



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

22 OCTOBER 2024

राज्य सरकार के पालना रिपोर्ट भेजने के मात्र पांच दिन में ही केंद्र से जारी हुई स्टेज-2 की अप्रूवल कोटा: एयरपोर्ट की जमीन से पावरग्रिड लाइनों की शिफ्टिंग के लिए वन भूमि के डायवर्जन को मंजूरी

भास्कर न्यूज | कोटा

कोटा में प्रस्तावित ग्रीनफील्ड एयरपोर्ट की जमीन में आ रही पावरग्रिड लाइन शिफ्ट होने वाली भूमि के डायवर्जन को मंजूरी मिल गई है। राज्य सरकार के कंप्लाइंस रिपोर्ट भेजने के महज 5 दिन में केंद्र सरकार ने फॉरैस्ट लैंड के डायवर्जन की अंतिम यानी स्टेज-2 अप्रूवल जारी कर दी। मामला 22.47 हेक्टेयर वन भूमि का है, जहां से पावरग्रिड लाइनें गुजरेंगी।

कोटा एयरपोर्ट 440 हेक्टेयर जमीन पर बनना प्रस्तावित है, इसका संशोधित

मास्टर प्लान भी अप्रूव हो गया है। इसी परिसर में पावरग्रिड की 400 केवी की ट्रांसमिशन लाइनें गुजर रही हैं, जिन्हें भी शिफ्ट किया जाना है। इन लाइनों की शिफ्टिंग के लिए पावरग्रिड ने वैकल्पिक रूट तय किया है, जो करीब 15 किलोमीटर लंबा है। इसमें से 4.5 किमी लंबाई वाला हिस्सा वन का है, जहां से उक्त लाइनें गुजरेंगी। इसके लिए उक्त जमीन का डायवर्जन कराया गया है।

फॉरैस्ट एक्ट के जानकार बताते हैं कि सामान्य तौर पर स्टेज-2 अप्रूवल मिलने में बरसों लग जाते हैं, क्योंकि

इसमें बार-बार केंद्र से आपत्तियां आती हैं, लेकिन इस मामले में महज 5 - -वाइल्ड लाइफ क्लीयरेंस की जरूरत पावरग्रिड के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि फॉरैस्ट से स्टेज-2 अप्रूवल मिलने के बाद अब इस जमीन पर काम शुरू करने से पहले वाइल्ड लाइफ क्लीयरेंस लेनी होगी। यह जमीन रामगढ़ टाइगर रिजर्व के बफर क्षेत्र में है। स्टेज-2 अप्रूवल की शर्तों में भी इस बात का उल्लेख है कि वाइल्ड लाइफ क्लीयरेंस के बाद ही यूजर एजेंसी मौके पर काम शुरू करें। इधर, वाइल्ड लाइफ क्लीयरेंस प्रक्रिया भी तेजी से चल रही

है। इसके साथ ही पावरग्रिड के स्तर पर टेंडर की प्रक्रिया चल रही है, 40 करोड़ की लागत से इन लाइनों की शिफ्टिंग होगी।

32 टावर शिफ्ट होकर 45 नए टावर बनेंगे: एयरपोर्ट के लिए प्रस्तावित जमीन में पावरग्रिड के 32 टावर बने हुए हैं। इनकी शिफ्टिंग के लिए लाइन को घुमाव देना होगा, जिसके लिए 45 नए टावर बनेंगे। यह इस एयरपोर्ट में सबसे चुनौतीपूर्ण काम माना जा रहा था, क्योंकि इन लाइनों की शिफ्टिंग आसान नहीं होती। ये लाइनें सीधे आरएपीपी रावतभाटा के प्लांट्स से जुड़ी हुई हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

पियरेग्रिन नोएडा एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा संभालेगी

नोएडा। इंटीग्रेटेड सिवियोरिटी सॉल्यूशंस प्रदाता कंपनी पियरेग्रिन गार्डिंग को भारत की सर्वाधिक महत्वाकांक्षी उड़्डयन परियोजना नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर सिवियोरिटी ऑपरेशंस का अनुबंध मिला है। कंपनी के सीईओ सिद्धार्थ दहिया ने कहा, समूह ने दिल्ली और मुंबई एयरपोर्ट समेत देश के अन्य महत्वपूर्ण एयरपोर्ट के साथ भी काम किया है। 2025 से शुरू होने जा रहा ग्रीनफील्ड एयरपोर्ट एशिया का सबसे बड़ा और दुनिया का चौथा सबसे बड़ा एयरपोर्ट होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024



■ On the inauguration ceremony of Maa Mahamaya Airport in Ambikapur's Darima, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated virtually from Varanasi. The air strip at Maa Mahamaya Airport in Darima, Ambikapur was upgraded under the Regional Connectivity Scheme of the Government.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

22 OCTOBER 2024

Stakeholders of Kolkata airport conduct meet to tackle hoax bomb threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: In the wake of hoax bomb threats, the stakeholders of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport are learnt to have conducted a meeting to deal with such scenarios in near future.

On Sunday, an Alliance Air flight from Assam to Kolkata was forced to make an emergency landing at the Kolkata airport on Sunday following a “hoax” that 10 of its passengers were carrying bombs, authorities said Monday. The hoax was one of 25 received across India on the same day. It was learnt that the airport authorities have also lodged a complaint at the airport police station following a hoax bomb threat call at the security check-in e-portal of an airline which said an aircraft will be hijacked from mid-air. Soon after, another call reportedly said a hydrogen bomb was kept on an aircraft at the airport.

The airport authorities issued a high alert. A meeting was convened which also included personnel from CISF and top police officers. Subsequently, a complaint was lodged at the NSCBI Police Station. Police



FILE PIC

have started a probe into the whereabouts of the call and efforts are being made to trace the location.

An Air India spokesperson told the media that some Air India flights operating on 20 October 2024 were subject to security threats received on social media aid.

“Following the laid-down protocols, relevant authorities were immediately alerted, and all security procedures strictly adhered to, as per guidance from the regulatory authorities and security agencies,” it was shared. Airlines have said the bomb hoaxes were causing passengers to feel harassed, delaying other flights across the targeted airlines’ networks and triggering huge financial losses.

‘UDAN has transformed India’s aviation sector’

It has led to an increase in number of airports & routes, ensuring that crores of people have access to flying: PM

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday the government’s UDAN scheme, an initiative aimed at connecting smaller cities with air travel and making flying more affordable, has transformed India’s aviation sector.

It has led to an increase in the number of airports and air routes, ensuring that crores of people have access to flying, he said on X on the eighth anniversary of the Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) scheme.

“At the same time, it has had a major impact on boosting trade and commerce and furthering regional growth. In the times to come, we will keep strengthening the aviation sector and focusing on even better connectivity and comfort for the people,” he said.

A government handle on X said the UDAN scheme has facilitated over 2.8 lakh flights, enabling 1.5 crore passengers to experience affordable air travel.

“The initiative has operationalized 86 aerodromes and established 617 routes, significantly enhancing connectivity



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

‘At the same time, it has had a major impact on boosting trade and commerce and furthering regional growth,’ the prime minister said

across the country,” it said.

Moreover, the Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu on Monday said the government will extend the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN for 10 more

Highlights

» ‘In the times to come, we will keep strengthening the aviation sector and focusing on even better connectivity and comfort for the people,’ the prime minister said

» The Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu said the government will extend UDAN scheme for 10 more years

» ‘A total of 86 aerodromes — comprising 71 airports, 13 heliports, and 2 water aerodromes — have been operationalised,’ the civil aviation ministry said

years.

UDAN has led to the birth and growth of regional airlines, generation of jobs and contribution to tourism, the minister said at a function in the national capital to mark eight

years of the scheme.

As many as 601 routes and 71 airports have been operationalised under the regional air connectivity scheme.

UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) is aimed at enhancing regional air connectivity and making flying more affordable. It was introduced on October 21, 2016 for 10 years.

The minister said the scheme will be extended for another 10 years.

Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlungmang Vualnam said the ministry is looking at the financial viability aspects and streamlining of the procedures under the scheme.

“A total of 86 aerodromes — comprising 71 airports, 13 heliports, and 2 water aerodromes — have been operationalised, facilitating the travel of over 1.44 crore passengers across more than 2.8 lakh flights,” the ministry said in a release on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the number of operational airports in the country has doubled from 74 in 2014 to 157 in 2024 and the aim is to increase the count to 350-400 by 2047.

जेवर एयरपोर्ट: दूसरे चरण में एक माह तक होगा ट्रायल

15 नवंबर से विमान लगातार भरेंगे उड़ान, कैलिब्रेशन के पहले चरण की सफल रिपोर्ट डीजीसीए को भेजी गई

● 20 दिसंबर को एयरपोर्ट के लाइसेंस के लिए आवेदन होगा

पायनियर समाचार सेवा। नोएडा

जेवर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर फ्लाइट कैलिब्रेशन का प्रथम चरण का कार्य पूरा हो चुका है। 15 अक्टूबर से लेकर 18 अक्टूबर तक इसकी टेस्टिंग की गई थी। इस दौरान कैलिब्रेशन फ्लाइट यहां पर लैंड कराई गई और इस दौरान रनवे व लैंडिंग सिस्टम की जांच की गई, जो सफल रही। इसकी रिपोर्ट को डीजीसीए को भेज दिया गया है।

अब दूसरे चरण में 15 नवंबर से 15 दिसंबर तक यहां पर लगातार विमान उड़ान भरेंगे और उनका ट्रायल किया जाएगा। यमुना प्राधिकरण के



सीईओ अरुणवीर सिंह ने बताया कि 1 अक्टूबर को यमुना प्राधिकरण में जेवर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को लेकर

फ्लाइट शेड्यूलिंग की बैठक हुई थी। जिसमें एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी से जुड़े हुए अधिकारी वन्य एजेंसी और

डीजीसीए के लोग भी शामिल हुए थे। इस दौरान तय हुआ कि फ्लाइट शेड्यूलिंग कर दिया जाए। इसके बाद

15 अक्टूबर से लेकर 18 अक्टूबर तक कैलिब्रेशन कराया गया। इस दौरान लगातार चार-पांच दिन कैलिब्रेशन फ्लाइट आई और लैंडिंग सिस्टम रनवे की जांच हुई। यह ट्रायल सही पाया गया। इसका पूरा डाटा डीजीसीए को सबमिट कर दिया गया। इसके बाद इसका अप्रूवल प्राप्त हो गया। यानी कुल मिलाकर कैलिब्रेशन सक्सेस फुल रहा और पहला चरण इसका पूरा हो गया। उन्होंने बताया कि अब दूसरे चरण में 15 नवंबर से लेकर 15 दिसंबर तक यहां पर विमान ट्रायल करेंगे।

इस दौरान अकासा एयरलाइंस, इंडिगो व एयर इंडिया के विमान उड़ाने भरेंगे। इसके अलावा वह एयरलाइंस जिनसे एग््रीमेंट हुए हैं, वह सब यहां पर रोजाना लगातार उड़ान भरेंगे। इस दौरान एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी के छोटे विमान भी यहां पर उड़ान भरेंगे। लगातार एक माह तक इनके

द्वारा उड़ान भरने और लैंडिंग की यह प्रक्रिया चलेगी। उसके बाद अंत में एक विमान सभी क्रू मेंबर के साथ उड़ान भरेगा और लैंडिंग करेगा। उसके बाद पूरे 1 महीने का डाटा इकट्ठा करके डीजीसीए की वेबसाइट पर अपलोड किया जाएगा। उसके बाद डीजीसीए से एयरड्रॉम का लाइसेंस मांगा जाता है, यानी कि एयरपोर्ट का लाइसेंस मांगा जाता है। जो 20 दिसंबर को एयरपोर्ट के लाइसेंस के लिए अप्लाई कर देंगे। उसके बाद करीब 3 महीने में यह लाइसेंस आ जाएगा। अरुणवीर सिंह ने बताया कि अधिकतम 20 मार्च तक यह लाइसेंस आ जाएगा। उसके बाद यह एयरपोर्ट फंक्शनल हो जाएगा और पहले ही दिन तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें यहां से उड़ान भरेंगी। उन्होंने बताया कि 25 डोमेस्टिक उड़ान भी पहले दिन उड़ेंगी और उसी दिन कार्गो की फ्लाइट भी उड़ान भरेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

22 OCTOBER 2024

हरियाणा: अंबाला को मिलेगा एयरपोर्ट- विज

अम्बाला @पत्रिका. हरियाणा के ऊर्जा, परिवहन एवं श्रम मंत्री अनिल विज ने सोमवार को कहा कि अम्बाला के नागरिकों को एक माह में एयरपोर्ट का तोहफा मिलेगा। परियोजना को संचालित करने के लिए मशीनों का ऑर्डर कर दिया गया है, जल्द ही यह आमजन के लिए संचालित होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

22 OCTOBER 2024

Bomb threat: High alert at airport

On Sunday night, a call threatening a plane hijack and presence of a hydrogen bomb onboard was received

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 21 OCTOBER

Special alerts have been issued at Kolkata Airport since last night till today after Netaji Subhas Chandra International Airport (NSCBI) authorities received a threat of a hydrogen bomb attack on Sunday night.

Following a series of bomb scares and threats across the country, Kolkata is now on alert. Late on Sunday night, a call threatening a plane hijacking and the presence of a hydrogen bomb onboard was received on the landline number of Kolkata airport's e-portal.

Immediately, a high-level meeting was called by the airport authority, CISF, and police at Kolkata international airport.

According to sources, at



10.55 pm last night, at the landline of Air India's security check e-portal at Kolkata airport a voice claimed, "A plane hijack is about to take place mid-air in a short while!"

The call was then disconnected. Exactly two minutes later, the phone rang again, and the voice said, "There is a hydrogen bomb, and a major disaster could happen at any moment!" Kolkata airport authorities were immediately notified, and a high

alert was issued.

A meeting was convened with senior officials from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the police, lasting nearly two hours.

Following the meeting, the airport authorities filed a formal complaint at the Netaji Subhas Chandra International Airport police station.

The police are investigating from where the call originated and why it was made, and an inquiry has been launched by the airport police.

On Monday, the civil aviation ministry held a press conference to discuss the steps that will be taken in response to the repeated bomb threats on flights.

Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu stated, "Our top priority is the safety of passengers and maintaining timely operations. We are

committed to ensuring that air travel remains uninterrupted. Along with the current security infrastructure, additional stringent security measures are being implemented."

A decision has been made to increase security checks at airports by and CCTV coverage will also be expanded.

The ministry of home affairs is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with the civil aviation ministry.

The government is also planning to amend laws to ensure stricter penalties for those spreading false bomb threats.

Discussions are underway with other ministries to introduce these legal changes. Spreading false bomb threats may result in a fine of up to Rs 10,000, jail time, and a lifetime ban from flying (No-Fly List).

The opinions of all airline operators are being sought on this matter. Central investigative agencies and police from multiple states are working together, and the civil aviation ministry has requested an expedited investigation. The ministry will provide further details after receiving the full investigation report. Until now, any incidents within airports or on flights were handled under the legal provisions of the civil aviation ministry.

There is now consideration of classifying threats made to flights on the ground or from outside the airport as cognizable offenses. Notably, over 100 fake bomb threats have been reported across the country in the past week, with eight flights being forced to change routes due to these threats.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

22 OCTOBER 2024

Ministry of Civil Aviation plans to put those who make hoax bomb threats on a no-fly list: Union Aviation Minister

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER

The Centre is considering amending existing laws to deal with false bomb threats on aircraft and plans to put those who make such threats on a no-fly list, Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammo-han Naidu said on Monday.

In the past few days, Spice Jet and Air Asia flights received five bomb threats each, with multiple airlines receiving a total of 30 bomb threats in the last four days.

"From the Ministry, we have thought of some legislative action if it is required. We have come to the conclusion that there are two



areas that we can explore - 1) Amendment in Aircraft Security Rules... one of the ideas that we want to propagate by changing these rules is that once we catch hold of the perpetrator who is behind this, we want to put

them in the no-flying list... 2) Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act," the Civil Aviation Minister said while addressing a press conference here.

On "UDAN Yojana",

Naidu said under the "UDAN Yojana" the government is planning to start 50 more airports or enhance the capacity of existing airports.

