

Rai urges Centre again to hold meet on cloud seeding

City has been witnessing 'very poor' air quality for past few days

ANUP VERMA @New Delhi

ENVIRONMENT Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday wrote to Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav urging him to convene an all-stakeholder meeting to approve cloud seeding in the city in view of the worsening air pollution situation.

On Wednesday, an overall AQI of 363 (very poor) was recorded while more areas fell into the "severe" zone. The Jahangirpuri monitoring station registered a "severe" Air Quality Index at 418, while Vivek Vihar's reading was 407 and Anand Vihar's 402. On Monday the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) invoked the second stage of the Graded Response Action Plan.

In his letter to Yadav, Rai emphasised the need for emergency measures, including cloud seeding, to mitigate the health risks posed by hazardous smog and pollution levels.

He also reminded Yadav of his previous letters dated August 30 and October 10 in this regard. "Delhi's air quality has already reached alarming levels and the government has implemented the Winter Action Plan from September 25,



Foreign tourists seen wearing face masks at Vijay Chowk on Wednesday | *an*

2024, to combat pollution. However, in case the situation worsens, we are exploring alternative solutions for immediate relief," Rai said.

The Delhi government has explored cloud seeding, a process that involves artificially inducing rainfall to wash pollutants from the atmosphere. However, he said, it requires clearances from various central government agencies, including the Ministry of Defence, Directorate General of Civil Aviation, and the Airports Authority of India.

Given the potential for the air quality to turn severe in November, Rai said a meeting of all relevant stakeholders

should be convened to tackle the problem.

He underlined the importance of coordinating efforts between agencies such as the CPCB, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), and the Bureau of Civil Aviation to implement cloud seeding as a potential emergency measure.

Rai's letter also included a presentation by IIT Kanpur outlining the feasibility of cloud seeding.

"Considering the worsening pollution levels, it is imperative that we evaluate this method's feasibility in Delhi's context," the letter stated.

(With PTI inputs)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

24 OCTOBER 2024

Rai reiterates request to approve cloud seeding proposal to artificially induce rain in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday said he has written to the central government reiterating his request to convene a meeting of all stakeholders to approve a cloud seeding proposal to artificially induce rain to combat air pollution in Delhi.

This comes amid Delhi's worsening air quality. A thick layer of smog enveloped the national capital on Wednesday morning as its air quality remained in the 'very poor' category with an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 363.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on Monday invoked the second stage of the Graded Response Action Plan in the national capital, imposing restrictions on the use of coal and firewood as well as diesel generator sets.

In his letter to Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, Rai emphasised the need for emergency measures, including cloud seeding, to mitigate the health risks posed by hazardous smog and pollution levels. He also reminded Yadav of his previous letters dated August 30 and October 10 in this regard.

"Delhi's air quality has already reached alarming levels and the government has implemented the Winter Action Plan from September 25, 2024, to combat pollution. However, in case the situation worsens, we are exploring alternative solutions for immediate relief," Rai said.

Cloud seeding, a process that involves artificially inducing rainfall to wash pollutants from the atmosphere, has been explored by the Delhi government before. However, it requires clearances from various central government agencies, including the Ministry of Defence, Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the Airports Authority of India, he said.

Given the potential for the air quality to turn severe in November, Rai said a meeting of all relevant stakeholders should be convened to tackle the problem. He underlined the importance of coordinating efforts between agencies such as the CPCB, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), and the Bureau of Civil Aviation to implement cloud seeding as a potential emergency measure. Rai's letter also included a presentation by IIT Kanpur outlining the feasibility of cloud seeding.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

24 OCTOBER 2024

Rai again asks Centre to call meeting on cloud seeding

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi's environment minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday wrote another letter to union environment minister Bhupendra Yadav, urging the convening of a meeting with all stakeholders on cloud seeding. Rai wrote similar letters on Aug 30 and Oct 10 to Yadav.

Cloud seeding is a weather modification technology designed to help create rain artificially. Artificial rain is one of the 21 focus areas of the winter action plan.

"As of today, AQI has already crossed the 350 level and GRAP Level 2 has been evoked. Considering that air quality in Delhi is likely to turn severe during Nov, I believe it is imperative to consider the feasibility of this method in our context," Rai stated in his letter on Wednesday.

He requested Yadav to call a meeting immediately with stakeholders, including IIT Kanpur, Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Airport Authority of India, India Meteorological Department, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, Central Pollution Control Board and Ministry of Home Affairs.

Last year, Delhi govt announced the plan of conducting artificial rain in Nov to control air pollution. However, the plan was shelved as meteorological conditions were found to be unfavourable and the moisture level was not sufficient for inducing artificial rain.

"Cloud seeding is a process that involves the artificial induction of rain, to reduce air pollution by washing out pollutants from the atmosphere. Delhi govt previously explored cloud seeding as an emergency measure to artificially induce rain and reduce air pollution during such critical periods and noticed that prior clearances from various central government agencies are required to implement the same," Rai further stated in the letter.

Govt slams Meta, X for 'not aiding' bomb hoax probe

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The ministry of information technology has pulled up X and Meta over what is being seen as their "non-cooperation" regarding investigations related to a series of bomb hoaxes that has disrupted flights, frustrating govt, airlines, and travellers over the past few weeks.

The reprimand — which termed the non-cooperation of the companies virtually 'abetting the crime' — comes as the platforms were seen to be reluctant in sharing details about the user handles that sent out the fake warnings. All the handles that engaged in the mischievous messaging were found to be fake, which meant that the Delhi Police and other agencies were not able to find the real people behind them.

Sources said ministry officials, led by a top officer who handles content takedown orders related to social media companies, held a meeting with representatives of the internet giants and asked them to be "forthcoming and prompt" in providing information on the fake accounts.

"The ministry pointed out that prompt response is needed to ensure that the perpetrators and repeat offenders are identified swiftly, and nabbed," a source added.

However, the social media companies are understood to have told govt that they are ready to cooperate, but "can do so only when the requests come through the proper framework" mandated by law.

"The home ministry and IT ministry enjoy powers to seek details under specific provisions and specific conditions. The companies had cooperated when the requests came through proper channels and under specific



Getty Images

Companies want requests through 'proper channels'

Hoax caller threatens to blow up MP airport

An unidentified caller on Wednesday threatened to blow up the Dumna airport at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, which turned out to be a hoax, a police officer said.

The caller told airport authorities that a bomb was planted in an IndiGo flight, additional SP Anand Kaladagi said. The call turned out to be a hoax. Airports Authority of India (AAI) officials lodged an FIR against an unidentified person under section 351 (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), the police officer said. The cyber cell is investigating the matter, he added. PTI

provisions. However, the disconnect happens when agencies that are not mandated to seek information — such as certain wings of various state govts — ask for information," a source said.

The companies said that they "respect and follow the law of the land", adding that they refuse only when requests for information do not come according to the provisions of law.

The IT ministry has also pulled up the companies for "delays" in providing user details of the fake handles, allowing the perpetrators to go undetected. The companies have assured govt that they will hasten the process.

जीएमआर को एडीएआई से मिले 6,300 करोड़ रुपये

प्राची पिसाल
मुंबई, 23 अक्टूबर

है दराबाद के जीएमआर समूह ने बुधवार को कहा कि स्ट्रक्चर्ड डेट इस्टीमेट के रूप में 6,300 करोड़ रुपये के निवेश के लिए उसने अबु धाबी इन्वेस्टमेंट अथॉरिटी (एडीआई) की पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सहायक के साथ करार किया है।

समूह ने कहा कि सौदा पूरा होने के बाद वह इस रकम का इस्तेमाल जीएमआर एयरपोर्ट्स लिमिटेड की प्रवर्तक (विगत में जीएमआर एयरपोर्ट्स इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर लिमिटेड) जीएमआर एंटरप्राइजेज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (जीईपीएल) के सभी बाहरी कर्ज के निपटान में करेगी। उसके बदले यह नया कर्ज होगा। एक सूत्र ने कहा कि 6,300 करोड़ रुपये से समूह को प्रवर्तक स्तर पर पूरा कर्ज और ब्याज निपटाने में मदद मिलेगी।

जीएमआर समूह के कॉरपोरेट चेयरमैन किरण गांधी ने कहा कि हाल के वर्षों में हमने कामयाबी के साथ कॉरपोरेट कर्ज की मात्रा में खासी कमी की है। एडीआई से मिले निवेश से जीईपीएल के सभी



बाहरी कर्ज को चुका दिया जाएगा जिससे जीएल की लगातार वृद्धि को सहारा देने की हमारी क्षमता मजबूत होगी।

सौदा पूरा होने पर जीएमआर प्रवर्तक समूह की जीएल के गिरवी शेर की हिस्सेदारी खासी कम हो जाएगी। जीईपीएल का मानना है कि वह इस कवायद के तहत विभिन्न लेनदारों को

पूंजी के एक स्रोत के रूप में एकीकृत करने में सक्षम होगी।

एडीआई में कार्यकारी निदेशक (बुनियादी ढांचा विभाग) खादिम अलरेमीथी ने कहा कि भारत के विमान क्षेत्र में मजबूत वृद्धि की संभावना है जिसे भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था की लंबी अवधि के सकारात्मक फंडमेंटल का समर्थन

मिलाया हाथ

- जीएमआर समूह ने अबु धाबी इन्वेस्टमेंट अथॉरिटी की पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सहायक के साथ किया करार
- सौदा पूरा होने के बाद समूह को गिरवी शेरों में खासी कमी की उम्मीद
- जीएमआर एंटरप्राइजेज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के सभी बाहरी कर्ज के निपटान में मिलेगी मदद
- हाल के वर्षों में समूह के कर्ज में बड़ी गिरावट आई

मिल रहा है। साथ ही जीएमआर समूह देश के अग्रणी एयरपोर्ट परिचालकों में से एक है। यह निवेश अपनी उन इकाइयों को समर्थन देने के हमारे तरीके को बताता है जो वैश्विक श्रेणी की परिवहन परिसंपत्तियां विकसित कर रही हैं, जिसे आबादी वृद्धि और बढ़ते आर्थिक जुड़ाव से फायदा मिल रहा है।

GMR Group secures ₹6.3K cr investment from ADIA arm

Hopes for significant reduction in pledged shares after completion of debt deal

PRACHI PISAL

Mumbai, 23 October

Hyderabad-based GMR Group on Wednesday said it has entered into an agreement with a wholly owned subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) for an investment of ₹6,300 crore in the form of structured debt instruments.

Upon completion of the deal, GMR Group said it would use the proceeds to refinance all external debt of GMR Enterprise Private Limited (GEPL), the promoter of GMR Airports Limited (GAL), formerly GMR Airports Infrastructure Limited.

“The ₹6,300 crore will help address both the entire debt and the interest component at the promoter level,” said a person in the know, who did not wish to be identified.

Kiran Grandhi, corporate chairman of GMR Group, said: “Over recent years, we have successfully reduced a significant quantum of corporate debt. This investment from ADIA will facilitate the repay-



ment of all external debt at GEPL, strengthening our ability to support the continued growth of GAL.”

