से 29 मार्च 2025 तक है। इस दौरान पांडिचेरी एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ानें शुरू होंगी। वहीं, सिक्किम के पाकयोंग और असम के तेजपुर हवाईअड्डों पर संचालन को सर्दियों में बंद कर दिया जाएगा।

## 7 flights get bomb threats, minor arrested for making 3 hoax calls

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs**

NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, OCT. 16

As many as seven flights received bomb threats on Wednesday taking the number of flights impacted to 19 in three days, with the Union government asserting that law enforcement agencies are actively pursuing all cases and the Mumbai Police arresting a minor for issuing threats to three flights.

Some flights were delayed, diverted and returned mid-way in the wake of bomb threats received through social media, sending security agencies into a tizzy. The Delhi Police has registered an FIR in connection with bomb threats to several flights in the last two days and has launched a probe.

Bomb threats were received by at least three IndiGo flights, two SpiceJet flights and an Akasa Air flight on Wednesday. IndiGo's Riyadh-Mumbai flight was diverted to Muscat due to the threat.

Union civil aviation minister K. Rammohan Naidu on Wednesday said law enforcement agencies are actively pursuing all cases of bomb threats against airlines and the government is closely monitoring the situation.

With at least 19 flights operated by Indian carriers receiving bomb

### LIVES AT RISK

- 19 flights have received bomb threats over the last three days.

- Seven flights received bomb threats on Wednesday, including three IndiGo, two SpiceJet, and one Akasa Air flight. On Tuesday, nine flights received threats, including Air India's AI 127 flight, which was diverted to Canada, and an Air India Express flight from Madurai to

Singapore, which was escorted by fighter jets.

- IndiGo's Riyadh-Mumbai flight was diverted to Muscat due to a threat, and an Akasa Air flight returned to Delhi after a bomb threat.

- Police registered an FIR and confirmed all threats.



threats in three days that later turned out to be hoax, he also said the Mumbai police have arrested a minor responsible for issuing bomb threats targeting three flights.

"All others responsible for the disruptions will be identified and duly prosecuted," the minister said in a statement as he strongly condemned any attempt to compromise the safety, security and operational integrity of the aviation sector.

The issue of multiple hoax threat messages to various airlines came up before a parliamentary committee on Wednesday.

On Wednesday afternoon, a Bengaluru-bound Akasa Air flight carrying 184 people returned to Delhi following a bomb threat.

"Akasa Air flight QP 1335, flying from Delhi to Bengaluru on October 16, 2024, and carrying 174 passengers, 3 infants and 7 crew members on board, received a security alert," an airline spokesperson said in a statement.

In Delhi, deputy commissioner of police (IGI) Usha Rangnani said, "Airport police has responded to eight incidents involving reported bomb threats this month. After thorough verifications and inspection, all threats were confirmed to be hoaxes."

"Legal action has been initiated against those responsible for these false alarms to ensure strict measures against misuse and to maintain the safety and security of passengers and airport operations," she said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

17 OCTOBER 2024

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## 7 flights get threat calls, 19 in 3 days

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs**  
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI,  
OCT. 16

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# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

17 OCTOBER 2024

## MHA seeks reports on series of bomb hoax calls to airlines

**TDG NETWORK**  
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday sought a report from the Ministry of Civil Aviation on a series of bomb threats to various airlines across the country.

In the last 48 hours, at least 13 bomb threats have been received by various airlines on domestic and international routes, all found to be hoaxes.

A senior official has confirmed that MHA has instructed the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Bu-



reau of Civil Aviation, National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) to submit a report on bomb threats that have been received recently.

However, senior officials of MoCA have informed MHA officials regarding the matter and also provided timely

updates.

"Senior officials of MHA have instructed all concerned security agencies in the aviation sector to prepare a report on the matter and submit it at the earliest. The investigation will be monitored by the central intelligence agency to find

out if it was a conspiracy to damage the reputation Indian aviation sector," said the official.

The official added that they have also alerted cyber units to be on alert and track the social media accounts posting threats. Most of the accounts that have posted threats were found to be operated from outside the country. They have got these accounts suspended as soon they come to notice.

On Wednesday, two flights received bomb threats and they were turned back and diverted for security clearance.

Akasa Air spokesperson said, "Akasa Air flight QP 1335, flying from Delhi to Bengaluru on October 16,

2024, and carrying 174 passengers, 3 infants and 7 crew members on board, received a security alert. The Akasa Air Emergency Response teams are monitoring the situation and have advised the pilot to divert the flight to Indra Gandhi International Airport in Delhi with abundant precaution. The Captain is following all required emergency procedures for a safe landing in Delhi and the estimated time of arrival is approximately 14:00 hrs.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

17 OCTOBER 2024

## Aviation minister condemns bomb threats to flights as 'grave concern'

TDO NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Minister of Civil Aviation K Ram Mohan Naidu on Wednesday expressed concern over the recent disruptive acts targeting Indian airlines, affecting domestic and international operations.

Stating that such "mischievous and unlawful" actions are a matter of grave concern, the minister strongly condemned "attempts to compromise the safety, security and operational integrity of the aviation section."

"I am deeply concerned over the recent disruptive acts targeting Indian airlines, affecting the domestic and international operations. Such mischievous and unlawful actions are a matter of grave concern,



and I strongly condemn any attempts to compromise the safety, security, and operational integrity of our aviation sector," read a statement on MoCA website.

Naidu chaired a high-level committee on Monday, stating that he is monitoring the situation regularly, and the law enforcement agencies are pursuing all the cases actively, the Union

Minister said in letter.

"In response, I chaired a high-level committee on October 14, comprising officials from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation," the letter said.

In the letter, Naidu also informed that the Mumbai Police has apprehended a minor responsible for issuing bomb threats to three flights, and added that all others responsible for the disruptions will be identified and duly prosecuted.

"I am monitoring the situation regularly, and our law enforcement agencies are pursuing all the cases actively. Mumbai Police has

arrested a minor responsible for issuing bomb threats targeting 3 flights. All others responsible for the disruptions will be identified and duly prosecuted," the Union Minister said.

Naidu further assured that every possible effort is being made to safeguard the operations.

"I assure all the stakeholders, including passengers and industry partners, that every possible effort is being made to safeguard the operations. We are committed to enhancing security measures and maintaining seamless coordination with global security agencies. The safety and security of passengers remains my utmost priority," he said.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police informed that an FIR has been registered under

sections 217 and 351(4) of the BNS, as well as section 3(1)(d) of The Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982, in connection with the recent hoax bomb threat concerning Akasa Air flight. A detailed investigation is currently underway. Additionally, after coordination with the concerned social media platform, all accounts responsible for spreading these false threats have been suspended to prevent further misuse and ensure public safety, the police added. Earlier in the day, an Akasa Air flight bound for Bengaluru from Delhi received a bomb threat on Wednesday, adding to a series of such threats received by multiple airlines in the past two days.



## Threats to 7 flights on day 3; minor detained

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Bomb threats to flights continued to trigger panic in the security establishment with seven flights of IndiGo, SpiceJet and Akasa Air receiving the threats on Wednesday, taking the total number of such incidents to 19 in the past three days.

All the threats were found to be hoaxes even as the Mumbai Police on Wednesday detained a minor from Chhattisgarh in connection with the threats posted on social media targeting three flights on October 14.

Prima facie, a financial dispute with a shopkeeper prompted the boy to create an X account and post these tweets, said officials.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu has strongly condemned the “disruptive acts targeting Indian airlines”.

Meanwhile, Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlung Vualnam told the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport that the accused are being identified.

► Threats, Page 5

## Threats affect 7 flights on 3rd day...

### Threats, from Page 1

However, he said he could not share more details due to the sensitivity involved in the ongoing probe. Officials said the government was exploring possibilities of putting people who are issuing such threats on a no-fly list. Services of four IndiGo flights, two SpiceJet flights and one Akasa Air flight were impacted on Wednesday while one flight each of Vistara and Air India Express on Tuesday late night.

The IndiGo flights that were affected included a Riyadh-Mumbai flight, which was diverted to Muscat (Oman), a Mumbai-Singapore and a Chennai-Lucknow flight that landed at respective destinations and a Delhi-Mumbai flight that was diverted to Ahmed-

abad. Akasa Air said its flight QP 1335 was flying from Delhi to Bengaluru when the bomb threat was received following which the airline’s Emergency Response Teams advised the pilot to return to Delhi.

An emergency was declared at the airport as per protocol for the aircraft after the bomb threat which turned out to be a hoax. Two flights of SpiceJet — Leh-Delhi and Darbhanga-Mumbai — also received bomb threats during the day.

A Vistara flight from Delhi to Hong Kong received a security threat through social media on Tuesday night while an Air India Express flight from Kochi to Dubai also received a threat. Meanwhile, the Delhi Police have registered a case in connection with the series of threats.

## सात और विमानों को बम की धमकी

विस्तारा और इंडिगो के विमानों को भी धमकी, नो फ्लाई लिस्ट में आएंगे धमकाने वाले

मुंबई, प्रेट्र : घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों की उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिलने का सिलसिला चौथे दिन भी जारी रहा। गुरुवार को जिन विमानों को बम की धमकी मिली, उनमें एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की चार, विस्तारा की दो और इंडिगो की एक उड़ान शामिल थी। एअर इंडिया ने भी कहा कि उसकी कई उड़ानों को बम की झूठी धमकी मिली है, लेकिन उसने संख्या नहीं बताई। इससे पहले इंडिगो, स्पाइसजेट और अकासा की सात उड़ानों में बुधवार को बम होने की धमकी मिली थी। लगभग एक दर्जन उड़ानों को सोमवार और मंगलवार को भी इसी प्रकार की धमकियां मिली थीं। दिल्ली पुलिस ने इंटरनेट मीडिया प्लेटफार्मों को पत्र लिखकर धमकी भरे संदेश पोस्ट करने वाले अकाउंटों का विवरण मांगा है। मुंबई पुलिस ने इस सिलसिले में तीन दिनों में सात केस दर्ज किए हैं।

नागरिक उड़्डयन मंत्रालय विमानों में बम होने की धमकी की घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए कड़े नियम लागू करने और टोषियों को नो फ्लाई लिस्ट में शामिल करने की योजना बना रहा है। नागरिक उड़्डयन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू ने कहा कि



मंत्रालय नियमों में संशोधन करने पर विचार कर रहा है। उन्होंने बड़ी साजिश की आशंका से इन्कार किया। गुरुवार को मुंबई आ रही विस्तारा एयरलाइन की उड़ान को फ्रैंकफर्ट से आते ही तुरंत सुरक्षा जांच के लिए ले जाया गया, क्योंकि बोइंग 787 विमान में बम की धमकी मिली थी। विमान में 147 लोग मौजूद थे। इसी समय तुर्किये के इस्तांबुल से मुंबई के लिए उड़ान भरने वाले इंडिगो के एक विमान में भी बम की धमकी मिली। एअर इंडिया की मुंबई-लंदन फ्लाइट को भी उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। ब्रिटेन की वायुसेना 'रायल एयर फोर्स' ने फ्लाइट को एस्कॉर्ट करने के लिए टाइफून फाइटर जेट भेजा और विमान को लंदन के हीथ्रो अड्डे पर सुरक्षित उतार लिया गया।

