



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

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## TG MAN HELD IN MUMBAI AIRPORT

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 25

Shaik Irfan, a 43-year-old Adilabad native residing in Tanzania, was arrested at Mumbai international airport after immigration authorities detained him on the basis of a look-out circular (LOC). He faces charges of posting derogatory content in a WhatsApp group that provoked communal ten-

sions and targeted police officials.

Adilabad DSP L. Jeevan Reddy said Irfan was the administrator of the WhatsApp group Silsila Adb. Irfan began posting after police arrested local rowdy-sheeter Saleem in April. A case was registered against him at Adilabad Two Town police station on April 15. The police then issued a lookout circular for him.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2025

## नोएडा एयरपोर्ट में एलसी 3 सीमेंट तकनीक से बना पहला बड़ा प्रोजेक्ट

जागरण संवाददाता, ग्रेटर नोएडा: नई स्विस् तकनीक लाइमस्टोन कैल्साइंड क्ले (एलसी 3) सीमेंट से भारत में पहला बड़ा प्रोजेक्ट नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण किया गया है। यह कम कार्बन उत्सर्जन और किफायती है। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण स्विस् कंपनी ज्यूरिख एयरपोर्ट इंटरनेशनल ने किया है। कंपनी ने ऐलान किया था कि नोएडा एयरपोर्ट स्विस् तकनीक और भारतीय संस्कृति का माडल होगा। स्विस् कंपनी ने इसे पूरा भी किया है। एयरपोर्ट के निर्माण में लाइमस्टोन कैल्साइंड क्ले सीमेंट का इस्तेमाल किया गया है। इसे स्विस् तकनीक से करीब दस साल के लंबे प्रयास के बाद तैयार किया गया है।

कंपनी की ओर से दावा किया गया है कि यह सीमेंट निर्माण में उपयोग होने वाले पोर्टलैंड सीमेंट से गुणवत्ता में अच्छा होने के साथ ही पर्यावरण अनुकूल है। कार्बन उत्सर्जन को 40 प्रतिशत

- गुणवत्ता में अच्छा होने के साथ पर्यावरण अनुकूल है यह सीमेंट
- आइआइटी मद्रास, आइआइटी दिल्ली ने भी किया है सहयोग

तक कम करता है। इसके निर्माण में निम्न-ग्रेड लाइमस्टोन और क्ले का उपयोग किया गया है। इससे उत्पादन लागत कम है। पोर्टलैंड सीमेंट के निर्माण में जहां 1450 डिग्री सेल्सियस तापमान की जरूरत होती है। वहीं एलसी 3 सीमेंट के लिए महज 800 डिग्री सेल्सियस तापमान की जरूरत पड़ती है। इस सीमेंट को अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग से तैयार किया गया है। इसमें भारत की आइआइटी दिल्ली, आइआइटी मद्रास ने सहयोग दिया है। स्विस् डेवलपमेंट कोऑपरेशन, ईकोल पॉलिटिक्लिनक फेडरेल डी लाजेन स्विट्जरलैंड, टेक्नोलाजी एंड एक्शन फार रूरल एडवांसमेंट और यूनिवर्सिटी डे लास विलास क्यूबा के विशेषज्ञों ने सहयोग दिया है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2025

## Duty-Free Shopping In the Time of FTAs?

**Airport retail must expand their pick-me-ups**

It's only natural for those of us packing our bags to go off on a foreign vacation this festive season to look forward to some heavy-duty duty-free shopping at the airports we pass through. But time was when duty-free shopping made sense. There were bragging rights in pulling out a 21-yr-old single malt before a group of untravelled friends and giving a detailed account of the visit to the distillery on the loch. Of course, you had to be smart and buy it on your way back from the airport duty-free, minus those pesky EU taxes. Try doing that now, and chances are someone in the group will tell you your bottled bit of happiness costs just about the same at the liquor shop around the corner. And, for good measure, somebody else will come up with a long-winded, phlegmatic account of the miserable weather around the loch.