Further, upon completion, the GMR promoter group’s pledge on its shareholding in GAL will reduce significantly. GEPL believes that it will be able to consolidate multiple lenders into a single source of capital through this exercise.

Khadem AlRemeithi, executive director of the infrastructure department at ADIA, said: “India’s aviation sector has

GFCL EV raises ₹1K cr, valued at ₹25K cr

Fluorochemicals firm Gujarat Fluorochemicals (GFL) on Wednesday announced that its subsidiary GFCL EV Products has successfully raised ₹1,000 crore at an equity valuation of approximately ₹25,000 crore.

The funding round was led by the promoters of the INOXGFL Group and joined by several investors, including family offices of major Indian conglomerates. **ANJALI SINGH**

strong growth prospects, backed by the positive long-term fundamentals of the Indian economy, while GMR Group is one of the country’s leading airport operators. This investment aligns with our approach of backing entities which are developing world-class transport assets that benefit from demographic growth and increased economic connectivity.”



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DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

23 OCTOBER 2024

Congress lawmakers want 2nd airport to come up in Bengaluru South

BENGALURU, DHNS

Congress lawmakers and leaders from Ramanagara, Mandya and Mysuru districts have appealed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah that the proposed second airport should be developed in the Southern Bengaluru to ease traffic congestion and help south Bengaluru residents.

About nine legislators, in-

cluding Ramanagara MLA Iqbal Hussain, Magadi MLA HC Balakrishna and Malavalli MLA PM Narendra Swamy have submitted a memorandum to the chief minister in this regard.

“Most of the air travellers are residents of Bengaluru South. Moreover, commercial and industrial activities are also increasing at a rapid pace in Ramanagara, Mandya and Mysuru districts. Therefore, it

is ideal for the second airport to come up in South Bengaluru,” the letter explained.

The lawmakers further contended that the availability of water and plain land to an extent of building around 3 to 5 km-long runway is also available, which makes Bengaluru South an ideal place to establish the second airport.

On similar lines, the lawmakers have also petitioned Industries and Infrastructure

Development Minister MB Patil to take steps to establish the second airport in Bengaluru south.



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RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

24 OCTOBER 2024

लैंगपुई हवाई अड्डे को वायुसेना को सौंपने का विरोध

आइजल: मिजो नेशनल फ्रंट (एमएनएफ) के अध्यक्ष जोरमथांगा ने कहा कि राज्य के एकमात्र लैंगपुई हवाई अड्डे को वायु सेना को सौंपने की किसी भी योजना का उनकी पार्टी विरोध करेगी। मिजोरम में मिजो नेशनल फ्रंट मुख्य विपक्षी पार्टी है। पार्टी कार्यालय में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में जोरमथांगा ने कहा कि लैंगपुई हवाई अड्डा राज्य को अन्य क्षेत्रों के साथ संपर्क स्थापित करने के स्रोत के तौर पर काम करता है।

(प्रेट)

AVIATION SECTOR FLYING HIGH

GMR Bags ₹6.3kcr from ADIA, to Free Up Pledged Shares

Fund's investment likely long-term, with debt-to-equity conversion option

Our Bureau

New Delhi: GMR Infra Enterprises has secured ₹6,300 crore (about \$750 million) in funding commitments from Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), reinforcing the attractiveness of India's burgeoning aviation industry.

This gives promoters much-needed leeway to free up some of the pledged shares at the conglomerate's listed arm, GMR Airports, the company said on Wednesday, after ADIA's confirmation of the funding commitment.

"India's aviation sector has strong growth prospects, backed by the positive long-term fundamentals of the Indian economy, while GMR Group is one of the country's leading airport operators," said Khadem AlRemeithei, executive director for infrastructure department at ADIA, the government of Abu Dhabi's global investment arm.

Altitude Metrics

- GMR says 'significant quantum' of corporate debt reduced
- GMR Airports total income at ₹8,865 cr in FY24
- It's a JV between GMR and France's Aéroports de Paris
- Owens Delhi, Hyderabad and Goa airports
- Delhi airport is 1st in country to achieve net zero carbon emissions
- Developing more airports in India, Philippines and Indonesia

GMR Enterprises owns about 25% of GMR Airports. Groupe ADP, or Aéroports de Paris SA, owns around 30%. The entity that is obtaining the funding is a 100% subsidiary of GMR Enterprises.

Debt-to-Equity Option ►► 10

Debt-to-equity Conversion Option

►► From Page 1

ADIA said the structured debt funding was in line with its approach of "backing entities that are developing world class transport assets."

The investment from ADIA is "long-term," and the debt instruments will only need to be redeemed over eight years, according to a person aware of the matter. There is also an option to convert the debt into equity if the need arises, said the person.

ADIA is also a backer of India's quasi-sovereign fund, the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund. It recently established a subsidiary at the GIFT City. "This investment from ADIA will facilitate the repayment of all external debt at GEPL (GMR Enterprises), strengthening our ability to support the continued growth of GAL (GMR Airports)," said Kiran Grandhi, corporate chairman, GMR.

SLASHING DEBT

Grandhi said the company has reduced a "significant quantum" of corporate debt over the years. "We have also demerged GMR Power and Urban Infra Ltd from GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd, and merged GMR Airports Ltd with GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd to form GMR Airports Ltd — a pureplay, publicly listed airport platform," he said.

GMR secures ₹6,300-cr debt funding from ADIA

RAGHAVENDRA KAMATH
Mumbai, October 23

ABU DHABI INVESTMENT Authority (ADIA), the UAE's largest sovereign wealth fund, will invest ₹6,300 crore in structured debt instruments of GMR Infra Enterprises.

GMR Group will use the funds to refinance external debt of GMR Enterprises (GEPL), the promoter of GMR Airports (earlier called GMRAirports Infrastructure). GEPL's total debt has increased nearly 4% year-on-year to ₹4,477 crore, according to its latest annual report.

The group said the GMR promoter group's pledge on its shareholding in GMR Airports will reduce significantly upon the completion of the deal. Also, GEPL will be able to consolidate multiple lenders into a single source of capital, it said.

Kiran Grandhi, corporate chairman, GMR Group, said, "Over recent years, we have successfully reduced a significant quantum of corporate debt. We have also demerged GMR

DEBT REFINANCE

₹4,477 crore
total debt of GMR Enterprises

■ GMR Group to use the funds to refinance external debt of GMR Airports promoter GMR Enterprises



■ GMR promoter group's pledge on its shareholding in GMR Airports to reduce significantly upon the completion of the deal

■ Also, the promoter will be able to consolidate multiple lenders into a single source of capital

Power and Urban Infra from GMR Airports Infrastructure, and merged GMR Airports with GMR Airports Infrastructure to form GMRAirports, a pure play, publicly-listed airport platform. This investment from ADIA will facilitate the repayment of all external debt at GEPL, strengthening our ability to support the continued growth of GMR Airports."

Khadem AlRemeithi, executive director of the infrastructure department at ADIA, said, "India's aviation sector has strong growth prospects, backed by the positive long-term fundamentals of the Indian economy, while GMR Group is one of the country's leading airport operators. This investment aligns with our approach of backing entities that are developing world class transport assets."





Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

24 OCTOBER 2024

कोलकाता हवाईअड्डे पर 15 घंटे के लिए उड़ानें स्थगित

चक्रवात

कोलकाता, एजेसी। चक्रवाती तूफान 'दाना' के संभावित प्रभाव को ध्यान में रखते हुए कोलकाता हवाईअड्डे के अधिकारियों ने गुरुवार शाम छह बजे से 15 घंटे के लिए उड़ानों का परिचालन स्थगित करने का फैसला किया है।

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण के अफसर ने बताया कि वात्रियों, एयरलाइन कर्मचारियों, विभिन्न उपकरणों और बुनियादी ढांचे की सुरक्षा को ध्यान में रखते हुए यह कदम उठाया गया है।

पूर्वी रेलवे के सियालदह डिवीजन में 190 लोकल ट्रेनें रह : चक्रवाती तूफान 'दाना' के मद्देनजर पूर्वी रेलवे अपने सियालदह डिवीजन में गुरुवार रात 8 से शुक्रवार सुबह 10 बजे तक 190 लोकल ट्रेनों का संचालन नहीं करेगा। यह कदम ट्रेन यात्रियों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एहतियाती

मदुरै में भारी बारिश से बाढ़, लोग परेशान

मदुरै (तमिलनाडु)। मदुरै में लगातार भारी बारिश के कारण बुधवार को कई इलाकों में बाढ़ आ गई। पंडालकोड़ी नहर के उफान से पानी रिहायशी इलाकों में घुस गया है। शहर में बाढ़ के कारण निवासियों को काफी मुश्किलों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। तमिलनाडु में इस समय पूर्वोत्तर मानसून की भारी बारिश हो रही है, जिससे चेन्नई और मदुरै दोनों जगहों पर भारी नुकसान हुआ है। भारतीय मौसम विभाग ने राज्य में भारी बारिश का अनुमान लगाया है। चक्रवाती तूफान 'दाना' के मद्देनजर तमिलनाडु के कई जिलों में भारी बारिश हो सकती है।

उपाय के रूप में उठाया गया है। पूर्वी रेलवे के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि 190 ट्रेनें जो रद्द रहेंगी, वे सियालदह दक्षिण और हसनाबाद सेक्शन में हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

24 OCTOBER 2024



GEPL aims to refinance its debt with ADIA's credit. [www](#)

GMR promoter to borrow ₹6,300 cr from ADIA

Nehal Chakravarti
nehal.chakravarti@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

The GMR Group's promoter entity, GMR Enterprise Pvt. Ltd (GEPL), on Wednesday said it will refinance its existing debt with a ₹6,300 crore credit line from Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA).

The funding line will help GEPL consolidate all its debt under one facility and reduce its pledge on the shares of the group's listed airport company, as per a press statement.

GEPL holds 25.4% stake in GMR Airports Ltd (GAL), the listed company that operates the Delhi and Hyderabad airports. Currently, 58.3% of the GEPL stake in GMR Airports is pledged, as per BSE data.

"GEPL has the debt on its books for some time now. There is no business with cash flows for it to service this loan, so it kept compounding, and the cost of borrowing also started going up," said a person close to the development of the deal on condition of anonymity. The structured debt facility will be a zero-coupon loan with a tenure of eight years and an interest rate between 13% and 15%, this person said. It will be backed by shares of the listed GMR Airports.

The facility will not only reduce the cost of capital for GEPL but also reduce its risk of refinancing, this person added. The promoter company's current cost of borrowing could not be determined.

"Over recent years, we have successfully reduced a significant quantum of corporate debt," Kiran Grandhi, corporate chairman of GMR Group, said in the aforementioned press statement. "This investment from ADIA will facilitate the repayment of all external debt at GEPL, strengthening our ability to support the continued growth of GAL."