प्रेट्र के अनुसार विमानों में बम की धमकी देने वाले 10 इंटरनेट मीडिया हैंडल को साइबर सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने निलंबित कर दिया है।

## दोस्त को फंसाने के लिए विमानों को उड़ाने की दी थी धमकी

नईदुनिया प्रतिनिधि, राजनांदगांव : एअर इंडिया और इंडिगो के तीन विमानों को सोमवार को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी के मामले में मुंबई पुलिस ने छत्तीसगढ़ के राजनांदगांव से हिरासत में लिए गए 17 वर्षीय किशोर को बाल सुधार गृह भेज दिया है। किशोर ने अपने 24 वर्षीय दोस्त को फंसाने के लिए उसके मोबाइल फोन व ईमेल हैक कर एक्स पर धमकी वाली पोस्ट की थी। पुलिस के अनुसार वह मोबाइल हैक करने में माहिर है, लेकिन उसके विरुद्ध कोई आपराधिक प्रकरण दर्ज नहीं है।

मुंबई जोन-8 के डीएसपी मनीष कलवानिया ने बताया कि पोस्ट करने के कुछ घंटे बाद ही किशोर ने खुद मुंबई पुलिस को फोन कर बताया कि वह एक्स पर धमकी देने वाले को जानता है। इस सूचना के बाद ही मुंबई पुलिस राजनांदगांव पहुंची थी। पड़ताछ और एक्स अकाउंट की जांच में फर्जी अकाउंट बनाने का संदेह होने पर पुलिस

- मोबाइल हैक करने में माहिर है किशोर, खुद बुलाई थी पुलिस
- दोस्त से लिए थे 20 लाख उधार, इसी विवाद के बाद उठाया कदम

मुख्य आरोपित किशोर और उसके पिता के साथ उसके दोस्त को भी अपने साथ ले गई थी।

पुलिस की पड़ताछ में यह सामने आया कि किशोर का दोस्त के साथ पैसों को लेकर विवाद था। मोबाइल शाप खोलने के नाम पर किशोर ने उससे 20 लाख रुपये लिए थे, लेकिन जब दोस्त को किशोर की हरकत का पता चला तो उसने रुपये लौटाने को कहा। इस पर किशोर की मां ने चेक दिया था, जो बाउंस हो गया। इसके बाद दोनों के बीच विवाद बढ़ गया। इसी रंजिश में किशोर ने उसके मोबाइल व ईमेल को हैक कर एक्स पर विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी वाली पोस्ट की थी। मुंबई पुलिस उसके पिता से पड़ताछ कर रही है।

## दो और विमानों को धमकी, नो फ्लाई लिस्ट में आएंगे धमकाने वाले

मुंबई प्रेड: घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों की उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिलने का क्रम चौथे दिन भी जारी रहा। गुरुवार को विस्तारा और इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की दो अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। इससे पहले इंडिगो, स्पाइसजेट, अकासा की सात उड़ानों में बुधवार को बम होने की धमकी मिली थी। करीब एक दर्जन उड़ानों को सोमवार और मंगलवार को भी इसी प्रकार की धमकियां मिली थीं। इस बीच, नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय विमानों में बम होने की धमकी की घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए कड़े नियम लागू करने और दोषियों को नो फ्लाई लिस्ट में शामिल करने की योजना बना रहा है।

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू ने कहा, मंत्रालय नियमों में संशोधन करने पर विचार कर रहा है, ताकि सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि एयरलाइनों को बम की धमकी की घटनाओं के खिलाफ सख्त कार्रवाई की जाए। उन्होंने इन घटनाओं के पीछे बड़ी साजिश की आशंका से इन्कार किया। मुंबई पुलिस ने इस संबंध में तीन दिनों में सात केस दर्ज किए हैं।

गुरुवार को मुंबई आ रही विस्तारा एयरलाइन की उड़ान को फ्रैंकफर्ट से आते ही तुरंत सुरक्षा जांच के लिए ले जाया गया, क्योंकि बोइंग 787 विमान

विस्तारा और इंडिगो के विमानों को मिली धमकी, की गई सुरक्षा जांच

राममोहन नायडू ने किसी बड़ी साजिश की आशंका से किया इन्कार

**10 इंटरनेट मीडिया हैंडल निलंबित**  
नई दिल्ली, प्रेड: विमानों में बम रखे होने की धमकी देने वाले करीब 10 इंटरनेट मीडिया हैंडल को साइबर सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने निलंबित कर दिया है। साइबर, विमानन सुरक्षा व खुफिया एजेंसियों की संयुक्त टीम द्वारा विश्लेषण किए जाने के बाद इन हैंडल को निलंबित किया गया, क्योंकि इनसे अफवाह फैलाई जा रही थी। इनमें से अधिकांश खाते एक्स पर थे। एजेंसियों ने बम की अफवाह से जुड़े मामले में केस दर्ज होने के बाद इंटरनेट मीडिया व डार्क वेब पर साइबर निगरानी बढ़ा दी है।

में बम की धमकी मिली थी। विमान में यात्री और चालक दल के सदस्यों को मिलाकर कुल 147 लोग मौजूद थे। इसी समय तुर्किये के इस्तांबुल से मुंबई के लिए उड़ान भरने वाले इंडिगो के एक विमान में भी बम की धमकी मिली। सुरक्षा एजेंसियों द्वारा व्यापक जांच के लिए विमान को एक अलग स्थान पर ले जाया गया।

## नौ और विमानों को उड़ाने की धमकी, बढ़ेंगे एयर मार्शल

मुंबई प्रेस : पिछले कुछ दिनों से विमानों को उड़ाने की धमकी मिलने का सिलसिला थमने का नाम नहीं ले रहा है। पिछले 24 घंटे के दौरान नौ विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी दी गई। इसके चलते कुछ उड़ानों में देरी हुई, कुछ का मार्ग बदला गया और कुछ को बीच रास्ते से ही वापस लौटना पड़ा। इन धमकियों के बाद सरकार ने देशभर के हवाई अड्डों से उड़ने वाले विमानों में एयर मार्शल की संख्या दोगुनी करने का फैसला किया है। इसके अलावा राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा गार्ड (एनएसजी) के ब्लैक कैट कमांडो को संवेदनशील राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूट के विमानों में तैनात किया जाएगा। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू ने कहा कि एजेंसियां सभी मामलों की सक्रियता से जांच कर रही हैं और सरकार स्थिति पर करीबी नजर रख रही है। इसके लिए जिम्मेदार सभी लोगों की पहचान की जाएगी और उनके खिलाफ उचित कानूनी कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

गृह मंत्रालय ने इन धमकियों को लेकर नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय से रिपोर्ट तलब की है। दिल्ली पुलिस ने घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकियों के सिलसिले में प्राथमिकी दर्ज कर



जयपुर हवाई अड्डे पर आपात लैंडिंग के बाद खड़ा इंडिगो का विमान • फाइल

- विमानों में एयर मार्शलों की संख्या दोगुनी करने का फैसला
- मुंबई में नाबालिग हुआ गिरफ्तार दिल्ली पुलिस ने शुरु की जांच

आठ मामलों की जांच शुरू कर दी है। दूसरी तरफ, मुंबई पुलिस ने तीन विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी देने के आरोप में एक नाबालिग को गिरफ्तार किया है। तीन दिनों में कुल मिलाकर 19 विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली है। बुधवार को इंडिगो की चार उड़ानों, स्पाइसजेट की दो उड़ानों और अकासा एयर की एक उड़ान को बम की धमकी मिली। मंगलवार देर रात विस्तारा और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की एक-एक उड़ान को धमकी मिली। सोमवार को तीन और मंगलवार को दिन में सात विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी दी गई थी। धमकी के कारण रियाद जाने वाली इंडिगो की एक उड़ान को मस्कट

### कनाडाई वायु सेना के विमान से पहुंचे एअर इंडिया के यात्री

कनाडाई वायु सेना का एक विमान एअर इंडिया की एक उड़ान के 191 यात्रियों को लेकर इकालुइट हवाई अड्डे (कनाडा) से शिकागो पहुंच गया है। एअर इंडिया की इस उड़ान को विमान में बम होने की धमकी मिलने के बाद उसका मार्ग परिवर्तित कर इकालुइट ले जाया गया था। विमान में चालक दल के 20 सदस्यों समेत 211 लोग सवार थे। एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि यात्री हाथ में ले जा सकने वाले सामान के साथ कनाडाई वायु सेना के विमान से रवाना हुए। बाकी का उनका सामान एअर इंडिया के एक विमान से शिकागो ले जाया जाएगा।

की ओर मोड़ दिया गया। बेंगलुरु जा रहे अकासा एयर के विमान की वापस नई दिल्ली में इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर आपात लैंडिंग करानी पड़ी। मुंबई से दिल्ली आने वाले इंडिगो के एक विमान को अहमदाबाद की ओर मोड़ दिया गया। संसदीय समिति की बैठक के दौरान भी यह मुद्दा उठाया गया, जिस पर नागरिक उड्डयन सचिव ने सांसदों को बताया कि आरोपितों की पहचान तथा कार्रवाई की जा रही है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

17 OCTOBER 2024

दीपावली पर यात्रियों के लिए रेलवे का विशेष तोहफा, 47 स्पेशल ट्रेनों का होगा संचालन

## रोडवेज के पास बसें नहीं, विमानों का बढ़ा किराया, ट्रेनें फुल



### रोडवेज के पास बसें कम

राजस्थान रोडवेज के पास वर्तमान में अनुबंधित सहित करीब तीन हजार बसें ही हैं। दीपावली के त्यौहार पर भारी भीड़ के चलते यह बसें कम पड़ती हैं। ऐसे में लोग मजबूरी में अधिक किराया देकर निजी बसों में यात्रा करते हैं। हालांकि रोडवेज प्रशासन कुछ स्थानों के लिए अतिरिक्त बसों का तो संचालन करता है।

**नवज्योति, जयपुर।** उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे की ओर से दीपावली के त्यौहार पर भीड़ को देखते हुए करीब 47 स्पेशल ट्रेनों का संचालन किया जा रहा है। इनमें 29 ट्रेनें उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे की हैं। वहीं एयरलाइंस की ओर से विमानों के किराए में काफी बढ़ोतरी की है। इसी प्रकार कुछ ट्रेनों में भी सीट फुल है। उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे की ओर से दीपावली के

त्यौहार पर अतिरिक्त यात्रीभार को देखते हुए 29 व अन्य रेलवे की ओर से 18 स्पेशल ट्रेनों का संचालन किया जा रहा है। कुछ स्थानों के लिए संचालित होने वाली ट्रेनों में 100-120 तक वेटिंग चल रही है। दिल्ली के लिए कुल 30 ट्रेनें संचालित: रेलवे की ओर से प्रतिदिन, साप्ताहिक व स्पेशल ट्रेन मिलाकर करीब 30 ट्रेनों का संचालन किया

जा रहा है। वंदे भारत एक्सप्रेस का जयपुर से दिल्ली का चेरकार 880 व एजीक्यूटिव क्लास का 1650 रुपए प्रति यात्री किराया है। वहीं डबल डेकर में चेरकार का 500 व एजीक्यूटिव क्लास का 1205 रुपए प्रति यात्री किराया है। इसी प्रकार जयपुर से दिल्ली का विमान किराया करीब 2200 रुपए प्रति यात्री है।

### इनका कहना है...

रेलवे की ओर से यात्रियों की सुविधा को देखते हुए 47 स्पेशल ट्रेनों का संचालन किया जा रहा है। इनमें 29 ट्रेनें उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे की हैं।

-शशि किरण, सीपीआरओ



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

# No-Fly List to be Among Penal Actions for Hoax Bomb Calls

### Our Bureau

**New Delhi:** The Ministry of Civil Aviation is planning to impose stringent penal rules, including putting bomb threat perpetrators on the no-fly list, to prevent hoax security threats after over a dozen airlines received bomb threats over 48 hours this week.