Two big changes have taken place since duty-free shopping was the first brush Indians had with Western luxury. India now allows an extraordinarily wide range of imports at moderate duty. It just signed an FTA with Britain, which will, in due course, cover Scotch. And Indians are travelling abroad with a vengeance. Lots of them work and study abroad while keeping flying back to their families. The most recent surge is driven by tourism, as countries sweeten the welcome for Indians. These are a well-travelled bunch, smart enough to figure out that buying perfume, tobacco or liquor duty-free just cuts out the local taxes. Airport markups stay put.



It still makes sense to pick up something on arrival. This avoids the bother of carting stuff through multiple customs lines, where the rules may differ. You also need to be sure of what you want on arrival, as opposed to departure, where lounges are designed to unleash the impulsive shopper in all of us. Airport retail must rethink its business plan to make travellers linger in the arrival lounge with a bigger assortment of pick-me-ups. It should also push more exclusive stuff to a discerning customer base. Make that a bottle of Yves Saint Laurent Black Opium perfume.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

## Danish govt says drone flyovers at airports aim to sow fear and division

Associated Press

letters@hindustantimes.com

**COPENHAGEN, DENMARK:** Drones flew over four Danish airports overnight Wednesday into Thursday, the latest instance of unexplained drone activity that has raised concerns about security in northern Europe amid growing Russian aggression.

Defence Minister Troels Lund Poulsen called the incidents a "hybrid attack" because the flights all occurred within roughly the same timeframe. It was not immediately clear who was behind the incidents, but Poulsen said that it appeared a "professional actor" was behind the "systematic" flights. He did not provide more details during a news conference on Thursday morning.

Authorities said there was no danger to the public.

The goal of the flyovers was to sow fear and division, Danish Minister of Justice Peter Hummelgaard said on Thursday, adding that the country will seek additional ways to neutralise drones, including proposing legislation to allow infrastructure owners to shoot them down.

Flights were halted for several hours at Aalborg Airport in northern Denmark, which also serves as a military base. Drone sightings began shortly before 10pm (local time) on Wednesday and ended just before lam on Thursday.

Three airports in Esbjerg, Sonderborg and Skrydstrup also were impacted. Skrydstrup is an



The Aalborg Airport in Denmark on Thursday.

AFP

air base that is home to some of the Danish military's fighter jets.

The drones appeared to be flying around the airports with their lights turned on but authorities decided against attempting to shoot down the drones, police said. Additional details were not immediately available.

The latest drone activity came just days after a similar incident at Copenhagen Airport, conducted by what police call a "capable actor". The Copenhagen drones grounded flights in the Danish capital for hours Monday night, prompting concerns that Russia could be behind the flyover above Scandinavia's largest airport.

While it wasn't immediately clear who was behind the flyover, Denmark's prime minister and Nato's secretary-general said that Russian involvement

couldn't be ruled out. Denmark, already on edge because of its proximity to Russia, will join a group of neighbouring countries on Friday to discuss the European Union's plans for a "drone wall".

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen called the Copenhagen incident "the most serious attack on Danish critical infrastructure to date".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov rejected suggestions that Moscow could be involved.

Security concerns in northern Europe are heightened following growing Russian aggression. On Tuesday, Nato warned Russia that it would use all means to defend against any further breaches of its airspace after the downing earlier this month of Russian drones over Poland and Estonia's report of an intrusion of Russian fighter jets last week.

## NAVI MUMBAI INT'L AIRPORT IS ALMOST READY. WILL IT BE INAUGURATED IN OCT?



Four years after construction began for a greenfield airport at Navi Mumbai, the stage is almost set for the inauguration of Terminal 1. The date for the ribbon-cutting has been moved from Sept 30 by a month, and the airport is now expected to handle its first airline flight around mid-Dec. When commissioned, the Navi Mumbai International Airport will become the Mumbai Metropolitan Region's second airport to handle commercial airline flights.





## Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

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### Rat bites IT pro waiting at Indore airport

**Indore:** A 33-year-old software engineer, waiting at Indore airport for a flight to Bengaluru, was bitten by a rat inside the terminal on Wednesday, reports **Sagar Choukse**.

The passenger, Arun Modi, a resident of Bhopal, was resting on a recliner when the rodent crawled inside his trousers and bit him near the knee. He was accompanied by his wife. Their cries for help drew attention of fellow passengers and airport staff. As passengers raised their voice, tempers soared when Modi alleged the airport's medical room was ill-equipped to handle a medical emergency. He said staff was reluctant and unprepared to provide timely treatment.