"We are envisioning the UDAN scheme for 10 more years. We want to take it forward for 10 years because in the next 5 years, we are planning to start 50 more airports or enhance the capacity of existing airports. Upto 2047, we feel that we have the capacity to increase the airports to more than 200. We have 157 today and we can take it up to 350," he said.

He added that the "UDAN Yojana" is a revolutionary initiative in civil aviation, inspired by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's vision to democratize air travel.

"UDAN scheme has been a revolutionary scheme in civil aviation. It came out from the thought process of PM Narendra Modi who wanted to democratise air travel...The major beneficiary when we have utilised this UDAN scheme over the past 8 years has been remote areas of the country, especially the northeast areas or the hinterland areas where there was no connectivity at all. Now, they are properly connected through air travel, not just to other metropolitan cities of the country but also various other countries," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

22 OCTOBER 2024

Twin hoax calls at airport

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Calcutta: Two phone calls were received at the Calcutta airport in quick succession on Monday morning — one said an airborne flight was about to be hijacked and the other warned that the aircraft would be blown up with a hydrogen bomb.

Hours later, the Bidhannagar police said the calls, traced to a man in Bongaon, in North 24-Parganas, were a hoax.

The man is mentally challenged and was admitted to a mental hospital earlier, police said.

The airport received the calls a day after an Alliance Air flight from Lilabari in Assam had to make an emergency landing at the Calcutta airport after a hoax call to the city airport.

Close to 100 flights of Indian carriers such as IndiGo, Air India, Vistara and Akasa Air have over the past week been delayed, diverted or forced to make emergency landings because of false bomb alarms. Among them were several international flights.

The calls prompted a flurry of activity at the airport, leading to the issuance of a “high alert” and multiple meetings among airport officials, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which is responsible for the airport’s security, and the Bidhannagar police.

The calls were received at the landline number of the security check-in wing of Air India around 11am.

“The male caller said a flight that had taken off from the airport was about to be hijacked. A second call came shortly thereafter. This time the caller said there was a hydrogen bomb in the plane and it would be activated soon,” said an officer of the Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate.

Airport officials alerted the police and held meetings with the CISF to decide on the steps to be taken following the calls.

A senior police officer said the airport is not new to threat calls but each such call has to be taken seriously until proved a hoax.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 ►

Twin hoax calls at airport

► FROM PAGE 8

CISF officers said a specific protocol is followed in such cases.

“There is no scope for complacency. Every time a threat call comes, security inside the airport is tightened. This may cause inconvenience to the fliers and security checks may be delayed. But the protocol has to be followed if there is an alert,” said a CISF officer.

Officers of the Bidhannagar commissionerate said they tracked down the phone number from where the calls were made.

“A team reached the location at Bongaon in North 24-Parganas. The man who made the call was found to be of unsound mental health,” said an officer of the commissionerate.

“We found documents of his admission to a mental hospital. He has also been to a rehabilitation centre. We also came to know that the man had made a similar threat call to the airport a few weeks ago,” the officer said.

The man was detained but not arrested because of his poor mental health, the officer said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

22 OCTOBER 2024

Mumbai ATC to take most initial load of Navi Mum air traffic

Manju.V@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: When the brand new Navi Mumbai airport begins commercial operations next year, its air traffic control (ATC) will be a rather small unit with only about 40 air traffic controllers. A significant portion of its workload will be managed at the Mumbai ATC, said a senior ATC official, requesting anonymity. The temporary arrangement is likely to last for about a year or until the air traffic at Navi Mumbai airport increases.

In its initial months of operation, the Navi Mumbai airport's ATC unit will only have a 'tower controller', also known as an aerodrome controller, the official who handles aircraft in the early stages of takeoffs and the final stages of landing. The tower controller gives landing, takeoff and pushback clearances, and largely manages ground movements of aircraft.

"Flights taking off from Navi Mumbai will be handled by its tower controller up to 2,000ft. Thereafter, the pilots will switch over to the radio communication channel manned by the 'approach controller' seated at the Mumbai ATC complex in Sahar. Similarly, aircraft descending to land at Navi Mumbai will be handled by the Mumbai's 'approach controller' up to about 3,900ft and will descend from there under the guidance of the Navi Mumbai's tower controller," the official said.

It's a unique arrangement made possible only because the runways of Navi Mumbai airport and Mumbai airport are rather close, about 15km apart, the official said. Compare it to airports that serve other urban agglomerates, such as Delhi-NCR region, for instance. The Delhi airport and the new Noida international airport, or the Jewar airport, are about 80km apart. Jewar airport, which is expected to be commissioned next April, will have an entirely independent air traffic control.

The geographic proximity of the Navi Mumbai and Mumbai airports means a shared airspace, and so, the controllers at the Mumbai ATC can handle air traffic bound to and from Navi Mumbai. To understand how close these two runways are, compare it to Amsterdam-Schiphol airport, which has six runways. The distance between its Polderbaan runway and Oostbaan runway is 7km, which is about half the distance between the runways of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai airports.

For now, India's air navigation service provider, the Airports Authority of India, has prepared the list of controllers to be deployed at the Navi Mumbai ATC. "They have been transferred from airports across India. Some of the controllers have already moved to Mumbai and are currently working at the Mumbai air traffic control," said a source.

ATC FLIES HIGH IN RACE FOR GREENER SKIES 1ST TO IMPLEMENT REDUCED PLANE SEPARATION

Sustainable aviation fuel and efficient aircraft engines represent long-term solutions for reducing carbon emissions in the aviation industry. But there is also a short-term focus on optimising airspace management, including by Mumbai Air Traffic Control (ATC), which has implemented several steps aimed at promoting greener flights. Manju V reports

REDUCED LATERAL SEPARATION

Mumbai ATC is first in Asia Pacific and second globally to implement a reduction in lateral separation between aircraft flying over oceanic regions

20 nautical miles (nm)

Current lateral separation of aircraft over Arabian Sea*

30 nm *In a portion under Mumbai ATC

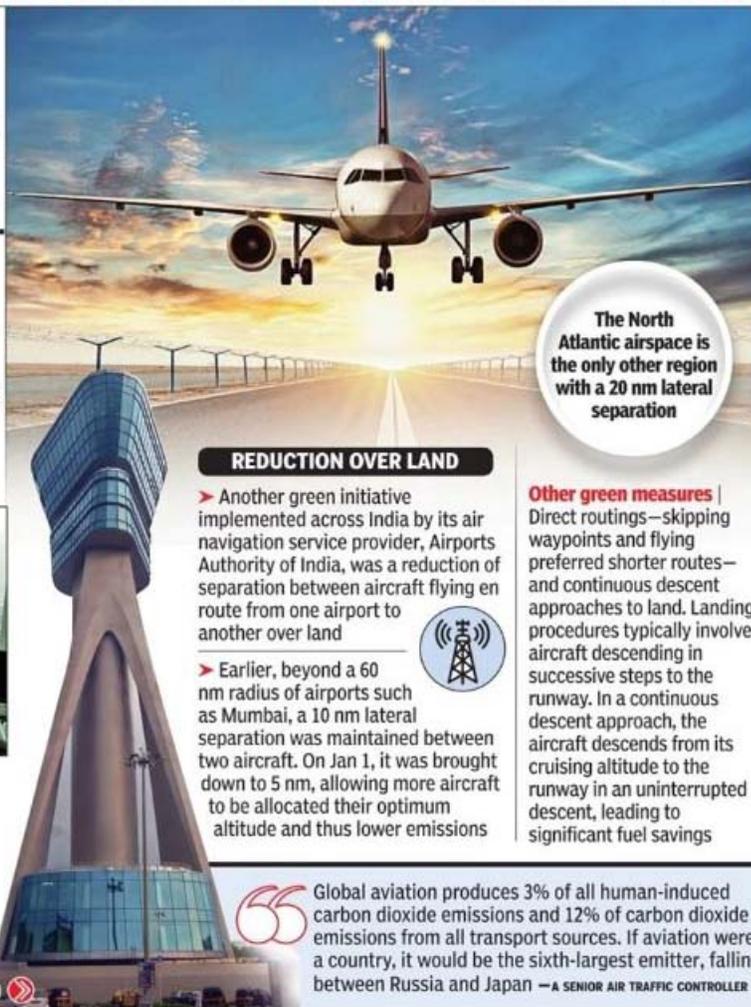
Reduction from before, which was 50 nm

Trials to achieve the reduction had begun on Jan 14 this year



HOW DOES IT REDUCE EMISSIONS?

- Jet engines are more efficient at higher altitudes, typically between 34,000 ft and 39,000 ft, depending on aircraft
- Reduced lateral separation allows more flights to be assigned their optimum altitude
- This leads to lower fuel consumption, and thus fewer carbon emissions



The North Atlantic airspace is the only other region with a 20 nm lateral separation

REDUCTION OVER LAND

➤ Another green initiative implemented across India by its air navigation service provider, Airports Authority of India, was a reduction of separation between aircraft flying en route from one airport to another over land



➤ Earlier, beyond a 60 nm radius of airports such as Mumbai, a 10 nm lateral separation was maintained between two aircraft. On Jan 1, it was brought down to 5 nm, allowing more aircraft to be allocated their optimum altitude and thus lower emissions

Other green measures |

Direct routings—skipping waypoints and flying preferred shorter routes—and continuous descent approaches to land. Landing procedures typically involve aircraft descending in successive steps to the runway. In a continuous descent approach, the aircraft descends from its cruising altitude to the runway in an uninterrupted descent, leading to significant fuel savings



Global aviation produces 3% of all human-induced carbon dioxide emissions and 12% of carbon dioxide emissions from all transport sources. If aviation were a country, it would be the sixth-largest emitter, falling between Russia and Japan — A SENIOR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

22 OCTOBER 2024

BCAS, CISF chiefs meet home secy, review threats to airlines

AMRESH SRIVASTAVA
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

Amid a series of hoax calls to airlines in the last few days, the chiefs of BCAS and CISF on Monday briefed Union home secretary Govind Mohan and apprised him of the mitigation measures taken so far.

Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) director-general Zulfiqar Hasan and director-general of the Central Industrial Security Force R.S. Bhatti met the home secretary at North Block to discuss the issue for over half an hour. However, the details of the meetings were not divulged.

Both Mr Hasan and Mr Bhatti have briefed Mr

▶ **NEARLY 100** flights have received threats that have led to diversions, cancellations of both domestic and international flights and passenger inconvenience

Mohan about the incidents of bomb threats and the steps taken to check such incidents, sources said.

The developments come a day after more than 30 flights of various Indian carriers received hoax calls on Sunday. So far, nearly 100 flights have received threats that have led to diversions, cancellations.

Meanwhile, the ministry of civil aviation is also contemplating

amending the act related to aviation safety and likely to put hoax callers into the "no-fly list", a source aware of the development said.

Civil aviation minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu on Monday said the Centre's plans to make hoax threats to Indian airlines a cognisable offence and also put hoax callers on the "no-fly list". For this, the government also intends to amend two civil aviation safety acts. The BCAS lays down standards and measures concerning the security of civil flights at international and domestic airports in India while remaining sensitive to the globally evolving aviation security scenario.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

22 OCTOBER 2024

PM: 'Udan' has transformed aviation sector

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that the government's Udan scheme, an initiative aimed at connecting smaller cities with air travel and making flying more affordable, has transformed India's aviation sector.

In a post on X on the eighth anniversary of the "Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik" (Udan) scheme, the Prime Minister said that it has led to an increase in the number of airports and air routes, ensuring that crores of people have access to flying.

"At the same time, it has had a major impact on boosting trade and commerce and furthering regional growth. In the times to come, we will keep strengthening the aviation sector and focusing on even better connectivity," Mr Modi said.

A government handle on X said that the Udan scheme has facilitated over 2.8 lakh flights.

Bomb threats to airlines

Govt plans to amend aviation safety rules

NEW DELHI, Oct 21: The Central Government is planning legislative actions to deal with bomb threats to airlines, including placing the perpetrators on the no-fly list, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said on Monday and asserted that efforts are being taken to tackle the situation without compromising passengers' safety and security.

Amendments are being proposed to The Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act (SUASCA), 1982 whereby the perpetrators could be arrested and a probe can be initiated without a court order for offences when an aircraft is on the ground.

Nearly 100 flights have received bomb threats in one week, with at least 8 of them getting diverted, also causing hardship to hundreds of passengers as well



as sending security agencies into a tizzy.

The Civil Aviation Ministry is planning to amend the aircraft security rules as well as SUASCA. Currently, the aviation norms mainly pertain to dealing with in-flight offences.

At a briefing in the national capital, Naidu said that the aircraft security rules will be amended to strengthen them and once the perpetrator of a bomb threat to a flight is caught, the person will be placed in the no-fly list.

SUASCA deals with many offences such as those committed at airports, onboard an aircraft and disruption to air navigation facilities.

While it mentions offences that happen in-flight, the Minister said that the Act also has to cover offences on the ground and at airports also.

Most of the bomb threats, which later turned out to be hoaxes, were issued through social media.

"We are trying to make amendments and the legal team has worked on it... We need consultations with other Ministries also... we are definitively pushing forward to have changes in the Act so that it addresses offences that happen when the flight is on the ground and also make it a cognisable offence," he said.

Govt plans ...

(Contd from page 1)

Responding to a query, Naidu said, "I want to do it (amendments) as soon as possible... we have put the amendments together. Let the other Ministries also give their opinions".

Over the last seven days, eight flights were diverted due to bomb threats. "The situation is dynamic. The Ministry and BCAS teams are assessing the situation case by case such as what kind of threats...", Naidu said. To a query on whether there is a conspiracy behind the threats, the Minister said let a thorough investigation happen and till then, there is no point in commenting on it.

"Without investigation, we cannot put out any pattern... let us wait for the completion of the investigation," he added.

There are multiple meetings happening at multiple levels and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) is interacting with the Ministry of Home Affairs on a continuous basis, the Minister said. - PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

80 उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की फिर मिली फर्जी धमकी

इंडिगो की तीन उड़ानों को सऊदी अरब, कतर में उतारा गया

नई दिल्ली। देश की विमानन कंपनियों को मंगलवार को बोते 24 घंटों में 80 घरेलू व अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में बम की फर्जी धमकी मिली है। सोमवार रात तक 30 और मंगलवार को 50 उड़ानों को धमकियां मिलीं। इसके चलते जेद्दा जा रही इंडिगो की तीन उड़ानों को सऊदी अरब व कतर में उतारना पड़ा। बोते दस दिनों में 170 से अधिक उड़ानों में बम की धमकी मिल चुकी है।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक, एअर इंडिया व इंडिगो की 23-23, विस्तारा की 21 और अकासा की 12 से अधिक उड़ानों को धमकी मिली। इंडिगो प्रवक्ता ने मंगलवार को बताया, बंगलूरु से जेद्दा उड़ान को कतर की राजधानी दोहा, कोझिकोड से जेद्दा उड़ान को सऊदी अरब के रियाद और दिल्ली से जेद्दा उड़ान को मदीना की ओर मोड़ दिया गया। प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि जिन अन्य उड़ानों

दिल्ली पुलिस ने फर्जी धमकी में दर्ज कीं आठ एफआईआर

दिल्ली पुलिस ने 90 से अधिक उड़ानों में बम की धमकी मामले में आठ एफआईआर दर्ज कर जांच शुरू कर दी है। सोशल मीडिया पर तीन अकाउंट @adamlanza111, @psychotichuman और @schizobomer777 से धमकी वाले संदेश पोस्ट किए गए थे। दिल्ली पुलिस को साइबर सेल एक्स व अन्य सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म पर ऐसी गतिविधियों पर नजर रख रही है।

में धमकी मिली, उनमें दिल्ली से दम्मम, इस्तांबुल से मुंबई, इस्तांबुल से दिल्ली, मंगलूरु से मुंबई, अहमदाबाद से जेद्दा, हैदराबाद से जेद्दा, लखनऊ से पुणे को उड़ान शामिल हैं। विमानन कंपनियों ने कहा, सुरक्षा एजेंसियों की ओर से तय सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल का पालन किया जा रहा है। ब्यूरो >> विमानन कंपनियों को 600 करोड़ का घाटा : पेज 14