GEPL had a finance cost of ₹866 crore in FY24, which was higher than the ₹840 crore in FY23, as per its FY24 annual report. The company recorded a loss of ₹592 crore in fiscal 2023-24. For ADIA, the investment will give it indirect exposure to the lucrative airports business in India. If the borrower fails to repay at the end of the loan tenure, the investor will have the option of converting the debt into an equity stake in the company, the person cited above said without elaborating further.

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



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

23 OCTOBER 2024

Kolkata airport authorities begin preps

Cyclone 'Dana'

KOLKATA: The authorities of the Kolkata airport have started preparations to tackle any situation arising out of a possible cyclonic storm that could hit coastal areas of Bengal and Odisha on October 25, a senior official said on Tuesday.

A meeting with various stakeholders was held in the evening to discuss issues related to the developing weather system, Director of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Dr Pravat Ranjan Beuria, told a news agency.

The standard operating procedures such as inspection of the airport infrastructure and the drainage system, checking and servicing of all installations are being carried out, he said.

"We are expecting heavy rainfall, which may cause inundation in and around the airport premises. We are working closely with the state government to handle the situation," Beuria said.

Asked about the possible impact on flight operations, he said it will depend on the situation after the cyclone makes landfall.

"Tomorrow at 12.30 pm, another review meeting will be conducted. The closure of the airport will depend upon the crosswind speed, if it exceeds 70 kmph," the official said.

The Met department has forecast a wind speed of 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph on October 25 morning.

"For the moment, the airport officials are following the standard operating procedures," he added.

MPOST



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

24 OCTOBER 2024

GMR gets ₹6.3k cr from ADIA to refinance debt

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

GMR Group has secured ₹6,300 crore in debt funding from the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), the UAE's largest sovereign wealth fund and would use the proceeds for refinancing debt of its promoter group entity GMR Enterprises (GEPL).

GEPL is the promoter of GMR Airports Ltd (GAL). The group operates three airports in India - Delhi, Hyderabad and Goa - and two airports in the Philippines and Indonesia.

"Upon completion, GMR Group will use the proceeds of the transaction to refinance all external debt of GEPL, the promoter of GMR Airports Ltd. Also, upon the completion, the GMR promoter group's pledge on its shareholding in GAL will reduce significantly," said GMR in a statement on Wednesday.

With the funding, GEPL believes that it will be able to consolidate multiple lenders into a single source of capital.



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

24 OCTOBER 2024

धमकी के बाद देशभर में एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा कड़ी

■ विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

आए दिन भारत की फ्लाइटों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी देने वाले मामलों को देखते हुए दिल्ली और मुंबई समेत देश के तमाम हवाई अड्डों पर सुरक्षा जांच और

बढ़ा दी गई है। सुरक्षा एजेंसियों का कहना है कि एयर सेक्टर में पहले से ही सुरक्षा के मामले में कोई लापरवाही नहीं बरती जा रही थी। जिस तरह से धमकियों का ग्राफ बढ़ता जा रहा है, उसे

देखते हुए एक बार और यह सुनिश्चित करना जरूरी है कि प्लेन, यात्रियों और इनके लगेज की जांच में कहीं कोई कमी तो नहीं रह गई। हालांकि, हवाई अड्डों की सुरक्षा संभालने वाली सीआईएसएफ के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि उनकी तरफ से सुरक्षा स्तर को इतना अधिक नहीं बढ़ाया जा रहा, जिससे यात्रियों को कोई अधिक परेशानी हो। बस, सबकुछ

फ़ाइनल होने के बाद एक बार और यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कहा गया है कि सबकुछ ओके है। दूसरी तरफ इंडिगो समेत अन्य एयरलाइंस ने बताया कि कई दिनों के बाद बुधवार को ऐसा दिन आया। जब उनकी फ्लाइट के लिए कोई धमकी

नहीं दी गई। लेकिन खबर मिल रही है कि धमकी मिलने का यह मसला अब इंडिया से आगे इंग्लैंड पहुंच गया है, जहां बर्मिंघम एयरपोर्ट को धमकी मिली है। धमकी मिलने के

बाद एयरपोर्ट को पूरी सुरक्षा जांच पूरी होने तक बंद कर दिया गया था। एजेंसियों का कहना है कि अभी तक जितनी भी धमकियां मिली हैं, सभी की जांच की जा रही है। क्या धमकियां भारत के बाहर से भी किसी देश से दी जा रही हैं। इस बारे में फिलहाल जांच एजेंसियां किसी भी देश का नाम नहीं ले रही हैं। एजेंसियों का कहना है कि तफ़्तीश जारी है।

धमकियां कहा से दी जा रही, इस बारे में अभी एजेंसियां कर रही जांच



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

23 OCTOBER 2024

Bomb scare forces emergency landing at Kolkata airport



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 22 OCTOBER

A bomb scare on a flight from Kolkata to Pune caused panic. The Akasa Air flight was forced to make an emergency landing.

Shortly after the plane took off from Kolkata airport on Tuesday evening, a call was received claiming there was a bomb on board. The Pune-bound flight was immediately brought back to Kolkata's Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport. As news of the 'bomb' spread, there was chaos at the airport. Emergency measures were taken on the runway. After the plane landed, all passengers were deboarded and a search operation began.

Earlier, there was a stir caused by false news about bombs being placed on 32

planes within 24 hours.

On Saturday, a threat was made claiming that bombs were placed on a total of 32 planes from several airlines in the country. These planes included those from Air India, IndiGo, Akasa Air, Vistara, SpiceJet, and other airlines. After the planes landed, they were searched, but no bombs or explosives were found on any of them. Following this, the central government held a meeting with the CEOs of the airlines on Saturday.

Later, Mumbai police arrested a 17-year-old boy from Chhattisgarh in connection with the threat incident. According to sources, this boy had issued threats of 19 bomb explosions. During police interrogation, he revealed that he did this due to a dispute with his business partner.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

23 OCTOBER 2024

Crosswinds may trigger airport closure: Officials

**SANJAY MANDAL AND
DEBRAJ MITRA**

Calcutta: The city airport could be shut down for several hours even if Cyclone Dana spares Calcutta.

In a meeting with the airport authorities on Tuesday, the Met department predicted crosswinds at 50-70kmph and rainfall between 70mm and 200mm in Dum Dum between October 24 afternoon and the next morning.

According to airport officials, crosswinds above 70kmph are dangerous for flights.

The airport's two parallel runways stretch in a north-south direction. "The winds from the Bay of Bengal are supposed to blow from east

to west. Which means flights would face crosswinds while landing and taking off," said an airport official.

"The critical effect of the cyclone will start on October 24 afternoon and the landfall is expected early on October 25. At present, all operations are normal."

A review will be held again at 12.30pm on Wednesday and a decision will be taken on whether to shut down the airport or not.

"Any decision on closing the airport will depend on the speed of the crosswinds," the official said.

In May, the airport was shut down for 21 hours because of crosswinds triggered by Cyclone Remal. More than 400 flights were cancelled



A meeting at the airport to prepare for the cyclone

and more than 200 overflying flights were diverted.

Apart from crosswinds, airport sources said, heavy rain could lead to waterlogging in some of the operation-

al areas, which can affect flight operations.

Trains

South Eastern Railway cancelled more than 150 trains

between Wednesday and Friday. Many of them are from Howrah, Shalimar and Sant-ragachhi.

The long-distance trains cancelled on Thursday include the Falaknuma Express (between Howrah and Secunderabad), Dhauli Express (between Shalimar and Puri), East Coast Express (between Shalimar and Hyderabad), Shatabdi Express (between Howrah and Puri) and the Coromandel Express (between Shalimar and Chennai).

The trains from Bengal cancelled on Friday are mostly from Digha and Kharagpur.

Eastern Railway has also cancelled more than a dozen express trains between Wednesday and Friday. The Sealdah-Puri Durgam Ex-

press on Wednesday, the return train on Thursday and the Kolkata-Puri Express on Thursday are among the ones cancelled.

An Eastern Railway official said more than 150 local trains have been cancelled, most of them in the Sealdah South suburban section.

"Pumps are being installed in areas prone to waterlogging. Diesel generators are being set up in major stations like Howrah and Sealdah. Additional engineering, signal and telecom staff will be deployed at the stations that are likely to bear the brunt of the storm, such as Namkhana, Diamond Harbour, Hasnabad and Bandel," said an official of Eastern Railway.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

23 OCTOBER 2024

Bombshell bluffs continue: City airport gets two more hoax threats

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: In a recurring nightmare for passengers, airlines, airport operator, security agencies and other stakeholders, two more incidents of bomb threats were reported at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) airport in Ahmedabad. These threats were later found to be hoaxes.

This is the fourth such incident in the past seven days reported at Ahmedabad airport.

Both threats were received on social media. The first one arrived soon after Flight 6E 318 from Kolkata



The first threat came after Flight 6E 318 from Kolkata landed at 5.30pm. The second came in at 5.42pm for Flight 6E 381 on its way from Goa to Ahmedabad

landed at 5.30pm. The second alert came in at 5.42pm for Flight 6E 381, which was en route from Goa to Ahmedabad.

"Flights 6E 318 and 6E 381 received security-related alerts. All customers were safely disembarked," an IndiGo Airlines spokesperson said in a statement.

They were among 50 domestic flights across India that received hoax threats on Tuesday.

Soon after the threat was received, the SVPI airport's bomb threat assessment committee convened to assess the situation, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was mobilised and passengers were

safely deboarded. The planes were checked to rule out threats.

Recently, the Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu announced that additional security checks have been implemented at airports across the country.

He proposed stricter penalties, including a 5-year jail term and a no-fly list for perpetrators.

In nine days, more than 170 flights operated by Indian carriers have received bomb threats, mostly through social media, that also forced the diversion of some of the international flights.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

23 OCTOBER 2024

Nearly 50 flights receive bomb threats on Tuesday

In little over a week, over 170 flights operated by Indian carriers have got bomb threats

NEW DELHI, Oct 22: 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 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.

Nearly 50 flights ...

(Contd from page 1)

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 re-directed to Medina.

The other flights of IndiGo that received threats were 6E 83 (Delhi to Dammam), 6E 18 (Istanbul to Mumbai), 6E 12 (Istanbul to Delhi), 6E 164 (Mangaluru to Mumbai), 6E 75 (Ahmedabad to Jeddah), 6E 67 (Hyderabad to Jeddah) and 6E 118 (Lucknow to Pune), according to separate statements

from the airline.

An Air India spokesperson confirmed that some Air India flights that operated on Monday 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, as per guidance from the regulatory authorities and security agencies," the spokesperson said in a statement.

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

A Vistara spokesperson said a few of its flights that

operated on Monday received security threats on social media.

"We immediately alerted the relevant authorities and are following all security procedures as directed by them," the spokesperson said in a statement.

Specific details were not disclosed.

Even though bomb threats are hoaxes, things cannot be taken non-seriously, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammo-han Naidu said on Monday.