“Opinions are being sought from all stakeholders, including other ministries, to ensure strict action in such cases,” civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said on the sidelines of an aviation event Thursday.

At least four aircraft received bomb threat alert and were found to be hoax on Thursday. An Air India flight from Mumbai to London was escorted by Royal Air Force planes after it received a threat. More than

14 such incidents have been reported over the last 36 hours.

“Five Air India flights received a security threat on social media today. These have been duly reported to the regulatory bodies and all laid down procedures were strictly followed... All the five flights have made a safe landing. Air India accords top priority to the safety and security of its passengers and crew,” an AI official said.

Hoax bomb alerts cause diversion and delays of aircraft, resulting in financial losses and inconvenience to airlines and passengers.

While aviation security agency Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) had earlier proposed that the accused of hoax bomb alert be put on a no-fly list, the Ministry of Civil Aviation is working on a suitable regulation to execute that.



**CARRIERS PLAN ONLY 5.4% MORE FLIGHTS THIS FESTIVE & YEAR-END SEASON**

# Winter is Coming! Airlines Unlikely to Meet Rising Passenger Demand

Capacity fall mainly due to SpiceJet flight reduction, delay in new aircraft delivery

**Our Bureau**

**New Delhi:** The modest increase in domestic flights this winter is unlikely to be able to keep pace with passenger demand, industry executives said citing the schedule released by the civil aviation regulator. Airlines have planned 25,007 domestic flights per week during the winter season, an increase of 5.37% over scheduled flights last winter and 3% over the ongoing summer schedule, the executives said, referring to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) data.

Capacity reduction by SpiceJet and ongoing supply chain challenges delaying delivery of new aircraft are the main reasons why carriers are struggling to increase total flights, they said.

The winter season—from October 27 till March 29—runs from last Sunday of October till Saturday of March.

Air India Express will see the highest capacity addition among all airlines during the winter schedule, with a 46% year-on-year increase in weekly domestic flights.

The Tata Group, which includes Air India, Vistara and Air India Express, will operate 7,611 flights, accounting for a 32% share. According to the transformation plan announced by Air India CEO Campbell Wilson, the combined entity was eyeing a 30% share of the domestic market.

Market leader IndiGo, which carries six out of 10 passengers in the domestic sector, is scheduled to operate 13,691 flights per week this winter, 4% more than in the year-ago period.

On the other hand, cash-strapped SpiceJet, which recently secured a lifeline through a ₹3,000 crore share sale, is set to reduce flights by a sharp 38% year-on-year this winter, negating much of the capacity addition by other carriers.

Airline executives and experts, however, said the muted increase

## Slow Takeoff

Flights per week Airline	WINTER		% Change
	2023	2024	
IndiGo	13,119	13,691	4.4
SpiceJet	2,132	1,297	-39.0
Air India group	6,209	7,611	22.5
Akasa Air	790	989	25.0
Alliance Air	914	673	-26.3
Others	303	386	-27.0

Source: DGCA

Air India group consists of Air India, Air India Express & Vistara;

Others include Flybig, Fly91 & IndiaOne Air



in flights augurs well for the industry. “The current schedule is more realistic and in sync with business plans for airlines which would prevent hoarding of airport slots,” said Ameya Joshi, founder of aviation blog Network Thoughts.

He attributed the modest capacity increase to the reduction by SpiceJet, which, he said, was in

any case not operating flights as originally planned.

“According to the published winter schedule, airlines will operate 3,572 daily flights. In summer, it was around 3,390 flights a day, but on average there were 3,000 flights per day,” said an airline executive, who did not wish to be identified.

## Akasa Air Fined ₹30 L

**Mumbai:** The DGCA on Thursday fined Akasa Air ₹30 lakh for regulatory violations. The penalty is based on a spot inspection carried out on May 20 which found many breaches.

The violations include conducting practical training for technical instructors and pilots without the required ATRP approvals, exceeding permissible training hours, and appointing examiners not qualified for CATII/III operations. Despite being given multiple chances to address these issues, Akasa Air's responses to the DGCA were deemed unsatisfactory. — **Our Bureau**

दोनों विमानों की मुंबई में आपात लैंडिंग कराई गई, धमकी मिलने का सिलसिला चौथे दिन भी जारी रहा

## मुंबई आने वाली उड़ानों में बम की धमकी

### दहशत

नई दिल्ली/मुंबई, एजेसी। घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों की उड़ानों को बम की धमकी मिलने का सिलसिला चौथे दिन भी जारी रहा।

गुरुवार को विस्तारा और इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की दो अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। केंद्रीय खुफिया एजेंसियों ने सोशल मीडिया पर भारतीय उड़ानों को धमकी देने वाले आईपी एंड्रेस का पता लगा लिया है। ये आईपी एंड्रेस लंदन और जर्मनी के बताए जा रहे हैं।

बुधवार को इंडिगो, स्पाइसजेट और अकासा की सात उड़ानों में बम होने की धमकी मिली थी। भारत की विमानन कंपनियों द्वारा संचालित लगभग एक दर्जन उड़ानों को सोमवार और मंगलवार को भी इसी प्रकार की धमकियां मिली थीं।

ताजा मामले में धमकी मिलने के बाद विस्तारा की फ्रैंकफर्ट-मुंबई उड़ान और इंडिगो की इस्तांबुल-मुंबई विमान को आपात स्थिति में मुंबई में आपात लैंडिंग कराई गई। दोनों विमानों को अनिवार्य सुरक्षा जांच करने के लिए अलग स्थान पर खड़ा कर दिया

### विस्तारा की फ्रैंकफर्ट-मुंबई उड़ान को मिली धमकी

एयरलाइन के अनुसार, जर्मनी के फ्रैंकफर्ट से मुंबई आ रहे विस्तारा एयरलाइन के एक विमान को बम की धमकी मिलने के बाद गुरुवार को आपात स्थिति में मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर उतारा गया। बोइंग 787 विमान में यात्री और चालक दल के सदस्यों को मिलाकर कुल 147 लोग मौजूद थे। एयरलाइन ने कहा कि 16 अक्टूबर को उड़ान भरने वाली विस्तारा की उड़ान यूके-028 के बारे में सोशल मीडिया पर सुरक्षा संबंधी धमकी दी गई थी। मुंबई के छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर उतारने के बाद सुरक्षा जांच के लिए विमान को अलग स्थान पर खड़ा कर दिया गया है।



### इस्तांबुल-मुंबई उड़ान को निशाना बनाया गया

इसी समय तुर्की के इस्तांबुल से मुंबई के लिए उड़ान भरने वाले इंडिगो के एक विमान में भी बम की धमकी मिली। सुरक्षा एजेंसियों द्वारा व्यापक सुरक्षा जांच के लिए विमान को एक अलग स्थान पर ले जाया गया। इंडिगो ने एक बयान में कहा कि इस्तांबुल से मुंबई जा रही उड़ान 6ई 18 को सुरक्षा संबंधी अलर्ट मिला।

### लंदन और जर्मनी से हो रहे धमकी के पोस्ट

भारतीय उड़ानों को बम की धमकियां मिलने की जांच के दौरान केंद्रीय खुफिया एजेंसियों ने सोशल मीडिया पर धमकी देने वाले आईपी एंड्रेस का पता लगा लिया है। ये आईपी एंड्रेस लंदन और जर्मनी के बताए जा रहे हैं। इस सप्ताह भारत की 20 से अधिक घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को बम की धमकी मिली है। ये धमकियां सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से आईं।

### असम के रूपसी हवाई अड्डे से उड़ान फिर शुरू

गुवाहाटी। असम के रूपसी हवाई अड्डे से एलायंस एअर के एटीआर-72 विमान के उड़ान भरने के साथ ही लगभग एक वर्ष के अंतराल के बाद उड़ान परिचालन गुरुवार को फिर शुरू हो गया। विमानन कंपनी ने पश्चिमी असम के कोकराझार जिले में रूपसी हवाई अड्डे से कोलकाता के लिए उड़ान संचालित की।

### रॉयल एयर फोर्स ने लड़ाकू विमान भेजा

लंदन/मुंबई। रॉयल एयर फोर्स ने गुरुवार को बम की धमकी के बाद एयर इंडिया के विमान को रोकने के लिए लड़ाकू विमान भेजा। बाद में विमान को लंदन में सुरक्षित रूप से उतार लिया गया। अधिकारी ने कहा कि मुंबई से लंदन जा रहे एयर इंडिया के विमान को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली थी। रॉयल एयर फोर्स के प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि टाइफून लड़ाकू विमान को जांच के लिए भेजा गया था।

**20**  
से अधिक घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को बम की धमकी मिली है

### दोषियों को 'नो फ्लाय' सूची में डालने पर विचार

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय विमानों में बम होने की धमकी की घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए कड़े नियम लागू करने और दोषियों को 'नो फ्लाय' सूची में शामिल करने की योजना बना रहा है। एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने गुरुवार को यह जानकारी दी। विभिन्न भारतीय एयरलाइन की 20 से अधिक उड़ानों को चार दिनों में बम की धमकियां मिल चुकी हैं, जिनमें अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें भी शामिल हैं। अधिकांश धमकियां गलत साबित हुई हैं। एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि मंत्रालय नागरिक उड्डयन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो से संबंधित नियमों सहित मौजूदा नियमों में संशोधन करने पर विचार कर रहा है, ताकि दोषियों के लिए कठोर दंड सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।

### सात-आठ सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट निलंबित

धमकी देने के मामले में सात-आठ सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट को साइबर सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने निलंबित या ब्लॉक कर दिया है। साइबर, विमानन सुरक्षा और खुफिया एजेंसियों की एक संयुक्त टीम ने मामले का विश्लेषण किया। इसके बाद इन अकाउंट को निलंबित करने के आदेश जारी किए गए, क्योंकि इनसे अफवाह फैलाई जा रही थी। सूत्रों ने कहा कि एजेंसियों ने बम की अफवाह से जुड़े प्रत्येक मामले में पुलिस में प्राथमिकी दर्ज करने के अलावा सोशल मीडिया और डाक वेब पर साइबर निगरानी बढ़ा दी है।

## Bomb hoax cases: offenders could be put on a no-fly list

**Jagriti Chandra**  
NEW DELHI

Inter-ministerial consultations are under way to make amendments to the Aircraft Act, 1934 and subordinate legislation to ensure a five-year imprisonment and placing offenders on a no-fly list for hoax bomb threats to flights, highly placed sources in the Ministry of Civil Aviation said on Thursday.