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

यूरोपीय एयरलाइंस ने एआई चैटबॉट बनाने के लिए एअर इंडिया से किया संपर्क

गुरुग्राम। प्रमुख अमेरिकी और यूरोपीय एयरलाइंस ने जनरेटिव एआई चैटबॉट बनाने के लिए एअर इंडिया से संपर्क किया है। इसके अलावा टाटा समूह के स्वामित्व वाली एयर इंडिया ने अपनी वेबसाइट और मोबाइल ऐप पर टिकटों की आगामी सुविधा 'वन क्लिक बुकिंग' के पहले पेटेंट के लिए आवेदन किया है।

एअर इंडिया के मुख्य डिजिटल और प्रौद्योगिकी अधिकारी सत्य रामास्वामी ने मंगलवार को कहा कि एआईजी को अलग दिखाने के लिए बहुत सारे नवाचार किए जा रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि हमने कुछ अमेरिकी और यूरोपीय एयरलाइंस ने जनरेटिव एआई चैटबॉट बनाने में मदद के लिए एअर इंडिया से संपर्क किया है। इसमें कुछ बड़ी एयरलाइन भी शामिल हैं। हालांकि, उन्होंने इस दौरान अन्य एयरलाइन के नामों का जिक्र नहीं किया। रामास्वामी ने कहा, हमने 'वन क्लिक बुकिंग' फीचर के पेटेंट के लिए आवेदन किया है। यह सुविधा दिसंबर के अंत से पहले एयरलाइन की वेबसाइट और मोबाइल ऐप पर पेश की जाएगी। रामास्वामी ने कहा कि चैटबॉट को प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए बड़े भाषा के मॉडल (एलएलएम) लेना एक आसान हिस्सा है। एजेसी

बम की धमकी : नौ दिन में विमानन कंपनियों को करीब 600 करोड़ रुपये के घाटे का अनुमान घरेलू उड़ान में व्यवधान से डेढ़ करोड़ तो अंतरराष्ट्रीय में 5.5 करोड़ तक का होता है नुकसान

नई दिल्ली। देश में उड़ानों में बम की फर्जी धमकियों के चलते विमानन कंपनियों को करोड़ों का नुकसान हो रहा है। विमानन कंपनियों के पूर्व अधिकारियों के मुताबिक, उड़ानों में व्यवधानों से नौ दिन में विमानन कंपनियों को लगभग 600 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा होने का अनुमान है। औसतन एक घरेलू उड़ान में व्यवधान से लगभग 1.5 करोड़ रुपये का खर्च आता है, जबकि एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान में यह खर्च लगभग 5-5.5 करोड़ रुपये होता है।

एक अनुमानित गणना से पता चलता है कि घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में व्यवधान के कारण होने



वाली औसत लागत लगभग 3.5 करोड़ रुपये है। इस तरह 170 से अधिक उड़ानों में व्यवधान से करीब 600 करोड़ रुपये खर्च या घाटा होने का अनुमान है। सूत्रों ने बताया कि विमान या हवाईअड्डे पर बम की धमकी मिलने की स्थिति में बम धमकी आकलन समिति (बीटीएसी) के प्रोटोकॉल में बदलाव किया गया, ताकि विभिन्न भारतीय एयरलाइनों को इंटरनेट पर

लगातार मिल रही धमकियों से बेहतर तरीके से निपटा जा सके। सोमवार रात को दिल्ली, मुंबई, जयपुर, पुणे, मंगलूरु, बंगलूरु और कोझिकोड के सात हवाईअड्डों पर एकत्रित हुई बीटीएसी ने तीन एयरलाइनों एअर इंडिया, विस्तारा और इंडिगो की 30 उड़ानों को भेजी गई धमकियों को झूठा या अस्पष्ट बताया। सीआईएसएफ और संबंधित एयरलाइन सुरक्षा एजेंसियों को यात्रियों, उनके सामान और विमान की तलाशी के लिए केंद्रित सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल सुनिश्चित करने के लिए भी कहा गया है, ताकि उड़ान की तैयारी करते समय कोई भी चूक न रह जाए। ब्यूरो

Air India steps up focus on tech, eyes higher direct channel sales



AIMING HIGH. While the airline continues to draw customer ire over shabby and old aircraft, attempts are being made to improve other aspects of travel experience VELANKANNI RAJ B

Our Bureau Mumbai

Air India is introducing more customer friendly features in its mobile app and is designing new inflight entertainment system as a part of its transformation that also aims to increase direct sales and reduce costs.

Over the past two years, the Tata group has invested \$200 million in designing new applications, generative AI chatbot, upgrades to systems across various departments and shift to cloud-based platform.

EFFORTS TO IMPROVE

While the airline continues to draw customer ire over shabby and old aircraft, attempts are being made to improve other aspects of travel experience.

New features are being introduced to make bookings easier and improve customer experience. The airline is also working with service providers to design all new inflight entertainment system.

Air India's Chief Digital and Technology Officer Dr Satya Ramaswamy said on Tuesday that the airline aims to enhance its direct sales by making its app and

website more compelling for customers.

Currently around 25 per cent of Air India's revenue comes from direct channels while 75 per cent comes from travel agents. An increase in share of direct channel sales would however depend upon customer preferences in various markets and their ease in using mobile applications

ONE-CLICK BOOKING

The airline is also set to introduce one-click booking solution for customers that will make it easier to book tickets online. In that, customers can type flight and seat preference and system will generate full itinerary matching the request.

In a first, Air India has also filed a patent for the one-click solution in India and overseas, Ramaswamy said.

Ramaswamy said the airline's generative AI-based chatbot has also generated interest among global airlines which have approached Air India for developing their own chatbot.

Air India's chatbot has handled four million queries since inception and has handled 97 per cent of queries on own without an agent support

अपनी टिकट बिक्री दोगुना करना चाह रही एयर इंडिया

एयर इंडिया के मुख्य डिजिटल एवं प्रौद्योगिकी अधिकारी (सीडीटीओ) सत्य रामस्वामी ने मंगलवार को कहा कि टाटा समूह द्वारा संचालित एयर इंडिया अगले 2-3 साल में डायरेक्ट चैनलों (अपनी वेबसाइट और ऐप समेत) के जरिये टिकट बिक्री दोगुनी करना चाहती है।

उन्होंने बताया कि 12 नवंबर के बाद की यात्रा के लिए फ्लाइट बुक करा चुके विस्तारा के करीब 2,70,000 यात्रियों को एयर इंडिया के सिस्टम पर स्थानांतरित किया जा रहा है और इसकी जानकारी उन्हें दे दी गई है। विस्तारा 11 नवंबर को परिचालन बंद कर देगी और एयर इंडिया में उसका विलय हो जाएगा।

इस समय एयर इंडिया की करीब 25 प्रतिशत टिकट बिक्री डायरेक्ट चैनलों के जरिये होती है जबकि करीब 75 प्रतिशत का प्रबंधन मेकमाइट्रिप और इक्जिगो जैसी ट्रैवल वेबसाइटों द्वारा किया जाता है जो बड़ा कमीशन वसूलती हैं।

बीएस

A-I aims to double direct sales earnings in 2-3 yrs

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 22 October

Tata Group-run Air India aims to double its ticket sales through direct channels, including its website and app, within the next 2-3 years by enhancing their value proposition to passengers, Satya Ramaswamy, chief digital and technology officer, Air India, said on Tuesday.

Moreover, he mentioned that about 270,000 Vistara passengers, who had booked flights for travel after November 12, have been smoothly transferred to Air India's system, and they've all been notified. Vistara will sunset on November 11 and it will be merged into Air India.

Currently, around 25 per cent of Air India's ticket sales occur through direct channels, while approximately 75 per cent are handled via indirect channels such as travel websites like Makemytrip and Ixigo, which charge significant commissions.



FOREIGN AIRLINES ARE SEEKING AIR INDIA'S ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING THEIR AI-POWERED CHATBOTS

“We have recently revamped our website and app, doubling the revenues from direct channels through our mobile app and website. Globally, the revenue split between direct and indirect channels is 50-50, and we aim to reach that level,” he said during a media briefing.

Air India is already investing heavily in digital

marketing to boost direct sales and is working on enhancing its website.

The airline plans to introduce “one-click booking” on its website and app by December. “Customers will simply enter their itinerary in the search bar (e.g., a ticket from Delhi to Mumbai, departing on October 24 and returning the same evening), and the system will provide the full flight details. All that’s left is one click to complete the payment,” Ramaswamy explained.

“We’ve filed a patent for our one-click booking system, both domestically and globally,” he added.

Air India’s artificial intelligence-powered customer service chatbot, AI.g, now resolves 97 per cent of queries independently and has gained such popularity that airlines worldwide, even from as far as the US, are seeking Air India’s help in designing similar chatbots, he stated.

50 flights, 5 schools get bomb threats

80 flights received threats since Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 22 October

Nearly 50 domestic and international flights of Indian carriers received bomb threats on Tuesday, taking the total number of flights that have received the threats since Monday night to around 80, according to sources.

The sources in the know said 13 flights each of Air India and IndiGo, over 12 flights of Akasa Air and 11 flights of Vistara received the threats on Tuesday. On Monday night, 10 flights each of Air India, IndiGo and Vistara had received the threats, with three Jeddah-bound IndiGo flights getting diverted to airports in Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

In little over a week, more than 170 flights operated by Indian carriers have received bomb threats.

An Akasa Air spokesperson said some of its flights operating on Tuesday received security alerts and that the airline is following all safety and security procedures in coordination with local authorities.

The airline did not mention the number of flights that received the



BTAC protocols tweaked in wake of hoax calls

Protocols for the bomb threat assessment committee (BTAC), convened in the event of a bomb threat call to an aircraft or airport, have been tweaked to better tackle the spate of the ongoing 'random' internet-based threats being made to various Indian airlines, official sources said on Tuesday.

Earlier, if the threat message carried the specific number of the

flight, such a claim was categorised "specific" and all counter-terrorist and anti-hijack protocols were activated. Now, while there will be no compromise on the security when such messages are received, some flag indicators to declare a bomb message specific or hoax have been changed by analysing the specifics of each threat and the recent trends, the sources said. PTI

security alerts.

There were no immediate statements from IndiGo, Air India and Vistara on the threats for their flights received on Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, an IndiGo

spokesperson said 10 flights received security-related alerts and passengers from the respective aircraft disembarked safely. This was in relation to the threats received on Monday night.

Out of these flights, flight 6E 77

(Bengaluru to Jeddah) was diverted to Doha, 6E 65 (Kozhikode to Jeddah) was diverted to Riyadh, and 6E 63 (Delhi to Jeddah) was redirected to Medina.

Jeddah, Riyadh and Medina are Saudi Arabian cities, and Doha is the capital of Qatar.

An Air India spokesperson confirmed that some Air India flights that operated on Monday were subject to security threats received on social media.

The airline did not mention details or the number of flights that had received the threats on Monday.

Meanwhile, an e-mail was received threatening to blow up three CRPF schools in Delhi and Hyderabad, and two Kendriya Vidyalayas within the forces' office premises in other cities, officials sources said on Tuesday, adding it turned out to be a hoax.

The schools were checked by anti-sabotage teams and nothing suspicious was found, they said, adding classes were conducted smoothly on Tuesday.

The three CRPF schools include two in Delhi (Rohini and Dwarka), one in Hyderabad (Telangana); while the two Kendriya Vidyalayas are within the paramilitary forces' office premises at Panchkula (Haryana) and Rampur (Uttar Pradesh).



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

22 OCTOBER 2024

Amit Shah hails 8 years of UDAN scheme

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah praised the Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme on its eighth anniversary, highlighting its success in connecting underserved regions and promoting affordable air travel.

Shah wrote on X, "In the eight years of UDAN, the initiative driven by PM Narendra Modi's vision has not only connected the underserved regions of the nation through airways but also has given flight to India's ambitions in the new era."

He added that Prime Minister Modi has "unlocked India's growth potential" by providing the right facilities to foster development across the country.

Speaking at the NDTV



World Summit, PM Modi said, "Today, we are celebrating eight years of UDAN. UDAN scheme not only made air travel affordable, but also enhanced the air network in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. Over 3 lakh flights, carrying around 1.5 crore Aam Nagrik, have taken off under this scheme."

The UDAN scheme, launched on October 21, 2016, aimed to make air travel affordable for ordinary people

and improve regional connectivity in India. The airfare for a one-hour journey of approximately 500 km under this scheme is capped at Rs. 2,500.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who inspired this initiative, once said, "A common man who travels in slippers, should also be seen in the aircraft. This is my dream." The scheme is part of the government's Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

22 OCTOBER 2024

Civil aviation ministry plans to put hoax bomb callers on no-fly list

TGG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Monday said that the Civil Aviation Ministry is considering amending existing laws to deal with false bomb threats on aircraft and plans to put those who make such threats on a no-fly list.

Addressing a press conference in Delhi Civil Aviation Minister said, "From the Ministry, we have thought of some legislative action if it is required. We have come to the conclusion that there are two areas that we can explore - 1) Amendment in Aircraft Security Rules... one of the ideas that we want to propagate by changing these rules is that once we catch hold of the perpetrator who is behind this, we want to put them in the no-flying list... 2) Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act." Notably, in the past few



days, Spice Jet and Air Asia flights received five bomb threats each, with multiple airlines receiving a total of 30 bomb threats in the last four days.

Five hoax bomb threats were received by Spicejet, regarding flights SG 55, SG 116, SG 211, SG 476, SG 2939. Five more were received by Air Asia regarding flights 91506, 91528, 91822, 91661, 91804.

Speaking about "UDAN Yojana" central Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu said that under the "UDAN Yojana"

the government is planning to start 50 more airports or enhance the capacity of existing airports.

"We are envisioning the UDAN scheme for further more 10 years. We want to take it forward for 10 years because in the next 5 years, we are planning to start 50 more airports or enhance the capacity of existing airports.

Upto 2047, we feel that we have the capacity to increase the airports to more than 200. We have 157 today and we can take it up to 350," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

22 OCTOBER 2024

Amid threats to flights, Centre mulls making offence cognisable

NEW DELHI, DHNS: With around 100 flights of Indian airlines receiving bomb threats in the past one week, Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu on Monday said the government is planning a series of legislative measures to tackle the issue, including putting the perpetrators of such threats in the no-fly list and making the offence cognisable.

Addressing the media here, Naidu said the Ministry of Civil Aviation has proposed “some legislative measures” to tackle the threat messages. The ministry has come to the conclusion that there are two areas to explore.

“One is to amend the Aircraft Security Rules, which deals with the security aspect of incidents within an aircraft.

One of the ideas that we want to propagate by changing these rules is that once we catch hold of the perpetrator who is behind this, we want to put them in the no-flying list,” he said.

The second one, Naidu said, is to amend the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982, which deals with the offences at airports, violence on board and destruction of navigation systems.