Meanwhile, the government is planning legislative actions to deal with bomb threats to airlines, including placing the perpetrators on the no-fly list. —PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

24 OCTOBER 2024

Air India, SIA expand codeshare partnership

Our Bureau

Mumbai

Air India and Singapore Airlines (SIA) are enhancing their codeshare partnership, adding 11 Indian and 40 international destinations in a first extensive expansion of the arrangement since 2010.

The expansion comes in the backdrop of the impending merger between Vistara and Air India.

It will give Air India better access in markets in South-east Asia and Australia, and bring more passenger feed to its India-Europe flights. While a codeshare gives passengers benefits like a single itinerary, through check-in and frequent flyer miles, it allows airlines to expand their reach and increase revenue.

From October 27, the two airlines will codeshare on each other's flights between Singapore-Chennai and Singapore-Bengaluru.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

23 OCTOBER 2024

इस बार भी झूठी निकली बम की सूचना, 180 यात्री सवार थे कोलकाता फ्लाइट में बम की सूचना; इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग, एक घंटा सघन जांच, कुछ नहीं मिला

एविएशन रिपोर्टर | जयपुर

पिछले 20 दिन में जयपुर सहित देश के अन्य एयरपोर्ट्स को लगातार बम थ्रेट मिल रहे हैं। अब मंगलवार शाम करीब 5 बजे कोलकाता से जयपुर पहुंची एक फ्लाइट में बम होने की सूचना से एयरलाइंस स्टाफ में हड़कंप मच गया। वहीं हर बार की तरह यात्री भी परेशान हुए।

दरअसल, एयरपोर्ट से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की फ्लाइट 6ई-394 ने मंगलवार शाम कोलकाता से जयपुर के लिए उड़ान भरी थी। इसी बीच सोशल मीडिया के जरिए विमान को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी एयरलाइंस को मिली। इसके बाद पायलट ने विमान की जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर शाम करीब 5:10 बजे इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग



करवाई। जांच में करीब एक घंटा लगा, इसमें कुछ नहीं मिला। गौरतलब है कि करीब 4 दिन पहले एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की दुबई से जयपुर आ रही फ्लाइट में भी बम थ्रेट की सूचना मिली थी। उसमें भी जयपुर पहुंचने पर जांच के दौरान कुछ नहीं मिला।

फ्लाइट में यात्रियों की जांच: फ्लाइट के जयपुर पहुंचते ही सीआईएसएफ और एंटी बम स्क्वाड

टीम ने फ्लाइट को घेर लिया। इसके बाद उसमें बैठे 180 से अधिक यात्रियों की जांच की गई। इस दौरान करीब ढाई घंटे बुजुर्ग, महिलाएं और बच्चे परेशान होते रहे। जब फ्लाइट में कुछ नहीं मिला तो यात्रियों को जाने दिया गया। इससे पहले 15 अक्टूबर को इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की दम्मम से लखनऊ जा रही फ्लाइट में भी बम की सूचना मिली थी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

23 OCTOBER 2024

80 flights get bomb threats

**MANVI VYAS | DC
with agency inputs**
Hyderabad, Oct. 22

Nearly 80 domestic and international flights received bomb threats in less than 24 hours on Tuesday, keeping thousands of passengers and security agencies on ten-

terhooks. All the threats turned out to be fake.

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

Two flights that took off from Hyderabad received

bomb threats after they landed at their destinations on Tuesday, said RGIA station house officer K. Balaraju. One of the flights was bound to Bengaluru and the other to Jodhpur.

Page 8: In 9 days, 170 flights get bomb threats

In 9 days, 170 flights get bomb threats

FROM PAGE 1

A Bengaluru-Varanasi flight was diverted to Hyderabad after receiving a threat mid-air. Upon landing, the passengers were deboarded and the bomb squad checked the aircraft. After the threat was ruled a fake, the flight was allowed to resume its journey.

The police official said, "We do not really know who exactly has been doing it but all the threats are received via an email, and only by the Delhi Airport. We usually get information from the Delhi airport control room about such threats."

On Monday, an Akasa Air flight that had taken off from Hyderabad to Jeddah had received a threat.

The aircraft that received threats nationwide included 13 each of IndiGo and Air India, 12 of Air Akasa and 11 flights of Vistara. Around 30 flights of IndiGo, Air India and Vistara got bomb threats on Monday night, they added. In nine days, more than 170 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, according to PTI while the expenses would be around ₹5.5 crore for an international flight.

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, 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. Also, the government is planning legislative actions to deal with bomb threats to airlines, including placing the perpetrators on the no-fly list.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

23 OCTOBER 2024

2 men plead guilty to murder of Air India bombing suspect

Ripudaman Singh
was shot dead
in 2022

OTTAWA, PTI

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 Westminster 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 involved 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.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

23 OCTOBER 2024

Over 70 flights get bomb threats in 24 hrs; tally reaches 180 in over a week

Airlines incur Rs 600-cr losses due to disruptions

NEW DELHI, DHNS & PTI

Around 50 domestic and international flights received bomb threats on Tuesday, while another 30 got threats on Monday night, with three Jeddah-bound flights getting diverted to airports in Saudi Arabia's Riyadh and Medina and Qatar's capital Doha, officials said.

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

With this, airlines have received around 170-180 threat messages since October 14, even as the government said it plans to identify threat messages to airlines as cognisable offence and put such callers on a no-fly list.

Twenty-three each flight of IndiGo and Air India and 21 of Vistara received bomb threats. At least 12 flights of Akasa Air have also received threats.

IndiGo's flights included Mangaluru to Mumbai, Ahmedabad to Jeddah, Lucknow to Pune, Hyderabad to Jeddah, Istanbul to Mumbai, Delhi to Dammam, Bengaluru to Jeddah, Istanbul to Delhi, Kozhikode to Jeddah, Delhi to Jeddah. Of this, the Bengaluru to Jeddah flight was redirected to Doha while the Kozhikode to Jeddah flight was redirected to Riyadh. The Delhi to Jeddah flight was redirected to Medina, statements issued by IndiGo said.

It also included Bengaluru to Lucknow, Aizawl to Kolkata, Kolkata to Bengaluru, Mumbai to Istanbul, Kolkata to Jaipur, Kolkata to Ahmedabad, Hyderabad to Jodhpur, Lucknow to Goa, Goa to Ahmedabad, Pune to Dehradun, and Surat to Goa.

"The safety and security of our customers and crew remains paramount in all facets of our operations. We worked

closely with the relevant authorities, and standard operating procedures were followed," IndiGo said.

On average, disruption to a domestic flight would cost around Rs 1.5 crore while the expenses would be around Rs 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 Rs 3.5 crore, and for more than 170 flights, the total expenses or loss for the airlines would be around Rs 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 domestic airline, said the operational costs are higher for wide-body planes compared to narrow-body planes.

मामले में एक्स पर बरसा केंद्र

कहा, एक्स अधिकारियों का कृत्य अपराध को बढ़ावा देने जैसा

नई दिल्ली, आइएनएस: पिछले कुछ समय से भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों की उड़ानों को लगातार बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिल रही है। इनमें से कई धमकियां एलन मस्क के स्वामित्व वाले इंटरनेट मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स के जरिये दी गई हैं। अब सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय ने एक्स को फटकार लगाई है और पूछा है कि इस तरह की अफवाहों को फैलाने से रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं? एक्स (पूर्व में ट्विटर) के साथ भारत सरकार के संबंधों में पहले भी तल्खी रही है। विवादित पोस्ट को हटाने के मुद्दे पर सरकार एक्स के खिलाफ अदालत तक का दरवाजा खटखटा चुकी है। सरकार एक्स के अधिकारियों को आगाह कर चुकी है कि उनको स्थानीय कानूनों का पालन करना होगा।

विमानों को बम की धमकियों के मद्देनजर केंद्र सरकार ने बुधवार को सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के संयुक्त सचिव संकेत एस भोंडवे की अध्यक्षता में वर्चुअल बैठक बुलाई। इस बैठक में विमानन कंपनियों और एक्स तथा मेटा जैसे इंटरनेट मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म के प्रतिनिधि शामिल हुए। इस दौरान आइटी मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने कहा कि एक्स का कृत्य अपराध को बढ़ावा देने जैसा है। उन्होंने एक्स के प्रतिनिधियों से सवाल किया, इस तरह की खतरनाक अफवाहों को फैलाने से रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

पिछले कुछ दिनों से दी जा रही आनलाइन धमकियों ने यात्रियों में दहशत पैदा कर दी है और सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के लिए खतरे की घंटी

गृह मंत्रालय ने साइबर कमांडो की विशेष शाखा बनाने के लिए जारी की एडवाइजरी

नई दिल्ली, एनआइ: देश में बढ़ते साइबर खतरों के बीच गृह मंत्रालय ने मंगलवार को साइबर कमांडो की एक विशेष शाखा की स्थापना के लिए सभी राज्यों को एडवाइजरी जारी की है। केंद्र की यह एडवाइजरी भारतीय एयरलाइंस को 100 से अधिक फर्जी बम की धमकियां मिलने के बाद जारी हुई है। बम धमकियों से यात्रियों को काफी असुविधा हुई और

एयरलाइंस को नुकसान हुआ है। एयरलाइंस को ज्यादातर धमकियां एक्स पर मौजूद अकाउंट पर पोस्ट किए गए थे और अकाउंट वर्चुअल प्राइवेट नेटवर्क (वीपीएन) या डार्क वेब ब्राउजर का उपयोग करके बनाए गए थे, जिनका जांच एजेंसियां पता लगाने में असमर्थ रही हैं। भारतीय साइबर अपराध समन्वय केंद्र (आइ4सी) द्वारा यह निर्णय लिया गया है।

चकेरी एयरपोर्ट को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी

जागरण संवाददाता, कानपुर: वाराणसी, जयपुर और नागपुर समेत देश के 30 एयरपोर्ट को उड़ाने की धमकी के बाद अब चकेरी एयरपोर्ट को बम से उड़ाने का ईमेल प्रकाश में आया है। इसकी जानकारी केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय को दे दी गई थी, लेकिन मुकदमा अब लिखाया गया है। मुकदमा सीआइएसएफ के सहायक कमांडेंट केएस राठीर ने चकेरी थाने में दर्ज कराया है। चकेरी एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षा और सख्त कर दी गई है।



चकेरी एयरपोर्ट • फाइल फोटो

चकेरी एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा में लगे सीआइएसएफ के सहायक कमांडेंट केएस राठीर के मुताबिक, चार से छह अक्टूबर तक सीआइएसएफ के विशेष विमानन सुरक्षा समूह कानपुर की ईमेल पर धमकी भरा मैसेज दिया गया।

बजा दी है। फर्जी काल के बाद कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय और घरेलू उड़ानों को डायवर्ट किया गया और आपात लैंडिंग करानी पड़ी। इससे विमानन कंपनियों को काफी नुकसान उठाना पड़ रहा है। पिछले कुछ दिनों में

भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों द्वारा संचालित लगभग डेढ़ सौ उड़ानों को बम की धमकियां मिली हैं। मंगलवार को इंडिगो, विस्तारा और एअर इंडिया द्वारा संचालित 30 उड़ानों को ऐसी धमकियां मिलीं।