Over 30 bomb threats were posted for various Indian airlines in the past four days. The threats were issued to six Air India Express flights, five Air India flights, two Vistara flights and two IndiGo flights on Thursday.

"Opinions are being sought from all quarters for changes to rules and regulations to ensure strict action in such cases," Civil Aviation Minister Rammo-han Naidu told pressper-



**Operations hampered:** Various Indian airlines received over 30 bomb threats in four days. FILE PHOTO

sons on the sidelines of an event here. He said the government wanted to ensure deterrence for miscreants posting false threats.

### 5-year term proposed

An official of the Ministry said the Union Home Ministry had taken up a proposal from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security for a five-year imprisonment for those who are charged with in hoax bomb threat cases. It is consulting the Law Ministry for amendments to the Aircraft Act,

1934 and the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

A second proposal that has been mooted is placing offenders on a no-fly list in order to bar them from air travel.

The officials said that though the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982 provides for life imprisonment for threatening safety at airports or disrupting any service at airports, it was too stringent a punishment for hoax calls and would not stand legal scrutiny.

# Jet scrambled, now in UK, as threats dog Indian flights

HT Correspondent

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**NEW DELHI:** An Air India flight from Mumbai to London was briefly asked to go into a holding pattern and was intercepted by a Royal Air Force fighter jet on Thursday — the fourth day when a string of hoax threats made against Indian carriers continued and triggered security scares at multiple airports.

Since Monday, several domestic and international flights of Indian carriers, including Air India, IndiGo, Vistara, SpiceJet and Akasa Air have had to be diverted, delayed or taken to holding for a security sweep after anonymous

**AIR INDIA SAID FIVE OF ITS FLIGHTS WERE AFFECTED, WHILE VISTARA & INDIGO CONFIRMED 1 EACH**

social media users, particularly on X, claimed there were explosives on board.

On Thursday, Air India confirmed five of its flights had been affected, while Vistara and IndiGo confirmed one each. Between Monday and Wednesday, at least 17 flights were named in similar hoaxes.

"Five Air India flights received a security threat on

social media today. These have been duly reported to the regulatory bodies and all laid down procedures were strictly followed as per guidance of the regulatory bodies. All the five flights have made a safe landing. Air India is committed to and accords top priority to the safety and security of its passengers and crew," the airline said in a statement.

In all cases, thorough checks found no suspicious objects. But that such disruption continued for a fourth day exposes a stark vulnerability: perpetrators who have heavily masked their internet presence have carefully targeted flights that are in the air,

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## BOMB HOAXES

triggering a frenzy.

Airline officials have indicated that diversions and delays cost thousands of dollars of losses per hour while security experts believe repeated scrambling can strain security services, hampering safety of lives and raising the chances of human error. Experts and officials also have called for exemplary action to create a powerful deterrence.

The Royal Air Force on Thursday issued a statement in connection with flight AI-129 that was intercepted. "We can confirm that RAF Quick Reaction Alert Typhoon fighter aircraft from RAF Coningsby were launched this afternoon, to investigate a civilian aircraft," a Royal Air Force spokesperson said, according to news agency PTI.

Following an uneventful interception, the aircraft was released to continue to its original destination under the direction of civilian air traffic control, the spokesperson added.

Audio of the passenger jet's crew alerting air traffic control to the potential threat was recorded by a Dutch plane spotter. In it, the captain can be heard telling ground controllers: "We have a suspected bomb on board, requesting priority landing."

It continued: "We have a bomb threat. Air India 129 is requesting descent."

According to Flightradar24, the Air India jet was over the North Sea when it changed course and circled over Norfolk and parts of Suffolk several times before landing at London Heathrow roughly 1 hour and 32 minutes behind schedule.

A loud sonic boom was reported across Norfolk as the fighter jets raced to intercept the airliner, BBC reported.

In Mumbai, two international arrivals were subject to security check after they were the subject of similar threats. This included a Vistara service, flight UK 028 from Frankfurt, and IndiGo's 6E-18 from Istanbul.

On Wednesday, seven flights were similarly targeted, and an equal number were affected the day before, including one Air India Express flight that was intercepted by Singapore Air Force's F-15 fighter jets, and an Air India service to Chicago that landed at a remote Canadian town.

The 200 passengers on the Chicago-bound Air India flight were eventually taken to their destination by a Canadian military plane the following day.

Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu described the matter as being of "grave concern" following a high-level meeting on Wednesday.

On Thursday, he added: "Action is being taken on this. We can't comment on any kind of a conspiracy but from whatever little bit we know these calls are coming from some minors and pranksters. These are all minor and isolated incidents".

"There is no kind of conspiracy that we can comment on. From our side, we are going to see what best we can do. We are talking to the airlines, security agencies, within the ministry also. Consultations are going on," he added, according to ANI.

Aviation security officials said the threats follow a similar pattern, HT reported on Thursday.

The hoaxes are communicated mostly via social media posts made from new accounts.

News agency PTI, citing unnamed sources, reported late on Thursday that 10 social media handles that issued the threats had been suspended or blocked by cyber security agencies till now.

Security agencies also found some common phrases used in these threats, such as "blood will spread everywhere", "explosive devices", "this is not a joke" and "you will all die", the report added.

**AIRLINE OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THAT DIVERSIONS AND DELAYS COST THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OF LOSSES PER HOUR & RAISE HUMAN ERROR CHANCES**

## Agencies look for pattern in bomb threats to airlines

Neeraj Chauhan

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI/MUMBAI:** The Union government planned to increase deployment of air marshals on flights, investigation agencies examined if they could establish a "pattern", and the Delhi Police registered multiple FIRs over hoax calls amid a spate of bomb threats, people aware of the matter said on Wednesday.

The bomb scares continued on Wednesday as seven flights — IndiGo's 6E 74 (Riyadh to Mumbai), 6E 1011 (Mumbai to Singapore), 6E 515 (Chennai to Lucknow), 6E 651 (Delhi to Mumbai); Akasa Air's QP 1335



An IndiGo aircraft after it made an emergency landing following a bomb threat, at Jaipur airport on Tuesday.

(Delhi to Bengaluru); SpiceJet's SG 124 (Leh to Delhi), SG 116 (Darbhanga to Mumbai) — were warned of explosives on board through social media posts. This took the total number of such

threats to at least 17 in three days. All the threats turned out to be hoax.

"I am deeply concerned over the recent disruptive acts targeting

continued on →13

### BOMB THREATS

Indian airlines, affecting the domestic and international operations. Such mischievous and unlawful actions are a matter of grave concern, and I strongly condemn any attempts to compromise the safety, security, and operational integrity of our aviation sector," civil aviation minister K Rammohan Naidu said in a statement.

According to people aware of the matter, airport operators, officials from the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Airports Authority of India (AAI), ministry of home affairs (MHA), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Intelligence Bureau and police held a series of meetings in the past 24 hours to discuss the threats, which have disrupted air travel this week.

"There is a pattern behind the messages. A threat is given using social media or through a phone call, and then suddenly similar threats start to appear within a short span of time. VPNs have been used to post the messages to avoid being traced. We are analysing the pattern, and investigation agencies are coordinating to locate the source (s) of threats," said an aviation security officer, who was part of the discussions. He added that the intention behind the threats was to "definitely disturb the aviation sector, create panic, and keep the agencies on their toes". Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior intelligence officer said the bomb threats appeared to be a part of a ploy to increase the burden on security agencies. "There has been chatter in anti-India circles to issue bomb threats to unsettle the aviation sector," the official said.

On Monday, seven flights were diverted, delayed, or subjected to a search after posts on social media said they had bombs on board. 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. Naidu said the government was keeping a close watch on the situation. "We are committed to maintaining the highest security standards and passenger safety remains our topmost priority," he said. Police have also been asked to take stern action against those found guilty of making the hoax calls, people aware of the matter said. The IGI Airport police said that they registered multiple cases on Wednesday over separate bomb threats received by the airport in the last month. "A detailed investigation is currently underway. After coordinating with the concerned social media platform, all accounts responsible for spreading these false threats have been suspended to prevent further misuse," Commissioner of Police (DCP), IGI Airport Usha Rangnani said.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, consists of stringent punishments to deter hoax calls. The Act's Section 353, which addresses "statements conducing to public mischief", lists punishment for those who deliberately spread false information that can lead to public alarm or unrest. A hoax call that falsely warns of a bomb threat falls under this category and can face up to three years in prison, a fine, or both. Another key provision, Section 351, deals with criminal intimidation, which encompasses a range of threats designed to instil fear. In cases where these threats include death, grievous injury or arson, the punishment can extend up to seven years.

As part of the crackdown against hoax calls, the Mumbai police detained a minor and a man from Chhattisgarh on Tuesday over the bomb threat to three flights from Mumbai on Monday. Officers said their investigation revealed that the 17-year-old created a fake account in the name of his neighbour and posted the threats.

On Wednesday, IndiGo received bomb threats for four flights, including the Riyadh-Mumbai flight that was diverted to Muscat. "The aircraft has been isolated, and all passengers have been safely disembarked," an airline spokesperson said. An Akasa Air flight enroute to Bengaluru returned to Delhi on Wednesday afternoon following a bomb threat. A SpiceJet spokesperson said the airline's X handle received a direct message indicating a bomb threat concerning two flights — one was Leh-Delhi and the other was Darbhanga-Mumbai. All the threats proved to be fake.

# Centre working to identify those behind bomb threats

Law enforcement agencies pursuing the case actively, says Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu; Canadian Air Force comes to the aid of Air India passengers diverted to remote airport

**Jagriti Chandra**  
NEW DELHI

Canada on Wednesday deployed a CC-330 aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force to fly over 200 passengers of an Air India Delhi-Chicago flight to their destination after a bomb threat forced it to divert to an airport in remote Iqaluit.

More flights in India received bomb threats on the third consecutive day, taking the total of such calls to at least 15, though most were declared hoaxes.

On the recent spate of bomb threats, Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu posted on X, "We are monitoring the situation. Our law enforcement agencies are pursuing the case actively."

The Minister held a meeting with officials of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the Central Industrial Security Force, and the Home and Civil Aviation Ministries.