“While the existing law takes care of in-flight offences, if we want to address this kind of hoax messages, then the Act has to cover on-ground offences. Our legal team has worked thoroughly. This offence has to be made cognisable,” he said. The suspect in a cognisable offence can be arrested without a warrant.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

24 घंटे में 80 विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी

जेएनएन, नई दिल्ली: पिछले 24 घंटे के दौरान करीब 80 घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान वाले विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। ये बाद में झूठी निकलीं मगर इससे हजारों यात्रियों के साथ-साथ सुरक्षा एजेंसियां सकते में आ गईं। दो पूर्व एयरलाइन अधिकारियों के अनुसार, इन व्यवधानों के कारण एयरलाइनों को लगभग 600 करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान होने का अनुमान है। अकेले मंगलवार को 50 उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। इनमें इंडिगो और एअर इंडिया की 13-13 उड़ानें, अकासा एयर की 12 से अधिक और विस्तारा की 11 उड़ानें शामिल हैं। सोमवार रात को भी इंडिगो, एअर इंडिया और विस्तारा की करीब 30 उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली थी। पिछले नौ दिनों की बात करें तो 170 से अधिक उड़ानों को इस तरह की धमकी मिली है।



कोलकाता में धमकी देने वाला निकला मानसिक रोगी

कोलकाता एयरपोर्ट पर फर्जी फोन कर एक विमान को हाईजैक करने और दूसरे विमान को हाइड्रोजन बम से उड़ाने की धमकी देने वाला मानसिक रूप से विक्षिप्त निकला है। कोलकाता से सटे उत्तर 24 परगना जिले के बनगांव से यह काल की गई थी। अधिकारी ने बताया कि फोन करने वाले व्यक्ति का मानसिक स्वास्थ्य ठीक नहीं पाया गया है।

धमकियां ईमेल या एक्स के जरिये मिलीं। इसके चलते कुछ अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को डायवर्ट करना पड़ा।

इंडिगो-एअर इंडिया की कई उड़ानें प्रभावित

इंडिगो के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि मंगलवार को जिन उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकियां मिलीं, उनमें बंगलुरु-लखनऊ, आइजोल-कोलकाता, कोलकाता-बंगलुरु, मुंबई-इस्तांबुल, कोलकाता-जयपुर, कोलकाता-अहमदाबाद, हैदराबाद-जोधपुर, लखनऊ-गोवा, गोवा-अहमदाबाद, पुणे-देहरादून, सूरत-गोवा, बागडोगरा-चेन्नई शामिल हैं। इसके पूर्व सोमवार देर रात धमकियों के बाद तीन उड़ानों बंगलुरु-जेद्दा (6ई77) को दोहा, कोझीकोड-जेद्दा (6ई65) को रियाद और दिल्ली-जेद्दा (6ई63) को मदीना की ओर डायवर्ट करना पड़ा।

जांच से जुड़े अधिकारियों ने कहा कि जिन उड़ानों को धमकियां मिलीं, उनमें से कुछ को डायवर्ट करना

बम की सूचना पर सभी एयरलाइनों ने किया सुरक्षा

प्रोटोकाल का पालन नई दिल्ली, एएनआइ : इंडिगो, विस्तारा और एअर इंडिया की अंतरराष्ट्रीय और घरेलू एयरलाइनों में सोमवार की रात को बम होने की सूचनाओं पर इन प्रमुख भारतीय एयरलाइंस कंपनियों ने अपनी सफाई में कहा कि उन्होंने सभी सुरक्षा मानकों का पालन किया था। यात्रियों को सकुशल गंतव्य तक पहुंचाने के बाद इन एयरलाइनों ने संबंधित प्रशासन के साथ घटनाक्रम की समीक्षा की। इंडिगो ने कहा, करीब 10 अंतरराष्ट्रीय व घरेलू उड़ानों में बम होने की सूचना मिली थी।

पड़ा जबकि कुछ की लैंडिंग के बाद आइसोलेशन-बे में ले जाकर सघन तलाशी ली गई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

सभी एयरलाइनों का सुरक्षा प्रोटोकाल का पालन

नई दिल्ली, एनआइ : इंडिगो, विस्तारा और एअर इंडिया की अंतरराष्ट्रीय और घरेलू एयरलाइनों में सोमवार की रात को बम होने की सूचनाओं पर इन प्रमुख भारतीय एयरलाइंस कंपनियों ने अपनी सफाई में कहा कि उन्होंने सभी सुरक्षा मानकों का पालन किया था। विमान यात्रियों को सकुशल उनके गंतव्य तक पहुंचाने के बाद इन एयरलाइनों ने संबंधित प्रशासन के साथ पूरे घटनाक्रम की समीक्षा की है।

इंडिगो ने एक प्रेस रिलीज जारी करके कहा कि उन्हें तकरीबन दस अंतरराष्ट्रीय व घरेलू उड़ानों में बम होने की सूचना मिली थी। जिन उड़ानों के लिए खतरे के अलर्ट जारी किए गए उनमें 6ई164 (घरेलू), 6ई 75 (अंतरराष्ट्रीय), 6ई 118 (घरेलू) 6ई 67 (अंतरराष्ट्रीय), 6ई18 (अंतरराष्ट्रीय), 6ई 83 (अंतरराष्ट्रीय), 6ई 77 (अंतरराष्ट्रीय), 6ई 12 (अंतरराष्ट्रीय), 6ई 65 (अंतरराष्ट्रीय) और 6ई 63 (अंतरराष्ट्रीय) शामिल हैं। यह ध्यान देने योग्य है कि इनमें से

संदेश भेजने वाले अकाउंट को डिलीट करते देते हैं

प्रथम पृष्ठ से आगे

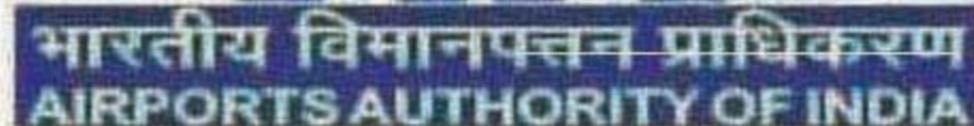
आरोपित जिन अकाउंट से धमकी भरे संदेश भेजते हैं, उन अकाउंट को तत्काल डिलीट भी कर देते हैं। अधिकारियों का कहना है कि धमकियों के बीच इन मामलों में एक नया चलन भी सामने आया है। पहले एक ही हैंडल से कई उड़ानों से जुड़ी धमकियां दी जाती थीं, लेकिन अब अलग-अलग हैंडल से अलग-अलग एयरलाइंस की उड़ानों के बारे में धमकियां दी जा रही हैं। नई दिल्ली में मंगलवार को आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर किसी उड़ान की इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग नहीं हुई, जबकि जयपुर व जोधपुर पहुंचने वाले इंडिगो के विमानों में बम की सूचना के बाद सघन जांच

ज्यादातर उड़ानें भारत से या तो सऊदी अरब के जेद्दा जा रही थीं या फिर वह भारत से तुर्किये के इस्तांबुल जा रही थीं।

की गई।

इंडिगो के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि मंगलवार को जिन उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकियां मिलीं, उनमें बेंगलुरु-लखनऊ, आइजोल-कोलकाता, कोलकाता-बेंगलुरु, मुंबई-इस्तांबुल, कोलकाता-जयपुर, कोलकाता-अहमदाबाद, हैदराबाद-जोधपुर, लखनऊ-गोवा, गोवा-अहमदाबाद, पुणे-देहरादून, सूरत-गोवा, बागडोगरा-चेन्नई शामिल हैं। इसके पूर्व सोमवार देर रात धमकियों के बाद तीन उड़ानों बेंगलुरु-जेद्दा (6ई77) को दोहा, कोझीकोड-जेद्दा (6ई65) को रियाद और दिल्ली-जेद्दा (6ई63) को मदीना की ओर डायवर्ट करना पड़ा।

इसीतरह विस्तारा ने भी पुष्टि की कि उन्हें इंटरनेट मीडिया के जरिये बम की धमकी मिली।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

Lessor Files Contempt Plea Against Go First in HC over Failure to Share Documents

New Delhi: Grounded low-cost carrier Go First's lessor Accipiter Investments Aircraft 2 filed a contempt plea Tuesday with the Delhi High Court against the airline for failing to share all the documents

related to its leased aircraft.

These documents included technical records, aircraft status documents and records needed to ascertain the plane's airworthiness. While noting down the stand

of the airline's resolution professional (RP) that he had shared all the records, the court directed him to supply by November 30 all the documents to Accipiter and also file a compliance report in this

regard. The case will be heard next in January.

On April 26, the court asked the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to deregister all 54 leased aircraft to Go First and process the

lessors' applications for deregistration within five working days.

While restraining the RP from the planes, it directed him to provide the lessor up to date information about the aircraft. —Indu Bhan



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

Air India Invests \$200m in Building Digital Backbone

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: Air India said it has invested over \$200 million to strengthen its digital infrastructure and will further increase spending to build a strong digital backbone as part of its turnaround plan.

“Digital will be one of the competitive advantages for Air India. We want to be the most technologically advanced airline in the world,” said Satya Ramawamy, chief digital & technology officer, Air India.

The airline, which lacked modern technology in its daily functioning

before privatisation, has invested heavily to upgrade digital capabilities including investing in AI. “Currently, our AI tool bot handles 97% of passenger queries without transferring them to the call centre.

It has helped us to limit the requirement of increasing agents in the call centre. On a day, barely 300 queries out of 10,000 queries (are handled by bots),” he said.

Ramaswamy expects that a revamped website and smooth customer experience on the platform will see Air India doubling its ticket sales through direct channels, including its website and app, within the next two to three years by enhancing their value proposition to passengers.

Direct booking helps airlines save on agent distribution and commission. Air India currently sells only about a quarter of its flight tickets through direct channels. The majority of sales take place through travel portals, which charge hefty commissions.

Air India currently sells only about a quarter of its flight tickets through direct channels



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

Losses pegged at ₹600 crore as bomb threats to flights explode

80 planes targeted since Monday night; total goes up to 170

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi/ Mumbai,
October 22

NEARLY 80 DOMESTIC and international flights received bomb threats in less than 24 hours that later turned out to be hoaxes, keeping thousands of passengers and security agencies on tenterhooks.

The estimated losses incurred by airlines due to the disruptions would be around ₹600 crore, according to two former airline officials.

On Tuesday alone, around 50 flights, including 13 each of IndiGo and Air India, received bomb threats. Akasa Air got the threats for 12 flights and as many as 11 flights of Vistara also received the threats, sources said. Around 30 flights of IndiGo, Air India and Vistara got bomb threats on Monday night, they added.

In nine days, more than 170



Thirteen flights each of IndiGo and Air India, 12 of Akasa Air and 11 flights of Vistara received bomb threats on Tuesday

flights operated by Indian carriers have received bomb threats, mostly through social media, that also forced the diversion of some of the international flights. On average, disruption to a domestic flight would cost around ₹1.5 crore while the expenses would be around ₹5-5.5 crore for an international flight, an official, who has worked in the finance department of a domestic airline, said.

A back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that the average cost of disruption caused

to domestic and international flights would be around ₹3.5 crore, and for more than 170 flights, the total expenses or loss for the airlines would be around ₹600 crore.

The figures are broad based since many other factors like narrow-body and wide-body planes and duration of a flight also need to be taken into consideration. Another official, who has served in the finance department of another domestic airline, said the operational costs are higher for wide-body planes compared to narrow-body planes. Apart from direct expenses such as fuel and airport parking charges, there are also indirect costs like impact on overall flight network due to disruptions, the official added.

Meanwhile, the protocols for the Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC), convened in the event of a bomb threat call to an aircraft or airport, have been tweaked to better tackle the spate of the ongoing "random" Internet-based threats being made to various Indian airlines, official sources said on Tuesday.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

Top global airlines want AI to build chatbots for them



MAJOR US AND European airlines have asked Air India to develop genAI chatbots similar to that of its AIg, which currently handles around 97% of customer queries, reports **PTI**. "We are sharing the knowledge, but nobody has been able to come up with something like this yet," said an Air India official.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

22 OCTOBER 2024

Govt will work towards designing, mfg planes in India: Naidu

PTI
NEW DELHI

The government will work towards designing and manufacturing aircraft in India with the help of the industry players, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said on Monday.

The *Bhartiya Vayuvan Vidheyak Bill 2024*, which was passed by the Lok Sabha in August, includes provisions to regulate the design and manufacturing of aircraft, supporting the *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* initiative.

"We want to design and manufacture planes in India. We are taking help from HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd) and NAL (National Aerospace Laboratories) and other industry partners we have.

"In the foreseeable future, we want to also have a situ-



ation where we manufacture planes not for domestic demand only but also for the demand of the entire world... we are going to move towards it," the minister said.

HAL is already into manufacturing small civilian planes but on a smaller scale. India is one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets and Indian carriers have more than 1,200 planes on order.

The country is a key market for aircraft manufacturers - Boeing and Airbus. Last month, Naidu said the government will set up a SPV to push ahead with plans to start manufacturing commercial aircraft in India.

'Govt to extend UDAN scheme for 10 more yrs'

The government will extend the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN for 10 more years, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said on Monday.

UDAN has led to the birth and growth of regional airlines, generation of jobs and contribution to tourism, the minister said at a function in the national capital to mark eight years of the scheme.

As many as 601 routes and 71 airports have been operationalised under the regional air connectivity scheme.

'To create instability is aim behind hoax threat calls to flights'

Megha Kuchik

MUMBAI

The series of hoax threat calls to different airlines has been made apparently to create a climate of instability in the country in general, and in the civil aviation industry in particular, sources in the police said. "There appears to be a pattern to the calls. It is significant that on Monday the banned terror outfit, Sikhs for Justice, too warned passengers from travelling Air India from November 1-19," a senior police officer told the FPI.

The Mumbai police have been able to trace only one of the 10 hoax threats received last week. When contacted by the FPI, senior inspector of Sahar police station, Dhananjay Sonawane, said the remaining nine calls are also being investigated with the help of the cyber cell.

In all the nine cases, FIRs have been filed against unidentified persons. In one case, a minor boy from Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh has been arrested. The boy had allegedly threatened to blow up an Indigo flight from Mumbai to Muscat. His interrogation has reportedly not yielded much information. Apparently, he has been used by others, but the police have not been able to trace them so far. The police stated they are investigating but have chosen not to disclose any information about the investigation.

In recent days, almost every airline has received bomb threats, disrupting flight schedules at multiple airports, including Mumbai. Most of the threats were sent via social media or email. On Saturday, the threats were directed at the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at Mumbai Airport through anonymous emails and posts on X. Additionally, on Saturday, a message read-



Police sources say there appears to be a pattern behind calls; threats meant to create instability in aviation sector

ing 'Bomb on board' was found written on a tissue paper on an Udaipur-Mumbai flight.

Vistara Airlines received threats for six of its flights, including UK 106 (Singapore to Mumbai) and UK 107 (Mumbai to Singapore). Akasa Air was also alerted for several flights, including QP 102 (Ahmedabad to Mumbai), QP 1385 (Mumbai to Bagdogra), QP 1519 (Kochi to Mumbai), and QP 1526 (Lucknow to Mumbai). IndiGo Airlines issued a security alert for six flights, including 6E58 (Jeddah to Mumbai) and 6E17 (Mumbai to Istanbul).

Every time a flight landed, the isolation bay and security teams thoroughly inspected the aircraft, but nothing was found. However, Mumbai airport operations were severely disrupted, causing airlines to incur losses in crores. Passengers also faced significant inconvenience, with their schedules disrupted. Many are now demanding that authorities take stern action against those responsible for the threats.



Corporate Communications Directorate

GREATER KASHMIR

SRINAGAR

22 OCTOBER 2024

CIS, BCAS brief Home Secretary on surge of hoax bomb threats affecting flights

ANI
New Delhi, Oct 21

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Director General RS Bhatti and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) Director General Zulfiquar Hasan met with Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Monday to discuss recent hoax bomb threats targeting domestic and international flights.

During the half-hour meeting at the Home Ministry, both DGs briefed the Home Secretary on a series of recent hoax calls, which have triggered panic and forced extensive security checks by Indian aviation authorities, intelligence agencies, and other departments.

Sources indicate that the discussions focused on the potential implications for aviation security and the measures being implemented to address

the situation. The officials emphasised the importance of heightened vigilance and coordination among security agencies to tackle the ongoing issue.

On October 20, the issue caused over 20 flights operated by IndiGo, Akasa Air, and Vistara receiving bomb threats. IndiGo issued a series of press statements detailing the threats received.

This week alone, more than 90 flights have received bomb threats, with most of these turning out to be hoaxes. These latest incidents followed an October 19 meeting between BCAS officials and airline CEOs, prompted by 70 hoax bomb threats reported the previous week.