विमानों को धमकी मामले में एक्स पर बरसा केंद्र

नई दिल्ली, आइएनएस : पिछले कुछ समय से भारतीय कंपनियों के विमानों को लगातार बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिल रही है। इनमें से कई धमकियां एलन मस्क के स्वामित्व वाले इंटरनेट मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स के जरिये दी गई हैं। अब सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय ने एक्स को फटकार लगाई है और पूछा है कि इस तरह की अफवाहों को फैलाने से रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं? ज्ञात हो, एक्स (पूर्व में ट्विटर) के साथ भारत सरकार के संबंधों में पहले भी तलखी रही है। विवादित पोस्ट को हटाने के मुद्दे पर सरकार एक्स के खिलाफ अदालत तक का दरवाजा खटखटा चुकी है। सरकार एक्स के अधिकारियों को आगाह कर चुकी है कि उनको स्थानीय कानूनों का पालन करना होगा।

विमानों को बम की धमकियों के मद्देनजर केंद्र सरकार ने बुधवार को सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के संयुक्त सचिव संकेत एस भोंडवे की अध्यक्षता में वर्चुअल बैठक बुलाई। इस बैठक में विमानन कंपनियों और एक्स तथा मेटा जैसे इंटरनेट मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म के प्रतिनिधि शामिल हुए। इस दौरान आइटी

आइटी मंत्रालय ने कहा, एक्स अधिकारियों का कृत्य अपराध को बढ़ावा देने जैसा



सरकार ने विमानन कंपनियों और इंटरनेट मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म के अधिकारियों की बुलाई बैठक



मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने कहा कि एक्स का कृत्य अपराध को बढ़ावा देने जैसा है। उन्होंने एक्स के प्रतिनिधियों से सवाल किया कि इस तरह की खतरनाक अफवाहों को फैलाने से रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

पिछले कुछ दिनों से दी जा रही आनलाइन धमकियों ने यात्रियों में दहशत पैदा कर दी है और सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के लिए खतरे की घंटी बजा दी है। फर्जी

काल के बाद कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय और घरेलू उड़ानों को डायवर्ट किया गया और आपात लैंडिंग करानी पड़ी। इससे विमानन कंपनियों को काफी नुकसान उठाना पड़ रहा है। पिछले कुछ दिनों में भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों द्वारा संचालित लगभग डेढ़ सौ उड़ानों को बम की धमकियां मिली हैं। मंगलवार को इंडिगो, विस्तारा और एअर इंडिया द्वारा संचालित 30 उड़ानों को ऐसी धमकियां मिलीं।

बताते चलें, विमानों में बम होने की फर्जी धमकी देने वाले आरोपित सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के लिए चुनौती बन गए हैं। मुंबई पुलिस की अपराध शाखा ने कुछ इंटरनेट मीडिया हैंडल और ईमेल पत्तों की जानकारी हासिल करने के लिए एक्स और हाटमेल से संपर्क किया है। इन धमकियों के लिए जिम्मेदार अपराधी अत्यधिक सुरक्षित वर्चुअल प्राइवेट नेटवर्क (वीपीएन) का उपयोग कर रहे हैं, जिससे अकाउंट की उत्पत्ति का पता लगाना मुश्किल होता है। विशेषज्ञों का दावा है कि आरोपित को इंटरनेट मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म, सुरक्षा एजेंसियों व वीपीएन प्रदाताओं जैसे भागीदारों के सहयोग से ही गिरफ्तार किया जा सकता है।

24 घंटे में 80 उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी

जेएनएन, नई दिल्ली : पिछले 24 घंटे के दौरान करीब 80 घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। हालांकि, 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। ज्यादातर धमकियां ईमेल या एक्स के जरिये मिलीं। धमकियों के चलते कुछ अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को डायवर्ट भी करना पड़ा।

जांच से जुड़े अधिकारियों ने कहा कि जिन उड़ानों को धमकियां मिलीं,



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।

उनमें से कुछ को डायवर्ट करना पड़ा, जबकि कुछ की लैंडिंग के बाद आइसोलेशन-बे में ले जाकर सघन तलाशी ली गई। छानबीन के बाद धमकियों को फर्जी पाया गया। 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 हेंडल से कई उड़ानों से जुड़ी धमकियां दी जाती थीं, लेकिन अब अलग-अलग हेंडल से अलग-अलग एयरलाइंस की उड़ानों के बारे में धमकियां दी जा रही हैं। नई दिल्ली में मंगलवार को आइजीआई 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 की गई।

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। विधाननगर कमिश्नरेंट के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि फोन करने वाले व्यक्ति का मानसिक स्वास्थ्य ठीक नहीं पाया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

23 OCTOBER 2024

हैदराबाद से जोधपुर आ रहे इंडिगो के विमान में बम की सूचना

इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग कराई, सर्च के बाद रवाना

नवज्योति/जोधपुर। इंडिगो के विमानों में बम की सूचना मिलने का दौर थमने का नाम नहीं ले रहा। मंगलवार को जोधपुर एयरपोर्ट पर हैदराबाद से जोधपुर की ओर आ रही इंडिगो की फ्लाइट में बम होने की सूचना पर हड़कंप मच गया। मौके पर प्रशासनिक अधिकारी और एजेंसियां पहुंची व जांच शुरू की। हालांकि तलाशी के दौरान कोई बमनुमा वस्तु नहीं मिली। इस बार फिर वह सूचना पहले की सूचना की तरह खोखली निकली। जानकारी अनुसार इंडिगो की फ्लाइट 6ई297 में बम होने की सूचना मिली थी। इंडिगो के ऑफिस में मेल के जरिए इस फ्लाइट में बम होने की सूचना दी गई थी। फ्लाइट के शाम 4.40 बजे के करीब जोधपुर एयरपोर्ट पहुंचने पर उसे सेफ जोन में लैंड करवाया और आइसोलेशन वे पर लिया गया। फ्लाइट को आइसोलेशन में लेने के बाद सुरक्षा एजेंसी ईआरटी और सीआईएसएफ के जवान डॉग स्क्वाड के साथ मौके पर पहुंचे। यात्रियों की तलाशी साथ ही पूरी फ्लाइट की तलाशी ली गई। इसके बाद फ्लाइट को रवाना किया गया।

जयपुर में विमान की इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग

जयपुर। बम श्रेट के चलते मंगलवार को एक फ्लाइट को जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग कराई गई। इस फ्लाइट में 183 यात्री और 7 क्रू मेंबर मौजूद थे। इंडिगो एयरलाइन कंपनी की कोलकाता से जयपुर आ रही फ्लाइट में बम श्रेट की सूचना मिली। इस पर एटीसी को सूचना देकर इस फ्लाइट को इमरजेंसी में शाम 5.30 बजे जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षित तरीके से लैंड कराया गया। इसके बाद सुरक्षाकर्मियों ने विमान को चारों तरफ से घेर कर सभी पहलुओं की जांच कर यात्रियों को सुरक्षित तरीके से बाहर निकाला। इसके बाद इस फ्लाइट को स्टेट हैंगर के पास टैंगो टैक्सी पर पार्क कराया गया।

● 40 GLOBAL DESTINATIONS ADDED

Air India, Singapore Airlines expand codeshare pact



The announcement comes ahead of Vistara's merger with Air India, which will result in SIA holding a minority stake in the enlarged Air India

FINANCIAL EXPRESS ECONOMIC BUREAU
New Delhi, October 23

AIR INDIA AND SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) have expanded their codeshare agreement by adding 11 Indian cities and 40 international destinations, marking the first extensive expansion of codeshare arrangements between the two carriers since 2010. The expanded codeshare network will be rolled out from October 27, and both airlines plan to progressively include more destinations under the arrangement.

The announcement comes ahead of Vistara's merger with Air India, which will result in SIA holding a minority stake in the enlarged Air India. Currently, SIA holds 4.9% stake in Vistara with the Tata group holding 51%. After the merger, SIA will own 25.1% stake in Air India. The merger and the consequent shareholding of SIA in Air India is expected to lead to more

synergies between the airlines and the codeshare expansion may be seen as a step in that direction.

Under a codeshare agreement, an airline can market tickets on flights operated by a partner airline, thus giving the option of a wider and more enhanced network and more connections to its flyers, apart from streamlined ticketing, check-in, and baggage services.

"From 27 October 2024, Air India and SIA will codeshare on each other's flights, between Singapore and the Indian cities of Bengaluru and Chennai, increasing their total weekly scheduled codeshare services between the countries to 56 from 14," Air India and SIA said.

SIA will codeshare on Air India's domestic flights between Delhi and Amritsar, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Lucknow, and Varanasi, between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Goa, Jaipur,

Kolkata, Lucknow, and Thiruvananthapuram, as well as between Kolkata and Guwahati.

Air India customers will be able to access 29 destinations across SIA's network. These are Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney in Australia; Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei; Phnom Penh and Siem Reap in Cambodia; Denpasar, Jakarta, Medan and Surabaya in Indonesia; Fukuoka, Nagoya, Osaka, Tokyo-Haneda, and Tokyo-Narita in Japan; Busan and Seoul in South Korea; Kuala Lumpur and Penang in Malaysia; Auckland in New Zealand; Cebu and Manila in the Philippines, as well as Danang, Hanoi, and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

SIA customers will be able to connect to Air India's international services from Bengaluru, Delhi, and Mumbai to 12 destinations across Europe, West Asia and Africa.





Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

24 OCTOBER 2024

विमानों को धमकी पर केंद्र ने एक्स-मेटा को फटकारा

सख्ती

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। एक हफ्ते के भीतर 170 विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकियों के बीच सरकार ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स और मेटा को कड़ी फटकार लगाई है।

बुधवार को इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के संयुक्त सचिव संकेत एस भोंडवे ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म से जुड़े अधिकारियों के साथ वर्चुअल बैठक की और कहा कि समय पर कार्रवाई नहीं करना अपराध को बढ़ावा देने के बराबर है।

एक्स अधिकारियों से पूछा, क्या कार्रवाई की: मंत्रालय ने कहा, अगर कोई धमकी भरा पोस्ट कर रहा है तो उसकी रियल टाइम जानकारी सुरक्षा

- कार्रवाई नहीं करना अपराध को बढ़ावा देना
- तत्काल कार्रवाई करने के निर्देश दिए गए

एजेंसियों को भी दें, ताकि धमकी देने वाले शरारती तत्वों पर सख्ती से कार्रवाई की जा सके। बैठक में शामिल एक्स व मेटा के अधिकारियों से पूछा गया कि अभी तक उन्होंने क्या कार्रवाई की है? कितने खातों को ब्लॉक किया गया और जांच एजेंसी को कितने मामले में जानकारी दी गई है। बैठक में विमानन कंपनियों के अधिकारी भी जुड़े।

जबलपुर एयरपोर्ट को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी: इधर, मध्य प्रदेश के जबलपुर स्थित डुमना एयरपोर्ट को उड़ाने की धमकी दी गई।

On Boeing 737's 'defective' rudder system

Why are certain variants of the Boeing 737 under the scanner? What did the investigation of the United States National Transportation Safety Board into the aircraft find? What is the function of a rudder rollout guidance actuator?