The Canadian military plane took off from the Iqaluit airport around midnight and reached Chicago



An Indigo aircraft from Saudi Arabia after it made an emergency landing following a bomb threat at Jaipur airport on Tuesday. PTI

at 7.50 a.m. The diversion meant that the passengers reached their destination over 36 hours after departing New Delhi at 3 a.m. on Tuesday.

"We thank the Canadian authorities and the authorities at Iqaluit airport for their support and assistance extended to the passengers and Air India during this unexpected disruption," a statement from Air India said.

At least six more flights received bomb threats on Wednesday. These included three IndiGo flights: 6E 651 Mumbai to Delhi, 6E 1011 Mumbai to Singapore, and 6E 74 from Riyadh to Mumbai.

Akasa Air's QP 1335 Delhi to Bengaluru, and two other SpiceJet flights too received similar threats. These were all declared hoaxes and the aircraft allowed for flight operations.

On Tuesday, six flights received bomb threats including Air India Express's Madurai to Singapore flight.

Usha Rangnani, the DCP of Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, said that their team has responded to seven incidents involving bomb threats in October so far.

A detailed investigation is currently under way. (With inputs from Samridhi Tewari)

## Flight bomb threat hoax: Chhattisgarh teen detained

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

A 17-year-old boy from Chhattisgarh was detained for allegedly posting bomb threat messages on the X handles of Indigo and Air India on Monday, the Bandra Police said on Wednesday.

After tracing the operator of the X handle, the Mumbai Police asked the boy's father to bring him to Mumbai for the bomb threat investigation.

He was presented before the Juvenile Justice Board, Dongri, and remanded till October 24.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone 8, Maneesh Kalwaniya said, "Prima facie, the motive appears to be a financial dispute. The boy, who made threats under the fake ID, wanted to implicate another person, Fazluddin Nirban, with whom he had dispute over business."

# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

## HOAX BOMB THREATS TO VARIOUS FLIGHTS FROM INDIA

# No-fly list on govt table as it mulls stricter norms

**SUKALP SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

GIVEN THE spate of hoax bomb threats to Indian airlines' flights this week, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) is exploring ways to make regulations more stringent to enable harsher punishments for those behind such threats. Apart from tweaking rules under its control, including those of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the ministry is also in constant discussions with other key departments, including the home and law ministries, a senior MoCA official said Thursday.

One of the first measures that is understood to be in the works is inclusion of those behind hoax bomb threats in the no-fly list, which essentially would ban them from flying on Indian carriers' flights. Currently, the no-fly list is maintained only for unruly passengers, including anyone



**Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu**

making a bomb threat while on board. However, it does not cover those sending bomb threats from outside through calls, social media, and emails, among others.

Currently, such hoax bomb threats are dealt with in accordance with the country's criminal laws, as there are no legal provisions dealing specifically with bomb threats to aircraft, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. While the standard operating procedures and security protocols are well-defined once a threat has been received, there is not much in regulations to prevent hoax bomb threats to aircraft.

"We want rules that can act as a deterrent... we want to set an example so that no one thinks of committing such mischievous acts," said the MoCA official. The official added that with access to social media and VPN services, it has become quite easy for miscreants to send out anonymous bomb threats, while making it difficult for the security agencies to track them.

"We are looking at what we can do at our end in terms of civil aviation regulations... our legal team is working on it and we are in touch with the law ministry as well. We are also talking to the MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs) as internal security is under their purview. They are also looking at the cybersecurity part," the MoCA official said. The government is also studying anti-hoax provisions that are followed in various other countries, which can be incorporated in the regulations in India, the official added.

## 8 flights receive threats, at least 34 cases so far this week

**SUKALP SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

THE SPATE of bomb threats to flights of Indian airlines continued on Thursday with at least 14 flights receiving threats via social media. These include six flights of Air India Express, five flights of Air India, two of Vistara, and one of IndiGo. With Thursday's incidents, the number of confirmed instances of bomb threats to Indian carriers' flights this week has risen to at least 34. All the threats came from unverified and anonymous accounts on social media platform X.

"A number of Air India flights received a security threat on social media today... All the five flights have made a safe landing. Air India is committed to and ac-

cord's top priority to the safety and security of its passengers and crew," an Air India official said.

"Vistara flight UK 028... was subject to a security threat received on social media. As per protocol, all relevant authorities were immediately informed. The aircraft safely landed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai and was taken to the isolation bay where all customers were disembarked," a Vistara spokesperson said.

"Flight 6E 18, operating from Istanbul to Mumbai, received a security-related alert. Upon landing, the aircraft was isolated, and all passengers were safely disembarked... We worked closely with the authorities..." IndiGo said in a statement. **FULL STORY ON**

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# Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

## Centre mulls banning hoax threat culprits from flights

Indian airlines received over 27 bomb threats in four days via email, social media, calls

Mihir Mishra  
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NEW DELHI

**C**oncerned over an alarming rise in the number of bomb hoaxes, the government is discussing multiple solutions to check this nuisance by adopting the best global practices and banning people making such threats from flying.

The civil aviation ministry is studying the best model available globally and it's also in talks with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to strengthen the Indian model of handling such cases, said top government officials.

"This is inconvenience not just to passengers and airlines but for every stakeholder. The aviation and home ministries and security regulator Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) are working at multiple levels to not just check this menace but bring in enough punishments to discourage peo-

ple from doing it," said a top government official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

While the aviation ministry is bringing penal provisions for people involved in making these calls, the home ministry and security agencies are speaking to virtual private network (VPN) service providers to ascertain the location of these messages. The home ministry is also looking at rules under the existing cyber laws to deter people making such threats.

Most threats come via VPN, which encrypts data and masks IP addresses to create a secure connection between devices over the internet.

Indian airlines received over 27 bomb threats in four days through email, social media and calls and all of them turned out to be hoax. Today, two inter-

national flights—one each by IndiGo and Vistara—received bomb threat calls. Air India said five of their flights received threat calls today.

It could be a case where some hoax threat calls were made and others followed it, maybe just to inconvenience someone's flight trip, a senior gov-

ernment official said. "Look at the case of the minor arrested by Mumbai police—we need to ensure that there are enough consequences built in in the system to deter such

Aviation ministry is studying the best global practices and it's also in talks with ICAO to strengthen the Indian model of handling such cases

people," the official added.

The Mumbai Police detained the 17-year-old boy from Chhattisgarh—he is suspected of issuing a bomb threat to an Air India flight via social media.

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com)



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

## GOVT EXPLORING STRICTER NORMS

# Bomb threats: Civil Aviation ministry may put perpetrators on no-fly list

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** Faced with a spate of hoax bomb threats to airlines, the Civil Aviation ministry plans to put in place strict norms to prevent such incidents, including placing the perpetrators on the no-fly list.

In four days, more than 20 flights of various Indian airlines received bomb threats, including international flights, and some of them were diverted. Most of the threats have turned out to be hoaxes.

Against this backdrop, the ministry is looking at amending existing rules, including those related to the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), in order to ensure stringent pun-



ishments are in place for the culprits, official sources said.

Placing individuals making hoax bomb threats in the airlines' no-fly list is one of the proposals being looked at. Sources also said legal opinions are being gathered with respect to making the changes in the rules. The provisions being followed in foreign

countries to deal with hoax bomb threats are also being examined by the ministry.

Further, if necessary, legislative amendments will be explored for having a strong deterrent to prevent people from making hoax bomb threats to airlines.

Currently, there are strict norms against unruly passen-

**In four days, more than 20 flights of various Indian airlines received bomb threats, including international flights**

ger behaviour onboard flights but there are no specific provisions under the aviation regulations to deal with instances where a bomb threat has come from outside sources such as social media. At present, the actions against hoax bomb threat incidents are taken by the police under criminal laws.

**Continued on P4**

## Bomb threats

Officials said that discussions are going on with home and law ministries while inputs are being gathered from airlines. On Wednesday, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said law enforcement agencies are actively pursuing all cases of bomb threats against airlines and the government is closely monitoring the situation. He also condemned any attempt to compromise the safety, security and operational integrity of the aviation sector.

WITH AGENCY INPUTS

## ABOUT 19 THREATS IN THREE DAYS

# Bomb threats on 7 more planes

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI:** As many as seven flights received bomb threats on Wednesday taking the number of flights impacted to 19 in three days, with the Union government asserting that the law enforcement agencies are actively pursuing all cases and the Mumbai Police detaining a minor for issuing threats to three flights.

Some flights were delayed, diverted and returned mid-way in the wake of bomb threats received through social media, sending security agencies into a tizzy. The Delhi Police has registered an FIR in connection with bomb threats to several flights in the last two days and has launched a probe.



Bomb threats were received by at least three IndiGo flights, two SpiceJet flights and an Akasa Air flight on Wednesday. IndiGo's Riyadh-Mumbai flight was diverted to Muscat due to the threat.

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu on Wednesday said law enforcement agencies are actively pursuing all cases of bomb threats against airlines and the

government is closely monitoring the situation.

With at least 19 flights operated by Indian carriers receiving bomb threats in three days that later turned out to be hoaxes, he also said the Mumbai police have detain a minor responsible for issuing bomb threats targeting three flights.

"All others responsible for the disruptions will be identified and duly prosecuted," the minister said in a statement as he strongly condemned any attempt to compromise the safety, security and operational integrity of the aviation sector.

The issue of multiple hoax threat messages to various airlines came up before a parliamentary committee on Wednesday. **Continued on P6**

## Bomb threats

On Wednesday afternoon, a Bengaluru-bound Akasa Air flight carrying 184 people returned to Delhi following a bomb threat.

"Akasa Air flight QP 1335, flying from Delhi to Bengaluru on October 16, 2024, and carrying 174 passengers, 3 infants and 7 crew members on board, received a security alert," an airline spokesperson said in a statement.

In Delhi, Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI) Usha Rangani said, "Airport police has responded to eight incidents involving reported bomb threats this month. After thorough verifications and inspection, all threats were confirmed to be hoaxes."

"Legal action has been initiated against those responsible for these false alarms to ensure strict measures against misuse and to maintain the safety and security of passengers and airport operations," she said.

On Monday, Naidu chaired

a high-level meeting that was attended by officials from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Ministry of Home Affairs and Civil Aviation.

"I assure all the stakeholders, including passengers and industry partners, that every possible effort is being made to safeguard the operations," he said in the statement on Wednesday.

One flight of Vistara and Air India Express also received the threats.

In total, nine flights received bomb threats on Tuesday and one of them, Air India's AI 127 flight from Delhi to Chicago, was diverted to an airport in Canada. The stranded passengers at the Iqaluit airport were ferried to Chicago by a Canadian Air Force plane.

On Tuesday, an Air India Express flight IX 684 from Madurai to Singapore received a bomb threat. Singapore Armed Forces had scrambled two fighter jets to escort the Air India Express plane away from populated areas before it landed safely at Singapore's Changi airport.