Passengers and staff at several airports have faced significant disruptions, as affected planes were moved to isolation bays for thorough security protocols.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

सांसत: 50 विमानों और पांच स्कूलों में बम धमाके की धमकी

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। विमानों में बम की धमकी का सिलसिला मंगलवार को भी जारी रहा। एक दिन में अब तक की सर्वाधिक 50 विमानों में बम धमाकों की धमकी दी गई। वहीं, सीआरपीएफ के तीन स्कूल और दो केंद्रीय विद्यालयों को भी बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। एक सप्ताह में 170 से अधिक उड़ानों को धमकी मिली है। लगातार धमकियों को देखते हुए प्रोटोकॉल में बदलाव किया गया है।

तीन विमानों का मार्ग बदला गया: धमकियों की वजह से जेद्दा जानेवाली इंडिगो की तीन उड़ानों को सऊदी अरब और कतर हवाई अड्डों पर भेजा गया।

- एक सप्ताह में 170 से अधिक विमानों को धमकी
- इंडिगो की तीन उड़ानों को डायवर्ट करना पड़ा

इंडिगो के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि सोमवार रात को जिन दस उड़ानों को धमकी मिली थी उनमें से तीन विमानों को डायवर्ट किया गया। बेंगलुरु से जेद्दा जानेवाली उड़ान को दोहा, कोझिकोड से जेद्दा को रियाद और दिल्ली से जेद्दा जानेवाले विमान को मदीना भेजा गया। इसके अलावा दिल्ली से दम्मम, इस्तांबुल से मुंबई, इस्तांबुल से दिल्ली, मंगलुरु से मुंबई, अहमदाबाद से जेद्दा,

हैदराबाद से जेद्दा व लखनऊ से पुणे जानेवाली उड़ानों को धमकी दी गई। मंगलवार को एयर इंडिया और इंडिगो की 13-13, अकासा एयर की 12 से अधिक और विस्तारा की 11 उड़ानों को उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। सोमवार रात को एयर इंडिया, इंडिगो व विस्तारा की 10-10 उड़ानों को धमकी मिली।

इन स्कूलों को धमकी: दिल्ली के रोहिणी और द्वारका तथा हैदराबाद के निकट मेडचल में स्थित सीआरपीएफ स्कूलों को उड़ाने की धमकी गई। दो केंद्रीय विद्यालय पंचकूला और रामपुर (यूपी) को लेकर भी धमकी मिली।

➤ कड़ियां जोड़ रहे P12



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

बम की धमकी मिलने के बाद नियमों में बदलाव

सुरक्षा

नई दिल्ली। विमानों में लगातार बम धमाकों की धमकियां मिलने के बाद बम खतरा आकलन समिति (बीटीएसी) के प्रोटोकॉल में बदलाव किया गया है, ताकि इन धमकियों से बेहतर तरीके से निपटा जा सके। अब खतरे के संदेशों को संशोधित कर नए रेड फ्लैग के आधार पर आकलन किया जा रहा है।

इसके साथ ही सीआईएसएफ और संबंधित एयरलाइनों को सुरक्षा पर फोकस करने कहा गया है, जिसमें यात्रियों, उनके सामान और विमान की तलाशी शामिल है। नए दिशा-निर्देश के अनुसार उड़ान की तैयारी करते समय सुरक्षा का ऐसा कोई मौका न छोड़ा जाए, जिससे बाद में परेशानी हो। एक वरिष्ठ विमानन सुरक्षा अधिकारी ने कहा कि बम की धमकी की नई आकलन प्रक्रिया पिछले सप्ताह से मिल रही धमकियों के बाद लाई गई है। वह निर्णय नागरिक विमानन मंत्रालय, नागरिक विमानन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो, केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल, एयरलाइन और हवाईअड्डा संचालकों, खुफिया एजेंसियों और पुलिस के साथ संयुक्त

पहले सभी यात्रियों को रोका जाता था

इससे पहले विमान में बम की धमकी के संदेश मिलने पर प्रोटोकॉल के तहत विमान को डायवर्ट करना, आपात लैंडिंग कराना तथा लैंडिंग के बाद विमान को अलग ले जाना शामिल था। अगर किसी विमान की संख्या के साथ धमकी दी जाती थी तो यह करना अनिवार्य था। इसे विशिष्ट श्रेणी में रखा जाता था। साथ ही सभी यात्रियों और चालक दल के सदस्यों को तबतक रोक कर रखा जाता था, जबतक स्कैनिंग पूरी नहीं हो जाती थी और एजेंसियों द्वारा धमकी को फर्जी करार नहीं दे दिया जाता था। अब सुरक्षा से समझौता नहीं होगा लेकिन खतरे के संदेशों को बदल दिया गया है। बीटीएसी अब इसे फर्जी की श्रेणी में डाल देगा, ताकि यात्रियों को परेशानी न हो। अब सामूहिक रूप से विमान को विशिष्ट श्रेणी घोषित नहीं किया जाएगा।

बैठक में लिया गया। यात्रियों और चालक दल को परेशानियों से बचाने के लिए ऐसा किया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

Airlines get more hoax threats; three flights diverted

At least 59 flights received bomb threats on social media on Tuesday, the ninth consecutive day. Most were found to be hoax. As many as 23 flights of IndiGo were issued threats in two posts on social media platform X on Monday and Tuesday. "All the threats were declared non-specific and the flights allowed to continue to destination," said a CISF official. However, three IndiGo flights headed to Jeddah – Flight 6E 77, Flight 6E 65 and Flight 6E 63 – were diverted to Doha, Riyadh, and Medina, respectively. Threats were also issued for 13 Air India flights, 12 Akasa flights, and 11 Vistara flights.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

Airline hoaxes go on unabated, 49 flights receive threats in a day

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The aviation sector continued to be disrupted by hoax threats on Tuesday as at least 49 flights were diverted, delayed, or subjected to searches after posts on social media said they had bombs on board, officials aware of the matter said.

According to the officials, 13 flights each of Air India and IndiGo, 12 of Akasa Air, and 11 of Vistara — flying on both domestic and international routes —

NEARLY 250 FLIGHTS OPERATED BY INDIAN CARRIERS HAVE RECEIVED BOMB HOAXES THIS MONTH

received the hoax threats. At least 16 of the affected flights, 14 of them flying international, were scheduled to take off or land from Delhi, prompting authorities to put the Indira

Gandhi International (IGI) Airport on high alert.

"We took teams of CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) and local police to check the airport and planes. They [the threats] were soon declared hoaxes. Similar incidents have happened last week also," a senior Delhi Police officer said, requesting anonymity. Last week, the IGI Airport police said that they registered multiple cases over separate bomb threats received by the airport in

continued on → 6

BOMB THREATS

airport in the last month.

Close to 250 flights operated by Indian carriers have now received hoax bomb threats this month. The latest threats came a day after Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said the government planned to classify bomb hoaxes as a "cognisable offence" with longer potential sentences and place perpetrators on a no-fly list as the chaos triggered by the false threats continued unabated.

The dramatic escalation in the spate of hoax alerts has thrown the country's aviation sector into disarray, increasing the carriers' logistical burden and expenses. On Tuesday, the bomb threats led to the diversion of at least three Indigo flights — 6E 77 (Bengaluru to Jeddah) to Doha, 6E 65 (Kozhikode to Jeddah) to Riyadh, and 6E 63 (Delhi to Jeddah) to Medina. The hoaxes have largely gone untracked as they used VPNs to post the threat messages on social media, usually while the flight are mid-air, according to officials. As investigations continue, authorities have reportedly suspended or blocked multiple social media handles linked to the threats. Security agencies have noted common phrases used in these threats, such as "explosive devices" and "this is not a joke," leading them to probe if they could establish a potential pattern to the hoaxes.

Amid the continued hoax threats, the airlines said they were on alert and regularly coordinating with security agencies. "We confirm that some Air India flights operating on 22 October 2024 were subject to security threats received on social media. Following the laid down protocols, relevant authorities were immediately alerted, and all security procedures strictly adhered to..." Air India said in a statement.

According to protocol, an assessment committee comprising airport operators and security agencies such as the Intelligence Bureau is constituted in case of a bomb threat to assess the gravity of the warning and act accordingly. This committee decides if the threat is "specific" (indicating a possible breach of security) or "non-specific (indicating a possible hoax).

According to a CISF official, 15 flights received a bomb threat well after touchdown on Tuesday. "The flights had already landed, and passengers had left the airport premises when the alerts were received. Only in some cases, such as the case of a flight between Pune and Lucknow, the flight had to be taken to the isola-

tion bay," the official said, requesting anonymity.

Authorities are yet to establish the motive behind the hoax threats, but officials have said that they could be part of a ploy to increase the burden on security agencies. Some of the threats have led to serious outcomes. Last Thursday, an Air India flight from Mumbai to London was intercepted by Royal Air Force fighter jets after receiving a bomb threat. Two days before that, Singapore Armed Forces scrambled two fighter jets to escort an Air India Express plane, which took off from Madurai, away from populated areas following a bomb threat. On Tuesday, the Nepalese Army rushed its bomb squad to the Kathmandu airport after a Vistara flight from Delhi got a bomb threat.

"Meetings are being held with airline operators and they are told to be on high alert. While the calls are hoaxes, there is high alert and mobilisation of additional resources at all sensitive airports," the CISF official quoted above added.

On Monday, Union minister Naidu said the government is considering amendments to the Aircraft Security Rules and the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act (SUASCA) to address the recent surge in threats.

At present, there are no direct legal provisions to prosecute such cases, but sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and the Information Technology Act contain some legal measures that can be utilised. For instance, under Section 353 of BNS, those spreading false information causing public alarm can face up to three years in prison and/or a fine. Section 351 addresses criminal intimidation, with threats of death, grievous injury, or arson punishable by up to seven years in prison, and anonymous threats carry an additional two-year sentence. For hoax calls made through digital channels or interfering with critical infrastructure, Section 66F of the IT Act can be invoked, classifying such acts as cyber terrorism, potentially punishable by life imprisonment.

BRICS SUMMIT

tion of peace and stability as soon as possible. All our efforts give priority to humanity. In the coming days too, India is ready to provide all possible cooperation [for such efforts]."

Modi's remarks were a reiteration of India's stated position that Russia and Ukraine should end hostilities and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy to find

Stricter law in works for flight threat calls

Prawesh Lama and Vrinda Tulsian

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NEW DELHI: Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said on Monday the government plans to classify hoax bomb threats as a "cognisable offence" with longer potential sentences and place perpetrators on a no-fly list after a week-long chaos unleashed by false affected at least 100 flights.

Separately, two top aviation security officers met Union home secretary Govind Mohan on Monday and discussed the incidents. According to officials aware of the discussions at the meeting, the government has estimated the number of hoax alerts to be at 200 for the entire month of October.

Security arrangements have been augmented in light of these alerts, an official aware of the matter said, asking not to be named.

Speaking at the 8th anniversary celebration of the UDAN scheme in the national capital, Naidu said, "It is a very sensitive situation when it comes to the hoax call threats, there is an international procedure that we have to follow."

Over 100 hoax alerts in a week

Legal changes: Aviation minister has said hoax bomb threats may be classified as cognisable offence with longer potential sentences

No-fly list: Minister also said govt proposing to place perpetrators on a no-fly list.

Increased security: Agencies have increased security deployment by 10% over the past week and have stepped up surveillance.

Protocols enforced: Airport staff said all protocols meticulously followed for each threat, even if most hoaxes.



It is very difficult to tell at this point what the motive is behind these hoax calls... We are using intelligence, the IB, and other key agencies to ensure incidents like this don't happen again — RM Naidu, minister

The minister revealed that the government is considering amendments to the Aircraft Security Rules and the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act (SUASCA) to address the recent surge in threats.

"Making hoax calls to airlines will be made a cognisable offence and the perpetrators

will be put on the no-fly list," Naidu declared, emphasising the gravity of the situation.

In the second meeting with the Union home secretary, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) director general (DG) Zulfikar Hasan and director general of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

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BOMB HOAX

Rajwinder Singh Bhatti met Mohan at the latter's office at North Block.

Hasan and Bhatti, both senior officers belonging to the Indian Police Service, briefed the home secretary about the incidents of bomb threats and the steps taken to check such incidents, sources said.

Details of the meeting were not known immediately but an official involved in one of the ministries said security drills have been meticulously followed despite the flood of such alerts.

"Before October, in June too, there were 96 calls received at the airports, which were all hoax calls. Then the calls were received at about the same time when similar threat mails were sent to schools. There is definitely a pattern, which needs to be probed by police forces," a senior officer said, asking not to be named.

At present, there are no direct legal provisions to prosecute such cases but sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and the Information Technology Act contain some legal measures that can be utilised. For instance, under Section 353 of BNS, those spreading false information causing public alarm can face up to three years in prison and/or a fine. Section 351 addresses criminal intimidation, with threats of death, grievous injury, or arson punishable by up to seven years in prison, and anonymous threats carry an additional two-year sentence. For hoax calls made through digital channels or interfering with critical infrastructure, Section 66F of the IT Act can be invoked, classifying such acts as cyber terrorism, potentially punishable by life imprisonment.

Naidu explained changes may be done to aviation-specific rules. "While it (SUASCA) takes care of the offences when the aircraft is in flight, if we want to address these kinds of threats that have been happening... we have to cover the act on the ground and the airport also."

The minister outlined two primary areas of focus: "First is the amendment in Aircraft Security Rules... one of the ideas that we want to propagate by changing these rules is that once we catch hold of the perpetrator who is behind this, we want to put them in the no-fly list. Second is the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act."

The Aircraft Security Rules of 2023 allow BCAS to impose fines up to ₹1 crore on airports and airlines for security violations. SUASCA outlines offences such as acts of violence against individuals on board aircraft and the destruction or damage of aircraft.

80 flights received hoax bomb threats since Monday night

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

THE SPATE of bomb threats to Indian airlines is just not abating with around 80 flights receiving threats between late night Monday and late afternoon Tuesday, it is learnt. Around 50 international and domestic flights across airlines—Air India, IndiGo, Akasa Air, and Vistara—received threats on social media Tuesday afternoon, sources said. This was in addition to at least 30 flights receiving threats late Monday. The total number of such threats has crossed 170 over nine days.

As many as 13 flights each of Air India and IndiGo, 12 flights of Akasa Air, and 11 flights of Vistara received bomb threats on Tuesday, sources said. A few of these flights also declared general emergencies, per flight tracking data. Ten flights each of IndiGo, Air India, and Vistara received bomb threats late at night Monday. This had led to three Jeddah-bound flights of IndiGo being diverted to other airports—two within Saudi Arabia and one to Doha.

According to sources, Tuesday's threats were posted by four anonymous and unverified X accounts, all of which were later restricted by the social media platform. Nearly all the threats since October 14 came through posts from such accounts, which were set up recently most likely for this purpose. While security protocols could still be underway for a few flights affected on Tuesday, all threats over the past nine days turned out to be fake.

IndiGo confirmed that it received threats for 13 flights Tuesday, while Air India, Akasa Air, and Vistara said that some of their flights received threats, but did not specify the numbers.

BOY HELD FOR HOAX SEXUALLY ASSAULTED IN REMAND HOME

Mumbai: The 17-year-old boy from Chhattisgarh, who was apprehended last week for issuing hoax bomb threats to three international flights, was allegedly sexually assaulted by another minor inmate at a correctional home in Mumbai on Monday. Police said they registered a case. Police sources said the minor was attacked by a 16-year-old minor when he went to the bathroom. Authorities at the home informed the nearest police station and a case under the provisions of the POCSO Act was filed. **ENS**

Earlier in the day, IndiGo, Air India, and Vistara confirmed receiving threats that were posted late on Monday. Indian airlines have been hit by a spate of bomb hoaxes since October 14. The threats have forced a few flight diversions, strict post-landing security checks and screenings.

The government plans to take legislative action to deal with fake bomb threats to aircraft and make the punishments harsher to deter pranksters from posting such threats. Among the moves in the works are changes to the Aircraft Security Rules—which would allow culprits to be banned from flying—and amendments to the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation (SUASCA) Act, 1982, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said Monday.

Security has been enhanced at various airports with the number of security checks at various checkpoints being increased.

MERGER TAKING EFFECT ON NOVEMBER 12

Air India-Vistara merger: Systems, tech integration gathers pace ahead of D-date

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

AS VISTARA'S merger into Air India draws closer, the back-end systems and technology integration between the two Tata group carriers has gathered steam with over 2.7 lakh passenger reservations and over 45 lakh loyalty programme members already migrated to the Air India's digital systems, Air India's Chief Digital & Technology Officer Satya Ramaswamy said Tuesday.

"The significant effort is to comprehensively address Vistara customers' experience across all digital systems post merger," Ramaswamy said in a select media briefing at the Air India headquarters in Gurugram.

All customers who were booked on Vistara flights scheduled for or after November 12—the prescribed date for the merger—have been intimated about the changes in bookings, which have now been moved to Air India. Ramaswamy added that nearly numerous systems have been integrated and nearly all will be done by November 12. There are over 140 systems that needed to be migrated for the enlarged Air India to operate seamlessly after the merger.