EXPLAINER

Murali N. Krishnaswamy

The story so far:

Certain variants of the Boeing 737 (fitted with a 'rollout guidance actuator') are under the scanner over an issue that concerns the potential for the occurrence of a jammed or restricted rudder control system. The United States National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has put out safety alerts to the manufacturer, Boeing, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Flowing from this, India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation has issued directives to Boeing 737 operators in India. The issue has arisen after an NTSB investigation into an incident on February 6, 2024, involving a United Airlines Boeing 737-8 MAX flight, UA 1539, from Nassau in the Bahamas to Newark, U.S. In 2019, two similar events had occurred with foreign airlines.

What was the issue?

During the landing rollout phase of flight 1539, the rudder pedals were found to be "stuck" in the neutral position. Despite the use of pedal force of about 42 pounds by the crew there was no movement which resulted in the captain having had to use the nosewheel steering tiller to control the aircraft's direction. The crew then found the copilot to be experiencing the same problem.

The crew applied more pedal force (flight data recorded it to be about 59 pounds) which resolved the issue. The problem was reported to the airline's maintenance department. There was no damage to the aircraft which was removed from service for checks.

What did the flight data show?

Examination of the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) data aligned with the pilot's statements of a malfunction. The data also showed increasing force inputs to the rudder pedals 'even as the rudder surface position remained near its neutral position'. But with significant pedal force by the crew for the second time after landing, the rudder pedals and rudder began to function normally.

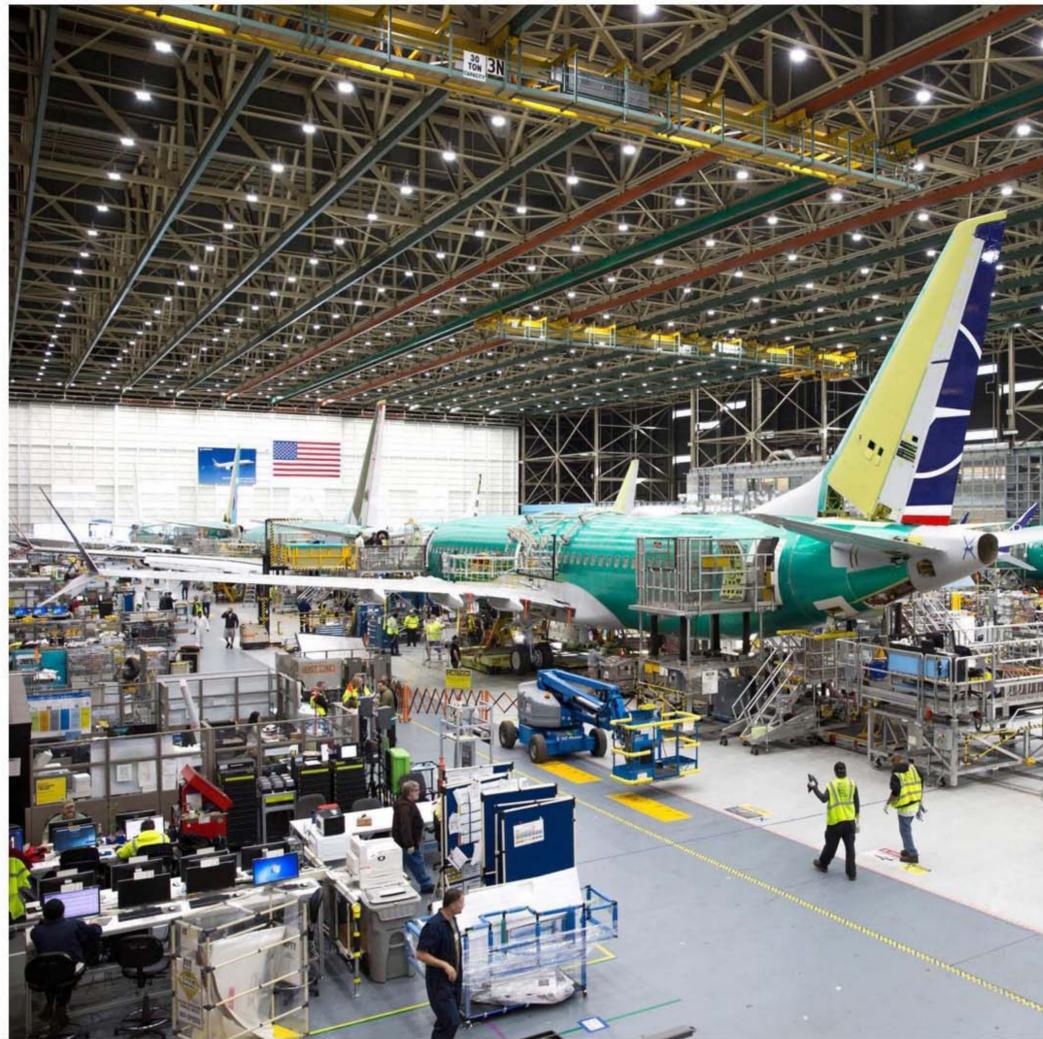
On February 9, 2024, United Airlines did a test flight with the incident aircraft wherein there was a recurrence of the malfunction. After landing, the NTSB was notified. An investigation began which included United, the FAA, Boeing and Collins Aerospace, the manufacturer of the rudder component in question, called the rollout guidance actuator. A preliminary report which detailed the circumstances of the event was published on March 12.

The FDR data were analysed at the NTSB laboratory in Washington DC. In addition, there was an inspection of the rudder control system but no obvious malfunctions were detected. But still, certain parts of the rudder system components were removed for detailed inspections. After this, United conducted a second test flight where the rudder control system operated normally.

How does the rudder issue come into the picture?

As a part of the aircraft tail, the rudder plays a crucial role in aircraft control around the yaw axis (one of the axis of aircraft motion) and is vital in coordinated turning, ground directional control, crosswind landings and even in the event of engine failure.

As a Boeing 737 pilot explains, the rudder pedals on the 737 which move the rudder in different ways are connected



Assembling aircraft: Employees work on Boeing 737 MAX airplanes at the Boeing Renton Factory in Renton, Washington on March 27, 2019. AFP

through cables to what is called a torque tube mechanism. This in turn is connected to a Power Control Unit or PCU; there is a standby unit as well. All this is in what is called a closed loop mechanism, so the position of the pedals corresponds to the position of the rudder. While in flight, the PCU also helps the flight crew coordinate turns with the roll from the ailerons (on the aircraft wings) which help in banking to turn.

Some 737s have a separate system to move the rudder and this is where the component made by Collins Aerospace comes into the picture. The United Airlines 737 was fitted with a Collins Aerospace SVO-730 rudder rollout guidance actuator. This is a component that is linked to another aspect of aircraft operations. In conjunction with the aircraft autopilot, the actuator plays a role in a certain type of instrument landing system (ILS) approach called CAT III, more specifically in CAT IIIB operations. In normal aircraft operations, ILS approaches are also linked to weather and visibility. In India, 'CAT III landing' is a term that comes into focus in airports and flight operations in northern India especially during the winter season when fog/bad weather affects visibility.

There is another aspect of aircraft operations in CAT III and when the aircraft's autoland function is used. Here the aircraft will basically land by itself using the autopilot systems. In CAT III, the crew inputs occur during the landing phase where, after the autopilot is disconnected, there is need for directional control. In CAT IIIB, the

autopilot remains connected. And the rudder rollout guidance actuator, which is an additional rudder component feature, enables the autopilot to work directly with the rudder through the landing phase. Out of the thousands of 737s that have been manufactured, only a small number of 737s have been equipped to carry out CAT IIIB autoland.

In the course of the investigation, the NTSB conducted 'cold chamber' tests on the actuator. The component was found to jam, with significant force (which were beyond the design limits) having to be applied to get parts moving. There was also evidence of moisture and corrosion. In its technical review, Collins determined that a seal in the actuator, in a clutch bearing, had not been assembled correctly during the manufacturing process. In August 2024, Collins notified Boeing that 353 rudder rollout guidance actuators it had delivered to Boeing from February 2017 were affected. Reports are that this could impact about 40 airlines across the world.

What has Boeing said?

In an email to *The Hindu*, Boeing has said that it has reminded operators of the proper actions that flight crew should take were they to encounter rudder restriction. This includes following the checklist for jammed or restricted controls during flight and using various tools to maintain 'centerline' on the ground. It added that it has also shared technical guidance from the supplier.

Boeing also said, "In March and August, we informed affected 737

operators of a potential condition with the rudder rollout guidance actuator, which is part of an optional autoland system. The optional system allows landing during limited visibility CAT IIIB autoland conditions. The actuator is the part of the system that assists pilots to maintain centerline steering. Redundancies within the 737 design allow continued safe operations while the potential condition is being addressed."

About the defence variant of the Boeing 737 or the P-8 (which the Indian Navy operates), Boeing said, "We are working to determine the full scope of this issue as it relates to the P-8 Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft based on the 737 NG and are in contact with our customers. Redundancies within the 737 design allow continued safe operations of the P-8 fleet."

What has the DGCA said?

The DGCA has asked Indian operators of the 737 to simulate scenarios that involve a jammed or restricted rudder control system during pilot recurrent training and instrument rating/pilot proficiency checks. It has also asked airlines to discontinue CAT IIIB operations that include practice or actual autoland until further notice.

Of the three main 737 operators in India, Air India Express has said that five of its aircraft are under inspection while SpiceJet said none of its aircraft is affected. Akasa Air did not respond to queries, but an aviation source said that around 14 of its 737s might have to be checked.

THE GIST

▼ Certain variants of the Boeing 737 (fitted with a 'rollout guidance actuator') are under the scanner over an issue that concerns the potential for the occurrence of a jammed or restricted rudder control system.

▼ During the landing rollout phase of flight 1539, the rudder pedals were found to be "stuck" in the neutral position. Despite the use of pedal force of about 42 pounds by the crew there was no movement.

▼ The DGCA has asked Indian operators of the 737 to simulate scenarios that involve a jammed or restricted rudder control system during pilot recurrent training and instrument rating/pilot proficiency checks.

X emerges hoax hub amid chaos in skies

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: India's IT ministry has sought answers from X (formerly Twitter) as close to 250 flights operated by Indian airlines have received hoax bomb threats this month. All these threats have been through X, with people familiar with the matter saying that the people posting them appear to be doing so from the anonymity of VPNs or virtual private networks.

The IT ministry met virtually with representatives from airlines and social media platforms including X and Meta on Wednesday, and according to people present at the meeting, joint secretary Sanket S Bhondve, who chaired the meeting, asked the representatives of X what the platform was doing

What stakeholders want

INFORMATION ABOUT HOAXERS: IT ministry has told social media firms to promptly give the government and law enforcement agencies information related to the false bomb threats. This includes but is not limited to the details of the person posting the hoax message.