Three flights received bomb threats on Monday. WITH AGENCY INPUTS



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

## Bomb threats to 7 flights, IP address traced to UK, Germany

**SHEKHAR SINGH & MUKESH RANJAN** @New Delhi

FOR a fourth straight day on Thursday, multiple flights of domestic airlines received bomb threats, triggering panic among passengers. Among the flights that received threats four were of Air India Express, two of Vistara and one Indigo. Air India said "a number of" their flights received hoax threats, but did not specify the number, airline sources said.

"A number of Air India flights received a security threat on social media today. These have been duly reported to the regulatory bodies and all laid down procedures were strictly followed as per guidance of the regulatory bodies. All flights have made a safe landing," an Air India official said.

In response, intelligence agencies claim to have found that the IP addresses from where the hoax calls were made originated from Germany and the UK, sources said. The authorities have suspended or blocked about 10 social media handles for posting threats, official sources said. Following the identification of the locations of the IP addresses, sources said, the initial probe established that the threats were posted from three separate handles and two of them have been traced to common IP addresses in the UK and Germany.

Intelligence agencies have also found some common lines and words used in these fake threats like "bombs", "explosive devices", "this is not a joke", "blood will spread everywhere", and "you will all die" and "bomb rakhwa dia hai (Hindi for bomb has been placed)".

The social media handles are being "analysed" by a joint team of cyber experts, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security and intelligence agencies following the inputs.

## मुंबई आने वाली दो इंटरनेशनल उड़ानों में फिर बम की धमकी

■ पीटीआई, मुंबई

डोमेस्टिक एयरलाइंस कंपनियों की उड़ानों को बम की धमकी मिलने का सिलसिला चौथे दिन भी जारी रहा। गुरुवार को विस्तारा और इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की दो इंटरनेशनल उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। इससे पहले इंडिगो, स्पाइसजेट और अकासा की 7 उड़ानों में बुधवार को बम होने की धमकी मिली थी। भारत की एयरलाइंस कंपनियों द्वारा संचालित लगभग एक दर्जन उड़ानों को मंगलवार और बुधवार को भी इसी प्रकार की धमकियां मिली थीं। एयरलाइन के अनुसार, जर्मनी के फ्रैंकफर्ट से मुंबई आ रहे विस्तारा एयरलाइन के एक विमान को बम की धमकी मिलने के बाद गुरुवार को मुंबई एयरपोर्ट पर इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग कराई गई। उसने बताया कि बोइंग 787 विमान की जरूरी सिक्वोरिटी जांच की गई। विमान में पैसिंजर और क्रू मेंबर को मिलाकर कुल 147 लोग मौजूद थे।

एयरलाइन ने कहा, 'फ्रैंकफर्ट से मुंबई के लिए 16 अक्टूबर को उड़ान भरने वाली विस्तारा की उड़ान यूके 028 के बारे में सोशल मीडिया पर सुरक्षा संबंधी धमकी दी गई थी। प्रोटोकॉल के अनुसार, सभी संबंधित अधिकारियों को तुरंत सूचित



कर दिया गया और विमान सुरक्षित रूप से मुंबई के छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर उतारा गया। विस्तारा ने एक बयान में कहा, 'विमान के उतरने के बाद सभी यात्रियों को इसमें से उतारा गया और जांच के लिए विमान को अलग स्थान पर खड़ा कर दिया गया है। हम सुरक्षा जांच पूरी करने के लिए सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के साथ पूरा सहयोग कर रहे हैं।' तुर्की के इस्तांबुल से मुंबई के लिए उड़ान भरने वाले इंडिगो के एक विमान में भी बम की धमकी मिली। इंडिगो ने एक बयान में कहा, 'इस्तांबुल से मुंबई जा रही उड़ान 6ई 18 को सुरक्षा संबंधी अलर्ट मिला। सभी यात्रियों को सुरक्षित रूप से उतार लिया गया। सिक्वोरिटी जांच की गई।

### झूठी धमकी के बाद 10 अकाउंट सस्पेंड

■ विस, नई दिल्ली : आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने गुरुवार को बताया कि इस हफ्ते कई भारतीय एयरलाइंस को बम से उड़ाने की झूठी धमकी देने वाले 10 से अधिक सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट्स को साइबर सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने सस्पेंड या ब्लॉक कर दिया है। सूत्रों के अनुसार, साइबर, विमानन सुरक्षा और खुफिया एजेंसियों की एक संयुक्त टीम ने इन अकाउंट्स का विश्लेषण किया, जिसके बाद इन्हें निलंबित करने का आदेश दिया गया। सोमवार से करीब 10 से ज्यादा सोशल मीडिया हैंडल (ज्यादातर X पर) को सस्पेंड या ब्लॉक किए गए हैं। सूत्रों ने बताया कि एजेंसियों ने सोशल मीडिया पर अपनी 'साइबर पैट्रोलिंग' बढ़ा दी है। फ्लाइटों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी देने के मामलों में ब्यूरो ऑफ सिविल एविएशन (BCAS) सख्त नियम बनाने की कवायद कर रहा है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

## DGCA releases 2024 domestic winter flight schedule

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Thursday released Domestic Winter Schedule 2024, in which Indian carriers will operate 25,007 flights every week to and from 124 airports in the winter schedule starting October 27, higher by three per cent, than the flights operated during summer period this year. In comparison to the winter schedule 2023, the number of flights has increased by 5.37 per cent. As per Winter Schedule 2024 (effective from 27th October 2024 till 29th March 2025) of the scheduled domestic airlines has been finalized after the slot conference meeting held in September 2024.

"Out of these 124 airports, Pondicherry airport is proposed by the scheduled airlines whereas operations



from Pakyong and Tezpur airport were suspended in the winter schedule 2024," the DGCA said in a release.

More than half of the total 25,007 domestic departures per week during the winter schedule will be handled by IndiGo.

The Gurugram-headquartered airline will see

13,691 departures per week, up 4.91 per cent from 13,050 departures per week in the on-going summer schedule.

Also, Tata Group, which currently has three airlines -- Air India, its subsidiary Air India Express and, its JV airline with SIA Vistara -- will have a total of 7,611 departures per week during

this winter, as per the DGCA. Of this, Air India will handle 2,586 departures per week, 13.52 per cent more compared to 2,278 departures per week in the summer schedule of this year, while Air India Express (which saw the merger of AIX connect with it this month) will see 2,832 departures per week

during the winter schedule, up 16.21 per cent from 2,437 departures per week in the summer schedule of 2024.

Vistara, however, will see 5.64 per cent less departures per week at 2,193 from 2,324 departures per week in the summer of this year, it said.

Budget carrier SpiceJet will also handle less number of departures at 1,297 per week from 1,657 departures per week in the summer schedule of this year, a drop of 21.73 per cent, according to the DGCA. Akasa Air, as per the DGCA, has filed for 989 departures per week for the winter schedule of 2024, which would be an increase of 9.52 per cent compared to the summer schedule. Out of these 124 airports, Pondicherry airport is proposed by the scheduled airlines whereas operations from Pakyong and Tezpur airport were suspended in the Winter Schedule 2024.

## BOMB HOAXES A RED HERRING?

Multiple airlines get 19 bomb threats in 48 hours, eight FIRs filed, three arrests



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Multiple bomb threats continued to disrupt airline operations in the country for the third consecutive day. Eight flights, four of IndiGo, two of SpiceJet and one of Akasa Air, received bomb threats on Wednesday, leading to long delays and diversions. All the threats turned out to be hoaxes. However, there was panic amongst air passengers. It is not clear what triggered the sudden surge in hoax bomb threats since Monday. The threat message to IndiGo was the 19th confirmed instance of a bomb threat to an Indian carrier's flight over the past 48 hours. Worried over a trend of surge in hoax bomb threat messages, Delhi Police has registered seven FIRs at Indira Gandhi International Airport, in connection with bomb threats to several domestic and international flights in the last two days and launched a probe into the matter.

According to sources, top officials of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), National Investigation Agency (NIA), Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) on Wednesday met to discuss the bomb threats received by airlines. The authorities are also planning putting the hoax callers on 'no-fly list' and increasing the number of air marshals on flights. A unit of National Security Guard (NSG) commandos is deployed as air marshals mainly on international routes and some sensitive domestic routes. Sky marshals are armed plain clothes security officers who travel on passenger planes. Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu on Wednesday said the government is closely monitoring the situation due to bomb threats to flights and asserted that all necessary

measures are taken against such activities. Strongly condemning the recent bomb threats to Indian carriers, the minister said the Mumbai police have arrested a minor responsible for issuing bomb threats to three flights and that others responsible for disruptions will be identified and prosecuted. The law enforcement agencies are pursuing all cases actively, he said. In less than 24 hours, nine flights received bomb threats and the total count has climbed to at least 19 in three days. The threats have turned out to be hoaxes. On Wednesday, bomb threats were received by four IndiGo flights, two SpiceJet flights and one flight of Akasa Air. On Tuesday late at night, one flight each of Vistara and Air India Express had received the threats. IndiGo received bomb threats for three flights, including the Riyadh-Mumbai flight 6E 74 that was diverted to Muscat (Oman).

"The aircraft has been isolated, and all passengers have been safely disembarked," an airline spokesperson said in a statement. Another flight 6E 1011 from Mumbai to Singapore received a security-related alert and the flight landed at Singapore. Also, IndiGo's flight 6E 515, operating from Chennai to Lucknow, received a security-related alert. After landing at Lucknow, the aircraft was positioned at an isolated bay and all passengers have been safely disembarked. Meanwhile, late on Tuesday, a Mumbai-bound IndiGo flight from the national capital was diverted to Ahmedabad after a bomb threat. An Akasa Air flight enroute to Bengaluru returned to Delhi on Wednesday afternoon following a bomb threat. Earlier, three international flights, one of Air India and two of IndiGo, had received bomb threats on Monday, while another nine flights spanning across all major carriers had received threats on Tuesday. All the threats came via social media platforms, and eventually turned out to be fake. This prompted Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to seek a report from Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) on bomb threats that have been received recently, disrupting services.