Additionally, the migration involves 3,385 Vistara suppliers, 70 aircraft that operate over 320 daily flights, over 3,300 crew, and 86 IT contracts, among others. Nearly 6,500 Vistara employees have also been migrated to Air India.

The key focus areas for systems migration—being seen as the backbone of the merger from a customer, operations, and employee point of view—include reservation transfers, loyalty account transfers, financial accounts integrity, aircraft and crew transfers, employee payroll integration, airport systems integration, and flight schedule continuity, among others. With the merger taking effect on November 12, all Vistara aircraft and flights will be transferred to and operated by Air India. Even as Vistara will fly into the sunset, the Vistara experience for



EXPLAINED E Focus areas for systems migration

THE KEY focus areas for systems migration—being seen as the backbone of the merger from a customer, operations, and employee point of view—include reservation transfers, loyalty account transfers, financial accounts integrity, aircraft and crew transfers, employee payroll integration, airport systems integration, and flight schedule continuity, among others.

passengers will be maintained with no significant change to the product and crew, at least in the initial months following the merger. All existing Vistara flights will continue to be operated using Vistara's existing fleet of aircraft and by the existing Vistara crew, although the flight numbers will change to those of Air India.

To enable Vistara's loyal flyers and passengers generally to identify Vistara flights while booking, Air India has decided to use four-digit flight numbers for Vistara flights beginning with "2", against Air India's three-digit flight numbers.

"For instance, UK 955 (UK is the current airline identifier code for Vistara flights) will become AI 2955, helping customers identify them while booking," Air India had said last week.

Air India also announced that following the airlines' merger,

which will also include the merger of their loyalty programmes, the combined loyalty programme will evolve into an all new avatar under the brand 'Maharaja Club'—a reference to Air India's popular long-standing mascot. Initially, all members of the Club Vistara loyalty programme are being seamlessly transferred to Air India's loyalty programme Flying Returns.

In its nearly 10 years of operations, Vistara had made a mark for itself as the premier full-service carrier in India that offered a superior product in a market dominated by budget carriers. With the Tata group deciding to merge Vistara into the group's flagship airline Air India—which the Tatas acquired from the government in January 2022—there were concerns about Vistara's product and service quality after the merger.

Under government control, Air India was under financial stress, and this reflected in its product and service quality, which was seen as below the standards expected from a full-service carrier. While the now-privatised airline has undertaken a mammoth fleet modernisation and expansion plan, it still has a large number of legacy aircraft that are in a rundown state.

The wheels for the merger were set in motion in 2022 after the Tata group acquired Air India. As a joint venture partner in Vistara, Singapore Airlines holds 49 per cent stake in the airline and will have 25.1 per cent stake in the enlarged Air India after the merger.

Apart from merging Air India and Vistara, the Tata group had decided to merge its budget carriers Air India Express and AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India). That merger took effect from October 1. Once the Air India-Vistara merger is complete, the Air India group will have a full-service carrier Air India and a low-cost airline Air India Express. The consolidation is a critical part of Air India's transformation programme Vihaan.Ai, that seeks to build Air India into an airline of global repute.



एयर इंडिया ने बेहतर फेयर स्ट्रक्चर पेश किया

रतन टाटा की मृत्यु के कुछ दिनों बाद, टाटा ग्रुप के एयर इंडिया ने लिया बड़ा फैसला

मुंबई, एजेंसी। विविध टिकट श्रेणियां एक पैकेज अपग्रेड के हिस्से के रूप में बढ़ी हुई सामान क्षमता के साथ-साथ बेहतर कैसिलेशन और यात्रा डेट चेंज लचीलेपन सहित कई लाभ प्रदान करती हैं। अब, कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता कि आप कहाँ उड़ते हैं - देश की सीमाओं या विदेशों में, यूई जैसे गंतव्यों सहित - ये टिकटिंग कक्षाएं सभी के लिए उपलब्ध हैं। टाटा ग्रुप एयर इंडिया का अधिग्रहण काफी पहले कर चुका है। अब यात्रियों को एयर इंडिया में यात्रा के दौरान अच्छा अनुभव देने के लिए एयर इंडिया ने अपने केबिन क्लास में अधिक आसान और बेहतर फेयर स्ट्रक्चर पेश किया है। एयर इंडिया ने नया किराया 17 अक्टूबर से लागू कर दिया है। इसमें इकोनॉमी, प्रीमियम इकोनॉमी, बिजनेस और फर्स्ट क्लास में आठ श्रेणियां शामिल हैं। नई प्रणाली के अनुसार, फ्लायर्स अब आसानी से अपनी आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने



के लिए कई उत्पादों और सेवाओं से चुन सकते हैं। एक बयान में, एयर इंडिया ने कहा कि इसने 'एक-आकार-फिट-ऑल' की पेशकश को हटाया गया है। इकोनॉमी में, यात्री विकल्पों की एक लिस्ट से चुन सकते हैं - मूल्य, क्लासिक और फ्लेक्स किराए, प्रीमियम इकोनॉमी, बिजनेस और फर्स्ट क्लास में भी आप कम बजट पर यात्रा कर रहे हैं, तो 'मूल्य' किराया बस वही हो सकता है जो आपको चाहिए क्योंकि यह कुछ लचीलेपन की अनुमति देता है। इसमें चेक किए गए सामान का

एक टुकड़ा शामिल है। हालांकि, उन लोगों के लिए जो अपनी यात्रा योजनाओं में अधिक लोच को महत्व देते हैं और अधिक सामान की जगह की आवश्यकता होती है, 'क्लासिक' या 'फ्लेक्स' किराए एक बेहतर विकल्प हो सकते हैं। विविध टिकट श्रेणियां एक पैकेज अपग्रेड के हिस्से के रूप में बढ़ी हुई सामान क्षमता के साथ-साथ बेहतर कैसिलेशन और यात्रा डेट चेंज लचीलेपन सहित कई लाभ प्रदान करती हैं। अब, कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता कि आप कहाँ उड़ते हैं - देश की सीमाओं या विदेशों में, यूई जैसे गंतव्यों सहित - ये

अधिक विमान लाए गए

रॉयटर्स द्वारा उद्धृत विश्वसनीय उद्योग के अंदरूनी सूत्रों की हालिया रिपोर्टों पर प्रकाश डाला गया कि एयर इंडिया एयरलाइन उद्योग में एक महत्वाकांक्षी वापसी शुरू कर रहा है। कंपनी ने कथित तौर पर इस पहल के हिस्से के रूप में 85 नए एयरबस विमानों के लिए एक आदेश दिया है। हालांकि, यह सब नहीं है, क्योंकि एयरलाइन के बारे में फुसफुसाते हुए अपने बेड़े में अधिक बोइंग विमान जोड़ने पर विचार कर रहे हैं।

टिकटिंग कक्षाएं सभी के लिए उपलब्ध हैं। एयर इंडिया के मुख्य वाणिज्यिक अधिकारी, निपुण अग्रवाल के अनुसार, एयरलाइन ने किराया परिवारों को सरल बनाया है।

"हमने प्रत्येक मूल्य बिंदु पर एक अद्वितीय उत्पाद और सेवा मूल्य प्रस्ताव प्रदान करने के लिए किराया परिवारों को फिर से तैयार और सरल बनाया है। हमने बाजार-विशिष्ट किराया परिवारों को फिर से डिजाइन और फिर से तैयार किया है, जो भौगोलिक क्षेत्रों में अद्वितीय ग्राहक वरीयताओं को पूरा करते हैं। यह पारंपरिक एक-आकार-फिट-सभी प्रसाद दृष्टिकोण से दूर एक कदम है,

जो तेजी से बेमानी हो रहा है और आज के यात्रियों की विकसित वरीयताओं को संबोधित करता है, "उन्होंने कहा।

यूरोप, यूके के लिए किराए एयरलाइन ने यूरोप और यूके जाने वाली उड़ानों के लिए अपनी मूल्य निर्धारण श्रेणियों को अपडेट किया है। नए किराया विकल्पों के साथ उड़ान के ग्राहक 23 किग्रा तक एक एकल चेक बैग सहित अधिक किफायती उड़ानों का आनंद ले सकते हैं। विशेष रूप से, विकल्प यात्रा यात्रा कार्यक्रम समायोजन के लिए कम लचीलेपन के साथ आता है।

More localization for drones?

Firms are in talks with the aviation regulator for setting standards to develop more sophisticated drones locally

Shouvik Das & Mihir Mishra
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NEW DELHI

India's cohort of drone firms are in talks with each other, as well as the three defence forces and the civil aviation ministry, to establish a self-regulatory code of operations. While talks have been going on for a while, an increased urgency has been proposed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which is now keen on helping drone firms in India to localize a greater percentage of their key components.

Three senior industry executives confirmed to *Mint* that the discussions between India's drone industry and ministry officials have been focused on establishing a self-regulatory set of standards for localization, collaborating on research and development programmes for advanced drone tech, and building proprietary, cutting-edge drones akin to how specialized companies in the US have done.

Talks on these standards have picked up pace in the aftermath of the



Component localization for drones has "considerable overlap" with other electronics industries, said a government official.

devastating attack on Hezbollah carried out by Israel.

"Discussions are still at an early stage, but the government recognizes that there is an increasingly urgent need for India to create its own advanced drones to be used in defence forces. Further, component localization is not just a matter of generating

more business value in the drone sector—it is a matter of national security. A number of cross-ministerial discussions have taken place on how the localization of component manufacturing can take place for drones," a senior government official told *Mint*.

The official further added that component localization for drones has

"considerable overlap" with other electronics industries, such as smartphones and home appliances. "Aspects like cameras, display and software should be increasingly localized, as should software-based systems such as autopilot. We're promoting a self-regulatory stance for the industry since the market for drones in India is not big enough for the Centre to tie it down with regulatory strictures," he said.

Multiple companies, including the BSE-listed IdeaForge Technology Ltd, have been involved in these discussions.

"There is an increasing amount of collaborations between drone companies—we're in talks with various industry stakeholders to arrive at a self-regulatory consensus, based on the approach that the government has suggested. We're looking to complement R&D initiatives and develop advanced technologies and their respective intellectual properties, so

that even the most advanced defence drones do not need to be sourced from abroad," said Ankit Mehta, chief executive of IdeaForge.

Prem Kumar Vislawath, chief executive of Hyderabad-based Marut Drones, said that three key aspects dis-

cussed as part of the DGCA's push to encourage self-regulation of operational standards for drones included batteries, encrypted software platforms, and tamper-proof collision avoidance systems. "We've had multiple discussions, with the idea that increasingly sensitive components and sub-components need to be localised by design. The discussions have been to

set-up a graded approach to self-regulatory mechanisms, with one-year, three-year and five-year targets for the drone sector," Vislawath said.

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SECURITY STANDARDS

TALKS on these standards picked up pace after the attack on Hezbollah carried out by Israel

MULTIPLE firms like BSE-listed IdeaForge Technology have been involved in these discussions

Bomb threats rattle aviation sector, airlines face Rs 600 crore in losses

Nearly 50 flights receive bomb threats on Tue

NARESH BISWANI

NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI: In an unprecedented series of events, nearly 80 domestic and international flights operating within and out of India received bomb threats over the course of 24 hours. While the threats were later confirmed as hoaxes, they left thousands of passengers and security personnel in a state of high alert, causing widespread disruption.

The bomb threats, which targeted a range of airlines, have raised serious concerns about aviation safety, costing airlines an estimated Rs 600 crore in losses, according to two former airline officials.

On Tuesday alone, around 50 flights from various airlines were subjected to bomb threats. This included 13 flights each from IndiGo and Air India, 12 flights from Akasa Air, and 11 from Vistara. The situation was no better



The disruption caused by these bomb threats comes with a heavy financial price tag

the previous night when around 30 flights—operated by IndiGo, Air India, and Vistara—received similar threats.

In total, more than 170 flights operated by Indian carriers have faced bomb threats over the past nine days, mostly through social media platforms. In some cases, international flights were

even diverted as a precautionary measure.

The disruption caused by these bomb threats comes with a heavy financial price tag. A former official from the finance department of a domestic airline explained that the average cost of disruption for a domestic flight stands at approximately Rs 1.5 crore. For international flights, the losses are steeper, ranging between Rs 5 crore and Rs 5.5 crore. On average, the estimated cost of disruption across all affected flights is Rs 3.5 crore per flight.

Using these averages, the total financial loss from the more than 170 flights affected by the bomb threats over the past nine days is projected to be around Rs 600 crore. However, this figure could vary depending on factors such as the type of aircraft (narrow-body or wide-body) and the length of the flights impacted. **Continued on P4**

Bomb threats rattle aviation sector...

Continued from Page 1

Another official with experience in the finance department of a domestic airline emphasised that operational costs are typically higher for wide-body aircraft. These larger planes, which are commonly used for international flights, incur higher fuel costs and parking charges, in addition to the indirect impact that disruptions can have on the entire flight network.

In response to the bomb threats, Indian airlines have been on high alert, coordinating closely with security agencies and local authorities. An IndiGo spokesperson confirmed that 13 of its flights received bomb threats on Tuesday, but all passengers disembarked safely. The spokesperson listed the affected flights, which spanned domestic routes such as Bengaluru to Lucknow and Hyderabad to Jodhpur, as well as an international flight from Mumbai to Istanbul. Akasa Air, which also faced bomb threats, did not disclose the exact number of affected flights. However, the airline reiterated that all safety and security protocols were followed in close coordination with authorities.

Vistara and Air India also confirmed receiving threats on social media. Both airlines promptly alerted security agencies and followed standard procedures to ensure passenger safety.

Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

22 OCTOBER 2024

BOMB THREATS TO AIRLINES

Govt plans legislative actions; mulls placing perpetrators in no-fly list

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Monday said that making hoax bomb threat calls to airlines will be made a cognisable offence, as multiple carriers in the past few days have received several such calls, causing major disruptions of flight operations across the country.

Calling it a sensitive situation, the minister, at a press briefing, also said that those who make such hoax calls will be placed on the no-fly list of



airlines. In the last week, nearly 100 flights of Indian airlines received bomb threats.

Naidu said amendments are being planned to aviation security rules as well as the Suppression of Unlawful Acts

Chiefs of BCAS, CISF meet Union Home Secy; discuss issue of bomb threats to airlines

Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982.

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) is continuously in touch with the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding **Continued on P6**

a conspiracy behind the threats, Naidu said investigations are on, and did not offer any specific comments. "Safety and security of passengers are of utmost priority," he said. Meanwhile, two top aviation security officers met Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and discussed the unabated incidents of bomb threats to Indian airlines, leading to diversions, cancellations and passenger inconvenience.

Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) Director General (DG) Zulfiqar Hasan and Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Rajwinder Singh Bhatti met Mohan at the latter's office at North Block here. The three officers remained closeted for about half an hour.

Hasan and Bhatti, both senior IPS officers, have briefed the home secretary about the incidents of bomb threats and the steps taken to check such incidents, sources said. As many as 25 flights of Indian airlines received bomb threats on Sunday. The BCAS lays down standards and measures in respect of security of civil flights at international and domestic airports in India while remaining sensitive to the globally evolving aviation security scenario.

It also enforces all standards and recommended international practices as well as domestic operations. The BCAS coordinates, monitors, inspects and trains personnel in civil aviation security matters thereby maximising effectiveness of aviation security and minimising acts of unlawful interference with civil aviation operations. The CISF, a Central para-military force, is entrusted with the responsibility of guarding 68 civilian airports in the country. It deploys about 40,000 personnel who provide counterterror security cover, frisk passengers and screen luggage.

Govt plans...

bomb threats to flights, he said. To a query on whether there is

Activate Wind



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

40 more flights get bomb threats

**SHEKHAR SINGH &
UJWAL JALALI** @New Delhi

HOAX bomb threats continued to keep the security agencies on their toes and inconvenience passengers on Tuesday as about 40 more flights received threat emails.

Three CRPF schools, including the one in Rohini where an explosion happened two days ago, also received threats on Tuesday. On Tuesday a CRPF school in Dwarka and another one in Hyderabad also received hoax bomb threats. The emails, reportedly sent late in the night on Monday, indicated a potential bomb explo-

sion in classrooms at 11 am on Tuesday. Officials said a detailed probe is underway, with senior officers of the CRPF Intelligence Bureau, and Delhi Police reviewing the situation.