FUNNELING THREAT MESSAGES: The airlines have asked whether there is a mechanism through which social media platforms can prevent threats, hoax or otherwise, from being put out directly. They want the platforms to detect them before they are uploaded and inform authorities.

to prevent such false threats. "The IT ministry told the social media companies to promptly give the government and law enforcement agencies information related to the bomb threats. This includes, but is not limited to the details of the per-

son posting the hoax message," a person who attended the meeting said on condition of anonymity.

HT reached out to X for a response but did not get one immediately.

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multiple formats. The revival of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra could be among the issues that will come up when discussions between the two sides resume, he said.

Modi and Xi briefly reviewed regional and international developments and agreed to maintain close communication on these issues. They also discussed the potential for India and China to enhance cooperation on the Brics platform and Modi assured Xi of India's support for China's presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in 2025.

HOAX THREATS

Under Section 66F of the IT Act, which addresses cyber terrorism, calls and messages made over digital channels and intended to manipulate or interfere with critical infrastructure can be classified as cyber terrorism. It wasn't immediately clear whether the posts on X alleging bombs had been placed on aircraft, have been defined as cyber terrorism by the IT ministry.

The hoax alerts came from X accounts that had mostly been created recently and appeared to have been set up for the purpose of making those posts. Two of the accounts that HT could identify were @schizobomber777 and @adamlanza111. The second account, its handle apparently inspired by the name of a 2012 school mass shooter in the US, was created more recently and continued tweeting the fake bomb alert messages on at least two days – Friday and Saturday, by when the issue had already become a serious problem.

It is unclear why X did not implement any additional safeguards once the bomb hoaxes began following a similar pattern since the Monday before -- newly created accounts, warning of "bombs" and "explosions" and tagging a set of 7 Indian airline handles. Since Elon Musk took over, the company has been criticised for unravelling its trust and safety operations that oversaw monitoring and action against its service's abuse.

HT has sent X a detailed questionnaire.

Legal experts said that 66F of the IT Act, when used with Sections 351 and 353 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita or BNS, dealing with criminal intimidation including threats aimed at

instilling fear, and statements amounting to public mischief, are adequate to deal with such hoaxes.

Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu told news channel India Today that the IT Department was "strongly pursuing these cases". "Most threats coming through social media. We are trying to find these hoaxes through IP address," he said.

The spate in hoaxes has increased the carriers' burden as a number of flights have had to be diverted, delayed, or subjected to searches after posts on social media said they had bombs on board. 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.

"The airlines have asked the government whether there is a mechanism through which social media platforms can prevent bomb and terror threats, hoax or otherwise, to be uploaded publicly. The airlines want social media companies to proactively detect them before they are uploaded and report them to the relevant authorities," another person aware of the discussions said.

At least one Indian airline, Air India, attended this meeting but HT did not get a response from the carrier till the time of going to press.

Aviation experts said that airlines and security agencies cannot afford to ignore such threats, but also pointed to the risk of their guard slipping in the wake of repeated false alarms.

Security experts said that the issue is actually sector-agnostic, pointing out that the threats could have been received by banks, say, or schools. The important thing, they added, is for the IT platform involved – in this case X – to crack down on such threats, by making it impossible for people to post them. That isn't happening, they added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

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 — 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 (Cen-

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BOMB THREATS

tral Industrial Security Force) and local police to check the airport and planes. They 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 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 isolation 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.

45 flights get bomb threats in 24 hours

HTC and Agencies

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NEW DELHI: At least 45 domestic and international flights operated by Indian airlines received bomb threats from Monday night till Tuesday afternoon, the aviation sources said.

The major Indian airline companies, including Indigo, Vistara and Air India, received bomb threats for their international and domestic flights on Monday night.

Vistara Airlines confirmed receiving security threats via social media and following protocol after that.

"We confirm that a few of Vistara's flights operating on 21 October 2024 received security threats on social media. We immediately alerted the relevant authorities and are following all security procedures as directed by them. At Vistara, the safety and security of our customers, crew, and aircraft are of utmost importance," the Vistara spokesperson said.

Air India and Akasa Air also confirmed that some of its flights were subject to hoax security alerts on Monday.

"We confirm that some Air

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

India flights were subject to hoax security alerts received on social media on 21 October 2024. 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. All the flights have

landed safely. The safety and security of our passengers, crew, and aircraft remain our top priority," an Air India official said.

Indigo also informed that they were working closely with the relevant authorities and standard operating procedures were being followed.

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BOMB THREATS

Separately, 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 on Tuesday, police officers said, adding these too turned out to be 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). A senior Delhi Police officer, who did not wish to be named, said the cyber cell has launched a probe in to the threat mail that came a day after a blast along the boundary of wall of CRPF Public School in Delhi's Rohini.

The latest threat email was received by Monday night. It claimed that the improvised devices may explode on the schools' premises by 11am Tuesday.

Most of the international flights that received the threats were bound for Jeddah in Saudi Arabia or bound for India from Istanbul in Turkey.

The threats came a day after civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said the ministry has ordered additional checks at the airports for the safety of passengers without causing any more inconvenience to them.

Naidu also said 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.

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."

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

INT'L FLIGHTS THAT RECEIVED THE THREATS WERE BOUND FOR JEDDAH

Air India, Singapore Airlines expand codeshare partnership by adding 11 Indian, 40 global destinations

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

AIR INDIA and Singapore Airlines (SIA) have expanded their codeshare agreement by adding 11 Indian cities and 40 international destinations, marking the first extensive expansion of codeshare arrangements between the two carriers since 2010. The expanded codeshare network will be rolled out from October 27, and both airlines plan to progressively include more destinations under the arrangement.

The announcement comes ahead of Vistara's merger with Air India, which will result in SIA holding a minority stake in the enlarged Air India. Currently, SIA holds 49 per cent stake in Vistara with the Tata group holding 51 per cent. After the merger, SIA will own 25.1 per cent stake in Air India. The merger and the consequent shareholding of SIA in Air India is expected to lead to more synergies between the airlines and the codeshare expansion may be seen as a step in that direction.



Under a codeshare agreement, an airline can market tickets on flights operated by a partner airline, thus giving the option of a wider and more enhanced network and more connections to its flyers, apart from streamlined ticketing, check-in, and baggage services.

"From 27 October 2024, Air India and SIA will codeshare on each other's flights, between Singapore and the Indian cities of Bengaluru and Chennai, increasing their total weekly scheduled codeshare services between the countries to 56 from 14," Air India and SIA said in a joint release.

SIA will codeshare on Air India's domestic flights between Delhi and Amritsar, Bengaluru,

Coimbatore, Lucknow, and Varanasi, between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Goa, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Thiruvananthapuram, as well as between Kolkata and Guwahati.

Air India customers will be able to access 29 destinations across SIA's network. These are Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney in Australia, Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap in Cambodia, Denpasar, Jakarta, Medan, and Surabaya in Indonesia, Fukuoka, Nagoya, Osaka, Tokyo-Haneda, and Tokyo-Narita in Japan, Busan and Seoul in South Korea, Kuala Lumpur and Penang in Malaysia, Auckland in New Zealand, Cebu and Manila in the Philippines, as well as Danang, Hanoi, and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

SIA customers will be able to connect to Air India's international services from Bengaluru, Delhi, and Mumbai to 12 destinations across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. **FULL REPORT ON**
www.indianexpress.com



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

24 OCTOBER 2024

Odisha to incentivize airlines to launch new flights to state

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha cabinet on Wednesday approved the Air Connectivity Policy under which substantial financial incentives would be offered to airlines to encourage them to launch new domestic and international flights from airports in the state, officials said. Under the policy, the government would provide viability gap funding to airlines for the new services, they said. **PTI**

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 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



Takeaways

- » Nearly 80 flights received bomb threats over the course of 24 hours
- » In total, more than 170 flights operated by Indian carriers have faced bomb threats over the past nine days

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.

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

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

Continued from Page 1

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

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

23 OCTOBER 2024

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 8

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 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.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

23 OCTOBER 2024

जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट उड़ रही फ्लाइट में फिर बम की सूचना, इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग



जयपुर @ पत्रिका. जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर एक बार फिर बम की सूचना के चलते कोलकाता से जयपुर आ रही इंडिगो एयरलाइन की एक फ्लाइट की मंगलवार शाम को इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग हुई। फ्लाइट के लैंड होने के तुरंत बाद सर्च ऑपरेशन शुरू किया गया, जो करीब डेढ़ घंटे तक चला, लेकिन उसमें कुछ भी नहीं मिला। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार, फ्लाइट दोपहर 2:58 बजे कोलकाता से जयपुर के लिए रवाना हुई थी। लैंडिंग के कुछ देर पहले ही पायलट को बम होने की सूचना मिली, जिसे उसने एटीसी को बताया। इसके बाद एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन और सुरक्षा एजेंसियां अलर्ट हो गईं। शाम 5:10 बजे जब फ्लाइट एयरपोर्ट पर लैंड हुई, तो सुरक्षा कर्मियों ने तुरंत उसे घेर लिया। उन्होंने सबसे पहले यात्रियों

सुरक्षा एजेंसियों की मशक्कत

महज आठ दिन में तीसरी बार जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर बम की सूचना के चलते इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग हुई है। 15 अक्टूबर को दमाम से लखनऊ जा रही फ्लाइट और 19 अक्टूबर को दुबई से जयपुर आ रही फ्लाइट की भी इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग हुई थी। इसके अलावा, 15 अक्टूबर को जयपुर से अयोध्या गई फ्लाइट की भी अयोध्या में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग हुई थी। लगातार मिल रही धमकियों के कारण सुरक्षा एजेंसियों को मशक्कत करनी पड़ रही है।

को सुरक्षित बाहर निकाला, फिर सर्च अभियान चलाया, लेकिन इसमें कुछ नहीं मिला।

विमानों में बम की धमकी के पीछे विदेशी साजिश

ब्रिटेन-अमेरिका और ऑस्ट्रिया से जुड़े तार

मुंबई। विमानों में बम होने की फर्जी धमकी देने वाले आरोपित सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के लिए बड़ी चुनौती बन गए हैं। मुंबई पुलिस की अपराध शाखा भारतीय विमानों को निशाना बनाकर एक्स और हॉटमेल के जरिये भेजे गए कई फर्जी संदेशों की जांच कर रही है। अधिकारियों ने कुछ इंटरनेट मीडिया हैंडल और ईमेल पत्तों की जानकारी हासिल करने के लिए एक्स और हॉटमेल से संपर्क किया है। विमानों को धमकी के तार ब्रिटेन, अमेरिका और ऑस्ट्रिया से जुड़ते दिखाई दे रहे हैं। सूत्रों के अनुसार, इन धमकियों के लिए जिम्मेदार अपराधी अत्यधिक सुरक्षित वचुंअल प्राइवेट नेटवर्क (वीपीएन) का उपयोग कर रहे हैं, जिससे अकाउंट