Continued on page 8

## Bomb hoaxes a red herring?

From page 1

The issue of multiple hoax threat messages to various airlines came up before a parliamentary committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture where Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlungmang Vualnam cited the sensitivity of information due to the ongoing probe into the matter to decline to share more details. Notably, most bomb threats turn out to be fake, the security checks, which often take a few hours, result in disruptions like delays and even rescheduling of the remainder of the flight in some cases, which hit the airlines financially. On getting a threat like this airports/aircraft, passengers are off-loaded from the plane along with cabin baggage, check-in baggage and cargo, and they are all screened again. Engineering and security teams also search the plane before it is cleared for flying again. In the latest incident, a Delhi-bound IndiGo aircraft from Mumbai was diverted to Ahmedabad after receiving a bomb threat, which later turned out to be a hoax. The aircraft was isolated, and all passengers were safely disembarked. After a thorough checking, nothing suspicious was found and the flight took-off for Delhi on Wednesday morning. Soon after the flight took-off from Mumbai on Tuesday night, an unidentified person, through a tweet, claimed a bomb had been placed in the aircraft which was carrying nearly 200 passengers and crew, an official from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport here said. After being alerted by

the Mumbai ATC, the pilots decided to make an emergency landing at Ahmedabad airport, which was the closest airport when the flight was en-route to Delhi, said the official. "After landing here during midnight, the aircraft carrying nearly 200 passengers and crew, was thoroughly checked by the security agencies overnight. However, nothing suspicious was found. The flight took-off for Delhi at around 8 am today after getting a green signal from the security personnel," the official said. In a statement IndiGo said flight 6E 651 operating from Mumbai to Delhi, was redirected to Ahmedabad due to a "security-related alert". In another incident, no bomb was found aboard an Air India Express plane which landed in Singapore more than an hour after its scheduled arrival time. A Bengaluru-bound Akasa Air flight with more than 180 people on board returned to the National Capital on Wednesday afternoon following a bomb threat. Sources said the flight QP1335 landed safely at the Delhi airport. Meanwhile the Canadian Air Force aircraft is ferrying 191 stranded passengers of an Air India flight from Iqaluit airport, landed safely in Chicago. Intelligence sources said most of the social media accounts that issued the hoax bomb threats to airlines were found to be operating from outside the country and were immediately suspended. Cyber security agencies are also on alert and are tracking social media accounts that are linked to these false threats.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

## विमानन कंपनियों के शीतकालीन सत्र का कार्यक्रम तय हुआ

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों 27 अक्टूबर से शुरू हो रहे शीतकालीन सत्र में 124 हवाईअड्डों से हर सप्ताह 25,007 उड़ानें संचालित करेंगी। विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए ने यह जानकारी दी।

नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के अनुसार, ग्रीष्मकालीन सत्र में 125 हवाईअड्डों से प्रति सप्ताह 24,275 उड़ानें संचालित की गई थीं। शीतकालीन सत्र में संचालित होने वाली उड़ानों की संख्या इनसे तीन प्रतिशत अधिक है। शीतकालीन सत्र 2023 की तुलना में उड़ानों की संख्या में 5.37 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। शीतकालीन सत्र 27 अक्टूबर 2024 से 29 मार्च 2025 तक है।



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

# Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

17 OCTOBER 2024

## अकासा एयर की फ्लाइट की दिल्ली में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली से बेंगलोर जाने वाली अकासा एयर की फ्लाइट क्यूपी1335 को धमकी मिली है। धमकी मिलने के बाद फ्लाइट को दिल्ली वापस लाया गया। दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर फ्लाइट की लैंडिंग की गई। फ्लाइट में 174 यात्री सवार थे। फ्लाइट में तीन बच्चे और सात वरु मेंबर्स सवार थे। दिल्ली में सुरक्षित लैंडिंग के लिए सभी आवश्यक आपातकालीन प्रक्रियाओं का पालन किया जा रहा है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

17 OCTOBER 2024

## दो और उड़ानों को उड़ाने की धमकी

नई दिल्ली। इंडियन एयरलाइंस की दो और उड़ानों में बुधवार 16 अक्टूबर को बम होने की धमकी मिली। लिहाजा इंडिगो की मुंबई-दिल्ली फ्लाइट को टेकऑफ के बाद वापस दिल्ली बुलाना पड़ा, वहीं अकासा एयरलाइंस की दिल्ली-बेंगलुरु फ्लाइट को अहमदाबाद डायवर्ट किया गया। इस तरह 2 दिन में कुल 9 विमानों को बम की धमकी मिल चुकी है। 15 अक्टूबर को 7 फ्लाइट्स में बम होने की धमकी मिली थी। इन फ्लाइट्स में एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का दिल्ली से शिकागो जाने वाला विमान भी शामिल था। उसे कनाडा डायवर्ट कर इकालुइट एयरपोर्ट पर उतारा गया था। जांच में इन फ्लाइट्स में बम की खबर झूठी निकली थी। आज मिली धमकियों पर दोनों ही एयरलाइन ने

सिक्वोरिटी अलर्ट के बाद लैंडिंग की बात कही है। विमानों की जांच जारी है। एयरपोर्ट्स पर सिक्वोरिटी बढ़ाई गई है। हालगतातर मिल रही धमकियों के बीच केंद्र ने बुधवार को फ्लाइट्स में एयर मार्शलों की संख्या को दोगुना करने का फैसला किया है। ये विमान में सादे कपड़े में रहेंगे। इसके अलावा गृह मंत्रालय ने एविएशन मिनिस्ट्री से रिपोर्ट मांगी है। एयरलाइंस को धमकी भरे मैसेज भेजने के मामले में बुधवार को एविएशन मिनिस्ट्री ने संसदीय समिति को जवाब दिया। मिनिस्ट्री ने कहा कि आरोपियों की पहचान कर ली गई है और एक्शन लिया जा रहा है। साथ ही कहा कि और ज्यादा जानकारी इकट्ठा की जा रही है और ऐसे कई मामलों पर कदम उठाया जा रहा है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

18 OCTOBER 2024

## Calls from minors, pranksters: Civil Aviation Minister on hoax bombthreat to flights

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 17 OCTOBER

In response to the recent spate of hoax bomb threats targeting various flights, including Indian airlines, Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said that necessary actions were being taken and ruled out any larger conspiracy behind these events.

Ram Mohan Naidu said, "Action is being taken on this. We can't comment on any kind of a conspiracy but from whatever little bit we know these calls are coming from some minors and pranksters. These are all minor and isolated incidents. There is no kind of conspiracy that we can comment on. From our side, we are going to see what best we can do. We are talking to the airlines, and security agencies, within the ministry also. Consultations are going on."



Stating that such "mischievous and unlawful" actions are a matter of grave concern, the minister strongly condemned "attempts to compromise the safety, security and operational integrity of the aviation sector."

"I am deeply concerned over the recent disruptive acts targeting Indian airlines, affecting domestic and international operations. Such mischievous and unlawful actions are a matter of grave concern, and I strongly condemn any attempts to compromise the safety, security, and operational integrity of our aviation sector," read a statement on the MoCA website.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

17 OCTOBER 2024

## MHA seeks report after hoax bomb threats rattle airlines

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 16 OCTOBER

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday sought a report from the Ministry of Civil Aviation on the series of bomb threats to various airlines across the country.

In the last 48 hours, at least 13 bomb threats have been received by various airlines on domestic and international routes, all found to be hoaxes. On Wednesday, two more flights, a Bengaluru-bound Akasa Air flight and Delhi-bound IndiGo flight received bomb threats.

News agencies, meanwhile, reported that Mumbai police have detained a 17-year-old in Chhattisgarh for allegedly issuing hoax bomb threat calls to three flights. The minor is said to have made threatening posts on social media using his friend's name after a dispute between them over money. Police are investigating if this is connected to several other incidents of hoax bomb threats received by some flights recently.

A senior official has confirmed that the MHA has instructed the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Bureau of Civil Aviation, National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) to submit a report on the bomb threats that have been



received recently.

"Senior officials of MHA have instructed all concerned security agencies in the aviation sector to prepare a report on the matter and submit it at the earliest. The investigation will be monitored by the central intelligence agency to find out if it was a conspiracy to damage the reputation of the Indian aviation sector," said the official. The official added that they have also alerted cyber units to track the social media accounts posting threats. Most of the accounts that have posted threats were found to be operated from outside the country.

A senior official also said the government has decided to double the number of air marshals posted on flights originating from airports across the country.

"The fresh batch of air marshals will be deployed on new international routes added in sensitive category based on intelligence report. The decision was taken after several rounds of meetings will all stakeholders in aviation secu-

rity," the official said.

On Wednesday, a New Delhi-Bengaluru Akasa Air flight (QP 1335) returned to the capital while Indigo's Mumbai-Delhi flight 6E 651 was diverted to Ahmedabad after they received bomb threats.

Minister of Civil Aviation K Ram Mohan Naidu, meanwhile, expressed concern over the recent disruptive acts targeting Indian airlines, affecting domestic and international operations. Stating that such "mischievous and unlawful" actions are a matter of grave concern, the minister strongly condemned "attempts to compromise the safety, security and operational integrity of the aviation section".

"Assure all the stakeholders, including passengers and industry partners, that every possible effort is being made to safeguard the operations. We are committed to enhancing security measures and maintaining seamless coordination with global security agencies. The safety and security of passengers remains my utmost priority," he said in a statement posted on the Ministry of Civil Aviation's website.

Earlier, the Ministry of Civil Aviation held a high-level meeting after more than 10 bomb threats were received on social media on Monday and Tuesday.

## More flight marshals after bomb hoaxes

**IMRAN AHMED SIDDIQUI**

**New Delhi:** The Centre has decided to deploy more air marshals to bolster security on passenger aircraft on "sensitive" international and domestic routes amid the rising number of bomb threats on flights, sources in the Union home ministry said on Wednesday.

Over the past two days, at least 12 bomb threats had been received by various airlines on domestic and international routes and all of them were found to be hoaxes. Some flights were diverted while some airlines had to re-screen all the passengers, leading to major delays and inconvenience.

"The decision to increase the number of air marshals has been taken after assessment of growing threats and getting inputs from central intelligence agencies and other stakeholders," said a Union home ministry official.

Presently, one or two armed security personnel — specialised in anti-terror and anti-hijacking measures — are deployed as air marshals especially on sensitive international routes, besides a few domestic routes on Jammu and Kashmir and northeastern states.

In India, flight marshals were introduced in 1999 after the hijacking of Air India flight IC-814 by militants who took it to Kandahar. Sky marshals travel in passenger aircraft.

The presence of sky marshals is intended to deter and respond to potential threats to civil aviation, ensuring the safety of passengers and crew.

The Union home ministry on Wednesday sought a report from the civil aviation ministry after a series of bomb threats were received by multiple airlines over the last 48 hours, disrupting services.

Sources said the home ministry directed the civil aviation ministry, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Bureau of Civil Aviation, National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Intelligence Bureau (IB) to submit a detailed report on bomb threats that have been received recently.

"The ministry has instructed all concerned security agencies in the aviation sector to submit a detailed report at the earliest. The investigation will be monitored by the central intelligence agency to find out if it was a conspiracy to damage the reputation of the Indian aviation sector," a ministry official said.

A preliminary probe revealed that most of the social media accounts that issued the fake bomb threats were found to be operating from outside India. "These accounts have been suspended. Cyber security agencies are also on alert and are tracking social media accounts that are linked to these hoax threats," the official added.

Sources said the civil aviation ministry held meetings with the Bureau of Civil Aviation, the CISF and other senior officials associated with airport security over the bomb threat.

On Tuesday, seven flights, including an Air India flight headed to Chicago, received bomb threats. After thorough checking, these threats were found to be fake. On Wednesday, two flights received bomb threats and they were turned back and diverted for security clearances.

On Monday, two IndiGo and one Air India flight received hoax threats. These included Air India flight AI119 from Mumbai to New York's JFK Airport, an IndiGo flight 6E1275 bound for Muscat, and flight 6E56 heading to Jeddah.