Between Monday and Tuesday, at least 70 flights belonging to Air India, Vistara, IndiGo, and Akasa Air faced fresh

3 SCHOOLS TARGETED

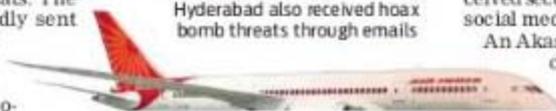
A CRPF school in Delhi's Dwarka, another one in Rohini where an explosion happened two days ago, and a third CRPF school in Hyderabad also received hoax bomb threats through emails

bomb threats through social media, bringing the total number of such threats in the past eight days to 160.

Sources put the security threats for Air India at 13, Vistara 11, and Akasa Air 12 on Tuesday. Meanwhile, IndiGo said 23 of its flights—both domestic and international—were targeted on Monday and Tuesday. It said three Jeddah-bound flights were diverted to Riyadh, Medina, and Doha.

A Vistara spokesperson said that a few of their flights received security threats through social media.

An Akasa spokesperson also confirmed receiving security alerts on Tuesday



Drone tech game-changer, I will be brand ambassador, says Naidu



K KALYAN KRISHNA KUMAR @Vijayawada

ASSERTING that Andhra Pradesh government is committed to develop Amaravati as the hub for drone technology, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu rolled out the red carpet for investors and pitched himself as the best ambassador for the drone industry.

Naidu and Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu inaugurated the two-day Amaravati Drone Summit at CK Convention in Mangalagiri on Tuesday.

Speaking at the summit, Naidu offered 300 acres of land at Orvakal in Kurnool district for the Centre to establish a drone hub. Strategically located near Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Amaravati, the site aims to position the state at the forefront of India's drone ecosystem, he stated.

Highlighting the transformative potential of drones, especially in agriculture, infrastructure and healthcare,

Naidu pointed out that drones were effectively used to deliver food and drinking water to stranded residents during the recent Vijayawada floods. "While other countries use drones for warfare, we will use them for peace and security by monitoring criminal activities and ensuring public safety," he remarked.

Stating that data is the new wealth, Naidu emphasised that 400 million TB data is generated daily. "When combined with AI, this data has the potential to drive innovations that were earlier unimaginable," he said.

Terming drone technology a game changer, the CM invited drone companies to use the state as a testing ground. "Give us your use cases and we will test them here," he said, highlighting the state's plan to adopt 150 drone use cases. He also said the state government will release a comprehensive drone policy in 15 days to establish a business-friendly environment for drone manufacturers.



When combined with AI, the 400 million TB data generated daily has the potential to drive innovations that were earlier unimaginable

Chandrababu Naidu,
Andhra Pradesh CM

Naidu renews call to have more children

Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu once again voiced his concerns over the future demographic shift in the country and called on people to have more children. Speaking on the sidelines of the Amaravati Drone Summit, Naidu said that South India, being an early adopter of population control measures, must now re-evaluate its strategies. "Ageing is becoming a global challenge. If India can manage its population well, it will hold a dominant position globally for years," he remarked.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

Two men plead guilty to murder of Air India bombing accused

OTTAWA

TWO men accused of killing Ripudaman Singh Malik, a Sikh man acquitted in the tragic 1985 Air India Kanishka terrorist bombing case, have pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in a Canadian court, according to media reports.

Tanner Fox and Jose Lopez entered the pleas in the British Columbia (BC) Supreme Court on Monday on the eve of their trial for the killing of 75-year-

old Malik, who was shot several times outside his family business on the morning of July 14, 2022.

Malik was shot dead in Surrey, British Columbia in 2022. He and co-accused Ajaib Singh Bagri were acquitted

in 2005 of mass murder and conspiracy charges related to the two bombings in 1985 that killed 331 people.

In the court in New Westmin-



ster on Monday, both Fox and Lopez pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of second-degree murder; the *Global News* reported.

The court heard an agreed statement of facts that revealed the two men had been hired

to kill Malik, the report added.

"What we know from the agreed statement of facts is that there was some type of financial incentive that was in-

volved in the commission of this crime, but in terms of any other specifics, it is another one of those situations where unfortunately it is just something that we as people on the outside will probably never know," Lopez' lawyer Gloria Ng told *Global News*.

"One of the things we certainly have in the forefront of our minds is the youth of our client Lopez is a very young man and we are certainly hopeful with prospects for rehabili-

tation." In a statement, Malik's family described him as a "father, brother, husband and grandfather as well as a tireless community leader," the *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation* reported on Monday.

"While we are grateful that the shooters are being brought to justice, we know that nothing will erase the pain that we have gone through losing a family member in this way," the family said.

PTI

अभी तक 500 फ्लाइटों को मिली धमकी, 1500 करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान

विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

भारत की विभिन्न एयरलाइंस की फ्लाइटों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिलने का सिलसिला लगातार जारी है। मंगलवार को भी यह जारी रहा। इससे लोगों में अब डर का माहौल बनता जा रहा है। हाल यह है कि इस 'थ्रेट गेम' से इस साल अभी तक 500 से अधिक फ्लाइटों को धमकी मिल चुकी है। इसका असर तकरीबन दो हजार फ्लाइटों और 3.5 लाख यात्रियों को प्रभावित होने के रूप में पड़ा है। साथ ही एयरलाइंस को करीब 1500 करोड़ रुपये के घाटे के रूप में देश की अर्थव्यवस्था को जो नुकसान उठाना पड़ा, वह अलग। एयरलाइंस अधिकारियों का कहना है कि जब भी किसी फ्लाइट को धमकी मिलती है तो लोगों को लगता होगा कि एक ही तो फ्लाइट है, कोई बात नहीं। बाकी तो सही हैं। लेकिन ऐसा नहीं है। किसी भी एक फ्लाइट को धमकी मिलने का उस एयरलाइंस के 24 घंटे के एयर शेड्यूल सिस्टम में 'चेन रिएक्शन' होता है, क्योंकि धमकी भले ही एक एयरक्राफ्ट को मिलती है, लेकिन एक एयरक्राफ्ट 24 घंटे में कम से कम छोटी दूरी की चार से छह उड़ान भरता है। ऐसे में अगर एक फ्लाइट को धमकी मिली तो उस एयरक्राफ्ट के आगे की जितनी भी उड़ानें होंगी, उसका असर उन सभी उड़ानों पर लेट होने, कैसल होने या री-शेड्यूल होने के रूप में सामने आता है।

इसमें सबसे अधिक असर डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइटों पर पड़ता है जबकि इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट में छोटी दूरी की फ्लाइट भी दो से तीन उड़ान भर लेती हैं। एयरलाइंस ने बताया कि इस तरह से एक फ्लाइट के लेट होने का मतलब है कि उसका



AI Image

NBT Lens
एजेसियां धमकी रोकने में नाकाम क्यों

फ्लाइटों को मिल रही धमकियों के बीच जानकारों का कहना है कि असल में यह मामला तकनीक से जुड़ा है। इसमें अधिकतर वक्त आरोपी अपनी पहचान छिपाने के लिए वीपीएन और अन्य तकनीक का इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं। इनके असल आईपी अड्रेस तक जाने में एजेसियों को कड़ी मशक्कत करनी पड़ रही है। इसकी वजह से अभी तक एजेसियां असल आरोपी तक नहीं पहुंच पा रही और धमकियों का यह सिलसिला लगातार जारी है। जांच में बीसीएएस, एनआईए, दिल्ली पुलिस समेत अन्य राज्यों की पुलिस, आईबी और अन्य तमाम सिन्क्योरिटी एजेंसी लगी हैं। तफ्तीश भी लगातार जारी है, लेकिन लोग जानना चाहते हैं कि परिणाम क्या निकला।

असर आगे की चार से छह फ्लाइट पर पड़ना तय है।

Hoax threats leave financial scars

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

While there seems to be no end to the menace of bomb threat messages targeting Indian airlines, as about 80 more flights, operating on domestic and international routes, received fresh threats from Monday night to Tuesday, it has also had a huge financial impact on the airline operators who already under financial stress, operations stakeholders like security forces logistics and regulatory bodies to under take the drill to ensure safe flight.

According to estimates from aviation industry sources, it costs about Rs one to three Crores, on an average, to undertake the security drills and the burden is on all the stakeholders from government to the private agencies. Which means given the total of 180 flights that have undergone the process after the hoax calls an additional burden of about Rs 300 Crore.

"Following the laid down protocols, relevant authorities were immediately alerted, and all security procedures strictly adhered to, as per guidance from the regulatory authorities and security agencies," an Air India spokesperson said in a statement.

Protocols for the Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC), is convened in the event of a bomb threat call to an aircraft or airport, to tackle the spate of the ongoing "random" Internet-based threats being made to various Indian airlines.

On Monday night, the BTAC that assembled at seven airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur, Pune, Mangalore, Bengaluru and Kozhikode declared as "hoax or



nonspecific" bomb threat messages sent to 30 flights belonging to three carriers - Air India, Vistara and Indigo. The threat was assessed as "non specific" as it was found that one X handle posted these "bombs onboard" messages for 10 flights each of these

three carriers between 10.46 pm and 11.42 pm.

The protocol undertaken by the BTAC has been tweaked and a fine assessment, acting on a set of new 'red flags', is being undertaken now, the sources added.

Continued on page 2

Hoax threats...

From page 1

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the respective airline security have also been asked to ensure "focussed" security protocols for frisking passengers, their baggage and the aircraft so that nothing is left to chance while preparing a flight, they said.

When it is established that the bomb or hijack threat message made through social media was published "without any rationale", the BTAC will categorise it "non specific or hoax" so that passengers and airlines crew are not harassed and their precious time is not wasted, they said, without elaborating on the specific details due to operational reasons.

There will still be some cases where a message or call will be declared "specific" but that will not be done en masse, the sources said. Aviation security officials said they expect that these new measures will help to ease "some" trouble posed

by these fake social media or phone call messages.

Cyber security agencies have said some of these threats are triggered from virtual private network (VPN) activated Internet connections and many such handles, especially on X, were created only a few hours or days before they posted the threats to various airlines.

The most recent threats targeted flights to major destinations such as Jeddah, Riyadh and Medina are in Saudi Arabia, Istanbul and Doha are the capital of Turkey and Qatar respectively. This has led to disrupting schedules, bleeding airlines and panic among passengers during the peak festive season. This is the first time that hoax callers have targeted flights bound to Middle East countries.

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu has said that making hoax bomb threat calls to airlines will be made a cognisable offence.

Hoax threat callers to have a rough landing ahead

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After unabated bomb threat messages to multiple Indian airlines in the past one week, lead to diversions, cancellations and passenger inconvenience, the Union government is planning to make hoax threat calls to Indian airlines a cognisable offence. The government is also planning to put hoax callers on a 'no fly list'.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu announced this on Monday, in the National Capital. Currently, this stringent law is invoked against people who make hoax calls and endanger the safety of an aircraft when it is in the air, not on the ground. Meanwhile, two top aviation security officers met Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and discussed the unabated incidents of bomb threats to Indian airlines, leading to diversions, cancellations and passenger inconvenience.

Naidu said amendments are being planned to aviation security rules as well as the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982. "We have come to the conclusion that there are two areas that we can explore - 1) Amendment in Aircraft Security Rules...one of the ideas that we want to propagate by changing these rules is that once we catch hold of the perpetrator who is behind this, we want to put them in the no-flying list... 2) Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act...", he said.



"While it (SUASCA) takes care of the offences when the aircraft is in travel, in flight, if we want to address these kinds of threats that have been happening. We want to take strict action against people who are behind this when there is a fake or hoax threat that they are trying to do, we have to cover the act on the ground and the airport also. So we are trying to make an amendment. Our legal team has worked very thoroughly on this and we are coming up with an amendment," Naidu said.

"We want to make it a cognisable offence. Even though these are hoax threats we cannot take it lightly.. we have a set protocol," he said. The Union Minister said that the aviation ministry is in consultation with other ministries such as the Home Ministry. "We are trying to use intelligence, IB and all the other important people who are there in this, especially home affairs and all, everyone is cooperating together. We are taking it very seriously and we want to ensure that these kinds of incidents do not happen."

The minister said multiple meetings have been held with stakeholders since the spate of

calls began so that the people making such threats can be put on the no-fly list after they are identified.

He added that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre would not compromise the safety and security of passengers. The minister added that around 10 per cent security has been enhanced at airports across the country in the wake of bomb threats.

In a related development, a key high-level meeting was also held in the Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday in which updates were taken from aviation security body Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and the Central Industrial Security Force, which is responsible for security at airports. Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) Director General (DG) Zulfikar Hasan and Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Rajwinder Singh Bhatti met Mohan at the latter's office at North Block here. The three officers remained closeted for about half an hour. However, details of the meeting are not known immediately. The CISF guards 68 civilian airports in the country.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

एक दिन में 50 उड़ानों को धमकी

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों द्वारा संचालित करीब 50 घरेलू एवं अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में बम होने की मंगलवार को धमकी मिली। इसी के साथ सोमवार रात से अबतक 80 उड़ानों में बम की धमकी मिल चुकी है।

अधिकारियों के मुताबिक धमकी की वजह से व्यवधानों के कारण विमानन कंपनियों को लगभग 600 करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान हो चुका है। पूरे घटनाक्रम की जानकारी रखने वाले सूत्रों ने बताया, मंगलवार को एयर इंडिया और इंडिगो की 13-13 उड़ानों, अकासा एयर की 12 से अधिक उड़ानों और विस्तारा की 11 उड़ानों को धमकी मिली। सोमवार रात को एयर इंडिया, इंडिगो और विस्तारा की 10-10 उड़ानों को धमकियां मिली थीं,

जबकि जेद्दा जाने वाली इंडिगो की तीन उड़ानों का रास्ता बदला गया। उन्हें सऊदी अरब व कतर के एयरपोर्ट पर उतारा गया। पिछले करीब एक सप्ताह में



■ जेद्दा जाने वाली इंडिगो की तीन उड़ानों का रास्ता बदला गया

■ विमानन कंपनियों को 600 करोड़ का नुकसान

भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों द्वारा संचालित 170 से अधिक उड़ानों में बम होने की धमकियां मिली है।

उधर, केंद्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस बल को एक फर्जी धमकी भरा ईमेल मिला है जिसमें दावा किया गया है कि दिल्ली और तेलंगाना में उसके तीन विद्यालयों और उसके परिसरों में स्थित दो केंद्रीय विद्यालयों को विस्फोटकों से निशाना बनाया जाएगा। हालांकि, बाद में यह धमकी फर्जी साबित हुई। तोड़फोड़ रोधी टीम ने इन विद्यालयों की जांच की और इस दौरान कुछ भी संदिग्ध नहीं मिला।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

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बम की धमकी को लेकर 'बीटीएसी' प्रोटोकॉल में बदलाव

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। किसी विमान या हवाई अड्डे पर बम की धमकी के मद्देनजर बम खतरा आकलन समिति (बीटीएसी) के प्रोटोकॉल में बदलाव किया गया है ताकि विभिन्न विमानन कंपनियों को इंटरनेट पर मिल रही धमकियों से बेहतर तरीके से निपटा जा सके। आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने मंगलवार को यह जानकारी दी।

सोमवार रात को दिल्ली, मुंबई, जयपुर, पुणे, मंगलुरु, बेंगलुरु और कोझिकोड हवाई अड्डों की बीटीएसी ने तीन विमानन कंपनियों एअर इंडिया, विस्तारा और इंडिगो के 30 विमानों को भेजे गए बम की धमकी वाले संदेशों को 'अफवाह या अस्पष्ट' करार दिया। इन संदेशों को इसलिए 'अस्पष्ट' माना गया क्योंकि यह पाया गया कि एक 'एक्स' हैडल ने इन तीनों विमानन कंपनियों में से प्रत्येक की 10 उड़ानों के लिए अपराह्न 10:46 और 11:42 बजे के बीच बम होने संबंधी संदेशों को पोस्ट किया था।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि बीटीएसी द्वारा अपनाए गए प्रोटोकॉल में बदलाव किया गया है और सूचना को संदिग्ध मानने के आधार पर अब बेहतर आकलन किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (सीआईएसएफ) और