की उत्पत्ति का पता लगाना मुश्किल हो जाता है। विशेषज्ञों का दावा है कि आरोपित को इंटरनेट मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म, सुरक्षा एजेंसियों और वीपीएन प्रदाताओं जैसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय भागीदारों के सहयोग से ही गिरफ्तार किया जा सकता है। मामले की जांच से परिचित एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि इंटरनेट मीडिया हैंडल से जुड़े आईपी एड्रेस की जांच की जा रही है। अपराधियों ने कई सुरक्षा परतों का इस्तेमाल किया है। इन एक्स हैंडल

से जुड़े आईपी एड्रेस अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन और ऑस्ट्रिया के बीच बदलते रहते हैं। ये वास्तविक आईपी एड्रेस नहीं हैं। जब तक हम इंटरनेट मीडिया हैंडल के सटीक आईपी एड्रेस की पहचान नहीं कर लेते, तब तक संदेश की उत्पत्ति और जिम्मेदार लोगों को पहचानना चुनौतीपूर्ण होगा। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि खुफिया ब्यूरो और मल्टी-एजेंसी सेंटर (एमएसी) सहित कई एजेंसियां इस जांच में शामिल हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

23 OCTOBER 2024

30 और उड़ानों को उड़ाने की धमकी

नई दिल्ली। भारतीय एयरलाइंस द्वारा संचालित 30 से अधिक घरेलू और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को सोमवार रात से बम से उड़ाने की धमकी

■ एक हफ्ते में 120 उड़ानों को मिली धमकी

मिली हैं। इन धमकियों के बाद जेद्दा जाने वाली इंडिगो की तीन उड़ानों को सऊदी अरब और कतर के हवाई अड्डों पर भेजा गया। सूत्रों ने बताया कि इंडिगो, विस्तारा और एयर इंडिया की उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली। एक सप्ताह से भी कम समय में भारतीय एयरलाइंस द्वारा संचालित 120 से अधिक उड़ानों को बम से उड़ाने की

कई सीआरपीएफ स्कूलों को भी धमकी

नई दिल्ली। देशभर के कई सेंट्रल रिजर्व पुलिस फोर्स स्कूलों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली है। इन स्कूलों में दो दिल्ली और एक हैदराबाद में हैं। सूत्रों के मुताबिक यह धमकी ई-मेल के जरिए दी गई है। यह ई-मेल स्कूल मैनेजमेंट्स को सोमवार देर रात भेजे गए थे। यह धमकी रोहिणी के प्रशांत विहार में हुए जोरदार धमाके के ठीक अगले ही दिन आई है। इस धमाके में सीआरपीएफ स्कूल की दीवार उड़ गई थी। दिल्ली पुलिस इस मामले में खालिस्तानी लिंक की जांच कर रही है। सोमवार को दिल्ली पुलिस ने इस मामले में टेलीग्राम ऐप को चिह्नी भी लिखी है। इसमें टेलीग्राम से उस चैनल के बारे में जानकारी मांगी गई है, जिस पर बम की धमकी दी गई थी। गौरतलब है कि पिछले कुछ दिनों से घरेलू और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को बम की झूठी धमकी मिली है।

धमकी मिली है। एयरलाइन के प्रवक्ता ने मंगलवार को बताया कि इंडिगो की दस उड़ानों को सुरक्षा संबंधी अलर्ट मिले। एयरलाइन की ओर से अलग-अलग बयानों के अनुसार, उड़ान 6ई 77 (बेंगलुरु से

जेद्दा) को दोहा, 6ई 65 (कोझिकोड से जेद्दा) को रियाद और 6ई 63 (दिल्ली से जेद्दा) को मदीना भेजा गया। जेद्दा, रियाद और मदीना सऊदी अरब के शहर हैं और दोहा कतर की राजधानी है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

24 OCTOBER 2024

IT Ministry slams Elon Musk-run X for 'abetting crime' after 100 flight bomb threats

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 23 OCTOBER

The IT Ministry on Wednesday slammed Elon Musk-run social media platform X after more than 100 bomb threats were received by airlines over the past few days, with many of these hoaxes being circulated via social media platforms.

In a virtual meeting with representatives of airlines and social media platforms such as X and Meta, the IT Ministry officials said the situation amounts to "X abetting crime" and questioned its representatives on the steps taken to stop such alarming rumours from spreading.

Joint Secretary, IT, Sanket S Bhondve chaired the virtual meeting, according to reports.

The online threats have



created panic among the passengers and set off alarm bells for security agencies.

Several flights, including international ones, were diverted after the hoax calls. More than 120 flights operated by Indian carriers have received bomb threats over the past few days.

On Tuesday, 30 flights operated by IndiGo, Vistara and Air India received such threats.

Union Civil Aviation Min-

ister K Ram Mohan Naidu said on Monday that those circulating such hoax threats will face tough action, including being put on a no-fly list.

The government plans to amend the 'Suppression of Unlawful Acts' against the 'Safety of Civil Aviation Act' so that action could be initiated for offences when an aircraft is on the ground.

Currently, the aviation security norms largely cover in-flight offences.

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



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

23 OCTOBER 2024

Flights get false threats, fliers searched

SANJAY MANDAL

Calcutta: Five flights, to and from the Calcutta airport, received hoax bomb threats on Tuesday, while more than 50 domestic and international flights operated by Indian airlines received similar threats across the country.

In the past week, more than 150 flights received such threats.

On Tuesday, flights operated by IndiGo, Akasa Airlines, Vistara and Air India were among those that received false threats.

At the Calcutta airport, the Akasa Airlines flight from Pune received a security threat through social media.

"Akasa Airline's airport manager informed the authorities about the security threat," said an airport official. The flight, with 191 passengers and six crew members, landed at 4.38pm and was taken to the isolation bay.

All passengers and hand baggage were checked but nothing was found, said an airport official.

IndiGo's flight from Aizawl, which arrived in Calcutta at 4.12pm, received a security threat. The flight with 135 passengers and six crew members was taken to the isolation bay and the standard security protocol was followed, said an official. The airport authorities lodged police complaints in both cases.

IndiGo said its flights from Calcutta to Bengaluru, Jaipur and Ahmedabad had received similar threats.

Apart from these, nine other flights of IndiGo received such threats.

These are:

- 6E 214 Mumbai-Srinagar
- 6E 323 Bagdogra-Chennai
- 6E 419 Surat-Goa
- 6E 403 Pune-Dehradun
- 6E 381 Goa-Ahmedabad
- 6E 399 Lucknow-Goa
- 6E 297 Hyderabad-Jodhpur
- 6E 17 Mumbai-Istanbul
- 6E 196 Bengaluru-Lucknow

"All customers were safely disembarked. At IndiGo, the safety and security of our customers and crew remain paramount in all facets of our operations. We worked closely with the relevant authorities, and standard operating procedures were followed. We sincerely regret any inconvenience this situation may have caused our customers and appreciate their understanding," IndiGo said in a statement.

Vistara's several flights got similar threats.

"We confirm that a few of Vistara's flights operating on October 21, 2024 received security threats on social media. We immediately alerted the relevant authorities and are following all security procedures as directed by them. At Vistara, the safety and security of our customers, crew, and aircraft are of utmost importance," said a Vistara spokesperson.

A spokesperson for Air India said some of its flights, too, received the threats.

Last Sunday, an Alliance Air flight from Lilabari in Assam to Calcutta made an emergency landing at the city airport after a false threat.

On Monday, too, around 30 flights operated by Indian airlines received such threats through social media. Three flights of IndiGo, bound for Jeddah, had to be diverted.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

23 OCTOBER 2024

Another 50 bomb threats take number of flights hit to 170+ in little over a week

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Close to 50 flights across domestic airlines received threats on Tuesday alone, with the menace only getting worse by the day. IndiGo received at least 23 threats within 24 hours (through Monday and Tuesday), with three of its international flights getting diverted. Vistara said "some" of its flights got threats too. Akasa was also impacted.

Officials across airlines say the trend of threats is changing with different handles targeting different airlines in the past 2-3 days. Earlier the same handle would issue the same number of threats to multiple airlines but now different handles send threats to different airlines. Govt says it is working to severely punish those sending



TURBULENT TIMES: IndiGo received at least 23 threats within 24 hours. Govt says it is working to severely punish those sending such threats

such threats.

IndiGo said it had received threats to 13 of its flights on Tuesday alone. At least three of them were diverted — Bengaluru-Jeddah (6E 77) to Doha, Kozhikode-Jeddah (6E 65) to Riyadh, and Delhi-Jeddah (6E

63) to Medina. "The aircraft were isolated and all passengers were safely disembarked. Ensuring the safety and security of our customers and crew remains paramount in all facets of our operations. We are working closely with the relevant authorities, and mandated checks are currently underway. We sincerely regret any inconvenience this situation may have caused our customers and appreciate their understanding," IndiGo statements for these flights said.

On Tuesday alone 13 flights each of IndiGo and Air India received bomb threats. Akasa Air got threats for over 12 flights and Vistara received threats for 11, sources said.

"A few Vistara flights operating on Oct 22, 2024 received security threats on social media. We immediately alert-

ed the relevant authorities and are following all security procedures as directed by them. At Vistara, the safety and security of our customers, crew, and aircraft are of utmost importance," said a Vistara spokesperson.

AI's Delhi-New York flight and Akasa's Bengaluru-Varanasi flight were among those that received threats.

Air India said it got 10 threats on Monday-Tuesday night. "We confirm that some Air India flights operating on Oct 21, 2024 were subject to hoax security threats received on social media. Following 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. All the flights have landed safely," said AI.

Another 50 flights receive fresh bomb threats in a day

More Than
170 Flights
Affected In
Over A Week

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TURBULENT TIMES

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In nine days, more than 170 flights operated by Indian carriers have received bomb threats.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

23 OCTOBER 2024

Bomb threats to 2 flights to Hyd turn out to be hoax

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Two flights to Hyderabad encountered security concerns after bomb threats, which turned out to be hoax on Tuesday. The first incident involved flight 6E 67 from Hyderabad to Jeddah. On landing, the aircraft was taken to the isolation bay and all passengers were safely disembarked.

Later, Flight 6E 297, operating between Hyderabad and Jodhpur, also received a security alert and all passengers were disembarked. Authorities are investigating both incidents to determine the nature of the threats and ensure the safety of passengers and crew.

"At IndiGo, the safety of our customers and crew remains paramount in all facets of our operations. We have been working closely with the relevant authorities and standard operating procedures have been followed. We sincerely regret any inconvenience this situation may have caused our customers and appreciate their understanding," IndiGo said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

23 OCTOBER 2024

Another 50 bomb threats to flights; 170+ in 9 days

Will Punish Those Sending Threats: Govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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3 CRPF schools, 2 KVs get hoax bomb threat

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, sources said on Tuesday, adding it turned out to be a hoax. The schools were checked 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). PTI

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