An IndiGo aircraft from Saudi Arabia makes an emergency landing at Jaipur airport on Tuesday following a bomb threat. (PTI picture)



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

17 OCTOBER 2024

## SC reserves Jet verdict

OUR BUREAU

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved its judgment on a plea of State Bank of India (SBI) and other creditors challenging the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) decision that upheld the resolution plan of grounded carrier Jet Airways and approved the transfer of its ownership to Jalan Kalrock Consortium (JKC).

A bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Justice J. B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra reserved the verdict which it would pronounce in the next fortnight.

The bench heard arguments for two days by additional solicitor-general N. Venkataraman for the SBI consortium and senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Gopal Sankaranarayanan on behalf of the Karanjawala company which represented JKC.

The JKC consortium on Wednesday argued that the lenders, including SBI, were unjustifiably seeking to liq-



**OFF THE AIR**

uidate Jet and refuted allegations that it had committed any default.

Sankaranarayanan submitted that the consortium has taken all necessary steps towards the implementation of the plan and that it is now up to the lenders to fulfill their obligations.

He cautioned about the grave financial implications of any decision to liquidate the airline, and the potential risks to the SBI consortium.

Venkataraman, however, said the consortium failed to meet its financial obligations, including the infusion of ₹350 crore within the stipulated 180-day period.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

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# Lufthansa fined \$4m for stopping Jews from boarding flight

**MARK WALKER**

**Washington:** The transportation department fined Lufthansa \$4 million on Tuesday, after finding the airline had discriminated against 128 Jewish passengers travelling from New York to Hungary in 2022 by preventing them from making a connecting flight in Germany, according to an agency announcement.

The passengers were en route to an annual memorial event to honour an Orthodox rabbi in Hungary.

The transportation department said the fine was the largest it had levied for a civil rights violation, saying the German airline's behaviour constituted religious discrimination, violating multiple US statutes.

The agency's investigation began after it received more than 40 complaints from Jewish passengers traveling from John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York to Budapest, via a scheduled stopover in Frankfurt, on May 3, 2022.

The transportation department said Lufthansa did not

allow the passengers to embark on their connecting flight because of the misbehaviour of a small number of individuals on the first leg of their journey. Most of the affected passengers were Jewish men in traditional Orthodox attire, who were treated as a single entity and penalised for the actions of a few, the department said.

The problem started when the captain of the first flight alerted Lufthansa security about some passengers not adhering to crew instructions, which were to wear face masks



A Lufthansa aircraft.  
(Reuters file picture)

during the flight and not gather in the aisle or emergency exits. They were not consid-

ered security risks, however.

As a result of this alert, a hold was placed on the tickets of more than 100 passengers heading to Budapest, all of whom were Jewish, the department found. However, no specific individuals were identified as having violated crew instructions, contradicting Lufthansa's reasoning for the denied boarding, the announcement said.

In a legal order filed on Tuesday, the department wrote that "the denial of transport in Frankfurt was a

continuation of a pattern of discriminatory behaviour that began on a flight that originated in the United States."

The airline has been ordered to cease further discriminatory practices and must pay \$2 million of the fine within 30 days. The remaining \$2 million was credited to Lufthansa for compensation already provided to the affected passengers.

"No one should face discrimination when they travel, and today's action sends a clear message to the airline

industry that we are prepared to investigate and take action whenever passengers' civil rights are violated," transportation secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a statement.

Lufthansa did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but in a statement released in 2022 days after the incident, the airline said it "regrets the circumstances surrounding the decision to exclude the affected passengers from the flight, for which Lufthansa sincerely apologises."

New York Times News Service

# Hoax calls hit 13 more flights; isolated incidents, says mantri

## Nearly 40 Such Calls Received In Last 4 Days

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi/Mumbai:** Hoax threat messages continue to wreak havoc on flights of Indian carriers, with at least 13 aircraft affected on Thursday.

While Air India got a threat for five flights—Mumbai-London (AI 129), Delhi-New York JFK (AI 119), Chennai-Singapore, and two domestic flights—on Thursday, IndiGo and Vistara received threats for two flights each. AI Express is also learnt to have got similar messages for four flights. The number of flights that have received such threats is now close to 40 since the start of this week.

“AI flights to New York and Singapore landed uneventfully. The flight to London was asked to hold for a while, and in that time the airline informed the UK authorities about a non-specific threat. Finally it was allowed to land at Heathrow,” said people in the know.

Earlier, the Royal Air Force scrambled a Typhoon fighter jet to intercept the aircraft. A Royal Air Force spokesperson said the incident was now being handled under the control of civilian authorities.

Meanwhile, the Union aviation ministry is working on a deterrent—new rules to



**“ We can’t comment on any kind of a conspiracy but from whatever little bit we know these calls are coming from some minors and pranksters. These are all minor and isolated incidents**

**RAM MOHAN NAIDU** | Union aviation minister

deal with and punish hoax callers severely. It is also looking at global best practices. “The law department is being consulted for the legal framework of the proposed new rules. Legal opinion is being sought. We hope to put in place new regulations with harsher penalties, including putting such callers on no-fly lists for a long time,” said sources. The ministry is also consulting with the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Union aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said: “Action is being taken on this. We can’t comment on any kind of conspiracy, but from whatever little bit we know these calls are coming from some minors and pranksters. These are all minor and iso-

lated incidents. There is no kind of conspiracy that we can comment on. From our side, we are going to see what best we can do. We are talking to the airlines, security agencies, within the ministry also. Consultations are going on.”

An Air India official said: “Five AI flights received a security threat on social media Thursday. These have been duly reported to the regulatory bodies and all laid-down procedures were strictly followed as per guidance of the regulatory bodies. All the five flights have made a safe landing.”

An X user using the handle @psychotichuman had tagged Air India and the DGCA in a tweet. “I planted explosive devices onboard of 5 of your planes (sic)... The

explosive devices will soon go off. Down the plane as quick as possible...” the message had said while listing five Air India flights.

Both the Vistara flights that received hoax threats were international—Frankfurt-Mumbai (UK 28) and Paris-Delhi (UK 22). Both landed at their destinations.

The IndiGo flights for which threats were received were Lucknow-Pune (6E 11\*) and Istanbul-Mumbai (6E 18). They also landed at their destinations. In all these cases, planes were parked at a remote bay for thorough checking.

An Air India aircraft diverted to Canada after receiving a threat while flying from Delhi to Chicago earlier this week finally left for Chicago on Thursday.

Since Sunday there have been dozens of hoax messages, leading to multiple diversions, including at airports abroad, by AI and IndiGo.

On Wednesday, seven flights of IndiGo, SpiceJet, and Akasa had received similar hoax messages about bombs on board, while on Monday and Tuesday about a dozen flights operated by Indian carriers had received hoax messages that led to flight diversions and delays.

Airlines are now urging govt to tackle this menace at the earliest as the same is putting a huge financial burden on them. The spate of hoax calls is leading to scares abroad too.

## Mum-Del flight diverted to SVPI due to bomb hoax

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ahmedabad:** A major security alert was triggered at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) airport in Ahmedabad due to a hoax bomb threat in the early hours of Wednesday.

An IndiGo flight, 6E-651, from Mumbai to Delhi, was diverted to Ahmedabad after a threat surfaced on social media late on Tuesday. The aircraft, with around 200 passengers, landed safely at 12.47am, and security protocols were swiftly implemented.

In the past 72 hours, at least 19 bomb threats — nine in less than 24 hours — were received by various airlines on

Representational pic



The aircraft landed safely at SVPI airport at 12.47 am, initiating a series of swift security protocols to ensure passenger safety

domestic and international routes from multiple Indian airports. All the threats turned out to be hoaxes. Some flights were diverted, while some airlines had to re-screen all the passengers, leading to significant delays and inconvenience.

► Continued on P 6

## Fifth bomb, hijack hoax at Ahmedabad airport since May

► Continued from P1

On Wednesday, the Union ministry of home affairs sought a report from the civil aviation ministry on the series of bomb threats. Wednesday's incident marks the fifth such hoax bomb and hijack threat handled at the SVPI airport since May. Sources confirmed that the bomb threat was received on social media, prompting the air traffic controller (ATC) at Mumbai airport to alert the pilot who diverted the aircraft to Ahmedabad.

Upon landing, the passengers were promptly debarked and escorted to a secure area of the terminal. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) conducted a thorough security sweep of the plane, and terminal staff provided refreshments and assistance to the passengers. No casualties or injuries were reported.

"The airport's bomb threat assessment committee was convened immediately. The CISF and other airport authorities were mobilised to implement aviation security protocols. The airport terminal team ensured that all passengers were taken care of promptly and seating provisions were provided



during the security check," an SVPI spokesperson told TOI.

IndiGo Airlines also acknowledged the security-related alert and confirmed that the aircraft was isolated and all passengers were safely disembarked. "Ensuring the safety of our customers and crew is paramount. We worked closely with the relevant authorities and followed standard operating procedures," said a spokesperson for the airline. After the CISF cleared the aircraft and declared the threat a hoax, passengers could proceed. The flight resumed its journey to Delhi at 7.57am, approximately seven hours after the diversion.

Several flights across the country have received similar hoax bomb threats in the past few days. On Wednesday, bomb threats were received by four IndiGo flights, two SpiceJet flights and one flight of Akasa Air.

IndiGo received threats for Riyadh-Mumbai flight 6E

74 that was diverted to Muscat in Oman. Another flight 6E 1011 from Mumbai to Singapore received a security-related alert and the flight landed at Singapore. Also, IndiGo's flight 6E 515, operating from Chennai to Lucknow, received a security-related alert and was isolated at Lucknow airport.

An Akasa Air flight en route to Bengaluru returned to New Delhi on Wednesday afternoon following a bomb threat. A SpiceJet spokesperson said the airline's X handle received a direct message indicating a bomb threat concerning two flights — one was Leh-Delhi and the other was Darbhanga-Mumbai.

As many as nine flights received bomb threat on Tuesday and one of them, Air India's flight carrying 211 people from Delhi to Chicago, was diverted to an airport in Canada. The passengers stranded at the Iqaluit airport were ferried to Chicago by a Canadian Air Force plane. The same day, an Air India Express flight IX 684 from Madurai to Singapore received a bomb threat, leading the Singapore Armed Forces to scramble two fighter jets to escort the plane away from populated areas before it landed safely at Singapore's Changi Airport.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

17 OCTOBER 2024

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## Canadian plane ferries stranded AI passengers

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

A Canadian air force aircraft ferried 191 stranded passengers of an Air India flight from Iqaluit airport to Chicago.

An Air India official on Wednesday said passengers of flight AI127, which was diverted to Iqaluit on October 15, had landed at Chicago. The flight that was diverted on Tuesday had 211 people, including 20 crew members, onboard. Passengers have gone in the Canadian air force aircraft with their hand baggage. Their checked-in baggage will be carried in Air India aircraft when it leaves for Chicago, he said. — PTI