संबंधित एयरलाइन की सुरक्षा एजेंसियों को यात्रियों, उनके सामान और विमान की तलाशी के लिए 'केंद्रित' सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल सुनिश्चित करने के लिए भी कहा गया है, ताकि उड़ान की तैयारी करते समय कोई भी चूक न रह जाए। एक वरिष्ठ विमानन सुरक्षा अधिकारी ने बताया कि बम की धमकी की नयी आकलन प्रक्रिया पिछले सप्ताह से भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों को मिले कई संदेशों के

■ विमानों में बम होने के झूठे संदेशों के कारण अब तक घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय दोनों तरह की 140 से अधिक उड़ानें प्रभावित हुई हैं

बाद शुरू की गई है। विमानों में बम होने के झूठे संदेशों के कारण अब तक घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय दोनों तरह की 140 से अधिक उड़ानें प्रभावित हुई हैं।

एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि बीटीएसी में धमकी भरे संदेशों को परिष्कृत दृष्टिकोण से देखने का निर्णय नागर विमानन मंत्रालय, नागर विमानन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो (बीसीएस), सीआईएसएफ,

एयरलाइन, हवाई अड्डा संचालकों, खुफिया एजेंसियों और पुलिस विभाग जैसे विभिन्न हितधारकों की हाल में हुई बैठक के बाद लिया गया।

इससे पहले, एक अधिकारी ने कहा था यदि धमकी भरे संदेश में विमान की विशिष्ट संख्या दी गई होती है, तो ऐसे दावे को 'विशिष्ट' श्रेणी में रखा जाता है और सभी आतंकवाद-रोधी तथा अपहरण-रोधी प्रोटोकॉल सक्रिय कर दिए जाते हैं, जिनमें विमान का मार्ग बदलना या आपातकालीन लैंडिंग कराना, लैंडिंग के बाद विमान में जांच करना तथा उसे हवाई अड्डे पर अलग-थलग जगह ले जाने के उपाय शामिल हैं। विमानन सुरक्षा अधिकारियों ने कहा कि उन्हें उम्मीद है कि नए उपाय इन फर्जी सोशल मीडिया या फोन कॉल संदेशों से उत्पन्न 'कुछ' दिक्कतों को कम करने में मदद करेंगे।

साइबर सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने कहा है कि इनमें से कुछ संदेश वर्चुअल प्राइवेट नेटवर्क (वीपीएन) से किए जाते हैं और ऐसे कई हैडल, विशेष रूप से 'एक्स' पर, विभिन्न एयरलाइनों को संदेश भेजने से कुछ घंटे या दिन पहले ही बनाए गए थे। साइबर सुरक्षा अधिकारी ने बताया कि अब तक 20-25 ऐसे हैडल निलंबित या प्रतिबंधित किए जा चुके हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

22 OCTOBER 2024

विमानों में बम की झूठी धमकी पर सरकार गंभीर

नई दिल्ली। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री किंजरापु राम मोहन नायडू ने कहा कि हाल के दिनों में विमानों में बम की फर्जी धमकियों में बढ़ोतरी को मंत्रालय ने गंभीरता से लिया है। पुलिस ऐसी घटनाओं के लिए जिम्मेदार अपराधियों का पता लगाने के लिए काम कर रही है। नायडू ने कहा कि मामले दर्ज किए हैं और पुलिस यह पता लगा रही है कि इसके पीछे कौन है। मंत्रालय की तरफ



से हम कानून और कुछ नियमों में बदलाव पर विचार कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इस समय इस बारे में कुछ भी कहना कठिन है। एक बार अपराधी पकड़ में आ जाते हैं तो हमारे लिए यह बताना आसान होगा कि वे ऐसा क्यों कर रहे थे। झूठी धमकियां देने के पीछे उनका मकसद क्या था। नायडू ने कहा कि ऐसा लगता है कि केवल एक ही व्यक्ति सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म पर आता है और कई विमानों में बम रखे जाने को लेकर ट्वीट करता है और फिर पूरी व्यवस्था अस्तव्यस्त हो जाती है। नायडू ने कहा कि इस तरह की घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति को रोकने के लिए खुफिया विभाग और गृह मंत्रालय के अन्य महत्वपूर्ण लोगों को नियुक्त करने की प्रक्रिया चल रही है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

22 OCTOBER 2024

Hoax bomb callers face penalties

**OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT**

New Delhi: The government is set to impose tougher penalties including life imprisonment and placing offenders on the no-fly list for making false bomb threats against domestic airlines, as part of a broader crackdown on aviation security.

Civil aviation minister K. Rammohan Naidu said Monday that the government is weighing amendments to aviation security regulations and the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982, which may include stiffer prison sentences and heftier fines.

"Passenger safety is paramount, and these threats will not be tolerated," Naidu told reporters at a briefing in New Delhi.

The ministry of civil aviation has proposed prison terms ranging from a minimum of five years to life imprisonment for individuals guilty of issuing hoax threats, according to a senior ministry official.

"We've suggested tougher penalties as a deterrent because existing aviation security laws don't adequately cover these situations," the official said.

The 1982 law, which already criminalises acts like damaging air navigation systems, committing violence on board an aircraft, and making false claims that could jeopardise flight safety, is slated for revision.

In just the past week, nearly 100 flights operated by Indian airlines have been subject to bomb threats.



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THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

22 OCTOBER 2024

Security huddle to tame hoax calls to flights

IMRAN AHMED SIDDIQUI

New Delhi: Union home secretary Govind Mohan convened a meeting with senior aviation security officials on Monday to address the recent spike in bomb hoax threats targeting various Indian airlines.

The alarming trend has prompted security agencies to react swiftly, resulting in multiple flight diversions and cancellations.

Nearly 100 flights have received bomb threats since October 14. As many as 30 flights in the Indian sector received threats on Sunday. Flyers and employees at several airports have faced disruptions as affected planes were moved to isolation bays for thorough security protocols.

Sources said Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) director-general Zulfiqar Hasan and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) director-general Rajwinder Singh Bhatti met the home secretary in his office at North Block.

"Both officers briefed the

home secretary about the incidents of bomb threats and the steps being taken to check such incidents. The discussion mainly focussed on the possible implications for aviation security and the measures being taken to address the situation," said a ministry official.

He added: "The recent hoax calls have triggered panic and forced extensive security checks by aviation authorities, intelligence agencies and other stakeholders associated with the aviation security in the country."

The Mumbai police have taken a 17-year-old boy into custody for issuing threats to four flights, including three on international routes. A preliminary probe revealed that the teen wanted to frame one of his friends with whom he had a dispute over money. Over a dozen FIRs have been registered by the Mumbai police and their counterparts in Delhi in connection with the threats.

Sources said the home

ministry directed the civil aviation ministry, CISF, Bureau of Civil Aviation, National Investigation Agency and the Intelligence Bureau to submit a detailed report on the hoax calls.

"The probe is being monitored by the central intelligence agency to find out if it was a conspiracy to damage the reputation of the Indian aviation sector," an official said.

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

The BCAS lays down standards and measures in respect to the security of civil flights in India while remaining sensitive to the globally evolving aviation security scenario. The CISF is in charge of security at 68 airports in India.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

23 OCTOBER 2024

This Doesn't Fly

Official response so far to hoax bomb calls disrupting aviation is inadequate

Almost 100 bomb hoaxes within a week targeted at domestic and international flights of almost every airline in the country is a hit on critical infra. A single flight disrupted over a bomb hoax is one thing, but a cascade of such threats makes the matter one of grave concern given the scale of disruption. Unfortunately, responses of both govt and investigators to the almost synchronised serial hoaxes via social media and emails to airline companies haven't inspired confidence so far. Why is there talk on changes in law and no-flyer lists when no one's wiser about who, individuals or groups or outfits, were behind the series of threats, let



alone the motive? Several agencies are trying to track down the disruptors, and yet...

Given the bulk of threats were via social media, there are any number of digitech tools to ascertain users of such handles. Social media companies themselves have plenty of ways to do the same. Suspension of the fake accounts that posted the hoaxes is simply not enough. Further, identifying perpetrators is

one thing, going after them may be quite another, given location could even be countries with whom India may not have pacts for joint probes. But, if these were 'harmless' pranksters, how were they so sophisticated that they left no digital footprints, no crumbs, eluding investigators for days?

Which brings one to the question of threat assessment. How threats are assessed demands a review – some were for flights already concluded. Amateurish? Every flight rightly followed SOP once it received the threat. Question is, could such disruption have been avoided in the first place? Surely analysts should have better toolkits to identify the seriousness of bomb threats. Given this, talk of harsher punishment, and deterrents, doesn't quite fly, because the attacks mostly have highlighted gaps in aviation and tech security framework.

2 plead guilty to murder of man cleared in AI bombing

Enter Plea On Eve Of Trial In Canadian Court

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Two local criminals of Canada, arrested on charges of killing Sikh businessman Ripudaman Singh Malik—a rival of slain terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar—have pleaded guilty in a Canadian court, confirming a gangland killing angle. Malik was an accused in the 1985 bombing of an Air India flight (named after Kanishka) that killed 329 people, but was acquitted for lack of evidence.

Malik was shot dead on July 14, 2022 by Tanner Fox (23) and Jose Lopez (25), local goons with a history of run-ins

DUO 'PUNCH' EACH OTHER IN COURT

> Canadian media reports said **Tanner Fox and Jose Lopez**, who pleaded guilty to Ripudaman Singh Malik's murder, 'punched and clawed at each other' for a few minutes in the courtroom before **sheriffs broke them up**

> **Fox** hails from a town **plagued by gang violence**; his criminal record dates back to Nov 2019. Was out on bail at the time of Malik's murder

> Lopez was **handed an 18-month sentence in 2019** for assault & use of weapon

> **Malik was shot in his car outside his family business** in Surrey, British Columbia, on July 14, 2022

> **Malik was acquitted in 2005 of double bomb attacks:** on AI flight from Canada to India that **killed all 329 on board**, and in Japan, killing two baggage handlers

▶ THREAT MAILS TO SCHOOLS RATTLE COPS, P 4

with the law. Less than a year later, Nijjar, initially a suspect in Malik's killing, was shot and killed on June 18, 2023, in Surrey, British Columbia.

Fox and Lopez pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of Malik amid high drama in court where they attacked each other, said local re-

ports. They filed their pleas in British Columbia Supreme Court on the eve of their trial for first-degree murder.

Malik, local media said, had annoyed Nijjar and his aides by appealing for reconciliation with the Indian State.

▶ Lauded PM outreach, P 16

Nijjar, Malik were in legal row on printing of holy book

▶ Continued from P 1

Sikh businessman Ripudaman Singh Malik had praised PM Modi's outreach to those who wished to disengage with secessionists.

A probe by Canadian Police in 2022 had revealed that Nijjar was in a legal dispute with Malik over the issue of the printing of the Sikh holy book—Guru Granth Sahib—in Surrey in violation of a religious edict issued by Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal seat. Malik's son had filed a lawsuit against Nijjar to reclaim a specialised printing press. According to local media reports, Malik and his associate Balwant Singh Bandher had entrusted the press to Surrey's Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Aug 2020.

Fox, from Abbotsford in British Columbia, hails from a town plagued by gang vio-

CANADA TRIAL

lence. His criminal record dates back to Nov 2019 when Abbotsford Police arrested him, then 19, for a parking lot stabbing incident involving a 17-year-old victim. He was sentenced to four months in prison besides two years of probation. Fox was out on bail in another offence at the time of Malik's murder. Lopez was also convicted with a 18-month sentence in Sept 2019 on charges of assault and use of weapon for an incident in Abbotsford reported in 2018.

Malik (75) was shot several times in his car outside his family business. The Canadian Police had also zeroed in on two suspicious vehicles—a burnt car and another which was supposedly the getaway vehicle used by the assassins after the murder. The modus operandi involving a "car on fire" was reminiscent of several gang-related killings in the area in the recent past. It was employed also in the killing of one Gagandeep Sandhu (29) who was shot dead in his car in Burnaby area around the time Nijjar was killed.

WINTER SCHEDULE 2024: DIRECT CONNECTIVITY TO MUSCAT, DA NANG, SRINAGAR AND KESHOD

SVPI connects to new cities, adds flights

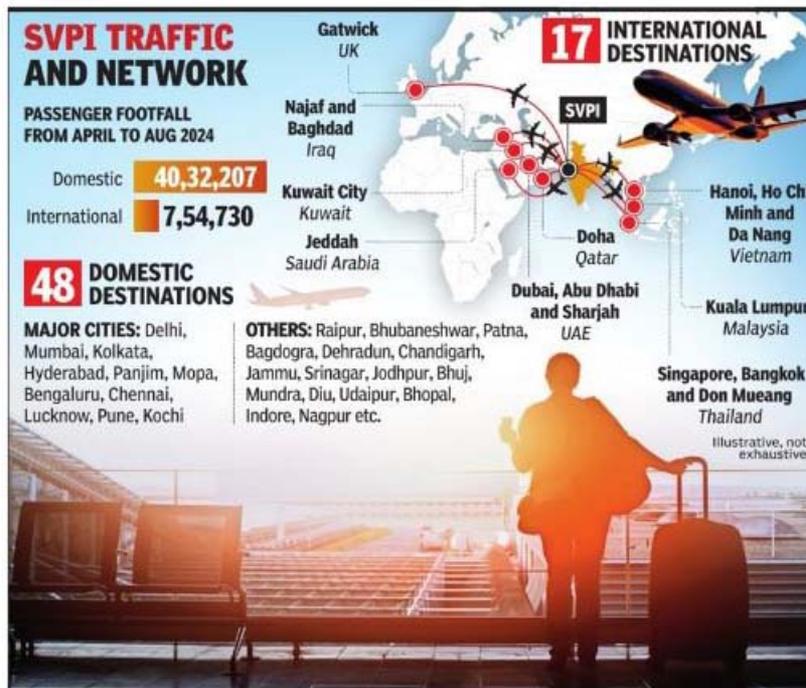
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Ahmedabad: The city is gearing up for a travel boom with several airlines adding new destinations and enhancing their connectivity. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will roll out the winter schedule 2024, effective from Oct 26. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) Airport in Ahmedabad will soon connect passengers to four new destinations — Muscat, Da Nang (Vietnam), Srinagar and Keshod — through direct flights, as learned from top sources at the city airport.

These new connections are part of a larger effort to improve the airport's services and increase the frequency of flights to several existing destinations.

Travellers are in for a treat ahead of the upcoming holidays and wedding season as they will now have more options when flying to popular spots like Gatwick (London), Bangkok, Delhi, Chandigarh and Bengaluru.

"We will have a direct flight to the beautiful coastal city of Da Nang in Vietnam apart from existing flights to Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. Another direct flight to Muscat in Oman is expected to begin soon. That apart, we



expect direct flights to Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir and Keshod in Gujarat," a top source told TOI.

According to travel agents, improved connectivity through direct flights will aid the travel industry. "They will help us offer newer itineraries for international and

domestic destinations like Vietnam and J&K. These are much sought after in the winter months. Meanwhile, increasing the frequency of flights to existing destinations will help ease the airfare burden," said Ankit Bajaj, an Ahmedabad-based travel operator.

"We expect more direct flights to domestic destinations such as Shimla and Leh because these are sought-after destinations on a seasonal basis. For instance, in the summer schedule, the demand will be higher. Among the international destinations, Istanbul, Geneva, Pa-

ris and Rome, among others, are also in high demand and therefore, direct flights should be launched from Ahmedabad, especially around summer," Bajaj added.

Frequent travellers will also benefit from more flights to the existing destinations.

For instance, the number of flights to Gatwick will increase from three to five times a week. Similarly, one more weekly flight to Bangkok will be added, taking direct connectivity to the city to five days a week, state airport sources.

"On the domestic front, Delhi will see a substantial boost, with two carriers planning to introduce additional flights. One of them is scheduled to operate 14 new frequencies and the other is slated to add eight new frequencies. Another airline is also expected to enhance its service to Chandigarh, with eight more flights a week from the existing 10. One more airline is expected to increase the number of its Bengaluru flights from the existing eight to 16 in the coming months," the source added.

At present, SVPI airport serves 48 domestic and 17 international destinations, with more than 20 airlines operating from its terminals.