On Thursday, airport director V K Seth said that Amaltas Group, which provides emergency medical services at the airport, was asked to replace the on-duty doctor. "The step was taken due to doctor's lack of sensitivity in attending to passenger and providing him with timely treatment." Seth told **TOI**.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2025

## Budget carrier SpiceJet to induct A340 aircraft

**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

To accelerate its expansion plan, budget airline SpiceJet has finalised a lease agreement to induct a wide-body Airbus A340 aircraft into its fleet, subject to regulatory approvals.

Accordingly, the aircraft will arrive in India by the end of this month and is expected to enter operations in the first week of October.

*businessline* had earlier reported that besides the newly-leased 737 aircraft, the airline planned to lease out A340 aircraft for international destinations with heavy traffic volume.

"This aircraft will allow us to tap into new markets and expand our international footprint," said SpiceJet's Chief Business Officer Debojo Maharshi.

"With another A340 under negotiation and 18 Boeing

737 aircraft joining our fleet soon, SpiceJet is poised for one of its most ambitious growth phases."

The airline plans to operate the A340 on a wet lease model and subsequently transition to a damp lease arrangement, offering greater operational flexibility and significant cost savings.

### **LONG-TERM ADDITION**

As per SpiceJet, the A340 is being inducted with the intention of serving as a long-term addition to its fleet, with operations planned well beyond a year. At present, the airline is inducting capacity to cater to the future demand. SpiceJet has signed lease agreements for the induction of 18 Boeing 737 aircraft, strengthening its fleet ahead of the Winter Schedule 2025. Furthermore, the airline plans to bring back grounded aircraft after conducting required servicing and maintenance work.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2025

## स्पाइसजेट लीज पर लेगी एक ए340 विमान

नई दिल्ली। किफायती विमान सेवा कंपनी स्पाइसजेट अपनी बेड़ा विस्तार की योजना को आगे बढ़ाते हुए इसी महीने एक वाइड-बॉडी एयरबस ए340 विमान वेट लीज पर लेगी। वेट लीज में विमान के साथ पायलट और केबिन क्रू भी लीज पर विमान देने वाली कंपनी के ही होते हैं। विमान के रखरखाव और मरम्मत की जिम्मेदारी भी उसी की होगी। कंपनी ने शुक्रवार को एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में कहा कि यह लीज समझौता एयरलाइन की विस्तार रणनीति में एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर है। उसने बताया कि यह विमान इस महीने के अंत तक भारत पहुंच जाएगा और अक्टूबर के पहले सप्ताह में उसके परिचालन में शामिल होने की उम्मीद है। इस विमान को एक साल से भी अधिक समय तक रखने की योजना है। पहले इस विमान का संचालन वेट लीज पर किया जाएगा और बाद में उसे डैम्प लीज में बदला जाएगा जिसमें स्पाइसजेट अपना केबिन क्रू रख सकेगी। स्पाइसजेट एक और वाइड-बॉडी ए340 विमान को पट्टे पर लेने के लिए भी बातचीत कर रही है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2025

## Air Travel Growth could be Less Than Expected; Cos Stare at Deeper Losses

### Our Bureau

**Mumbai:** Ica has cut its growth forecast for India's civil aviation sector to 4-6% this fiscal year, from 7-10% in FY25, citing cross-border tensions, capacity disruptions, and continued hesitancy among many air travellers after the Air India plane crash in June.

The market remained sluggish in August, underlined by flat passenger traffic growth while airlines grappled with fuel costs, grounded planes, and weak demand.

Domestic passenger traffic was at 13.17 million in August, almost unchanged from 13.13 million a year earlier, though higher than July's 12.61 million, according to Ica. For the April-August period, traffic rose 2.2% year-on-year to 67.75 million passengers.

With demand staying subdued, airlines added 5.8% fewer capacity in August compared to a year earlier and largely unchanged from July.

"While overall passenger traffic has so far held steady, ongoing geopolitical and operational he-

adwinds warrant close monitoring for potential downside risks," Ica said.

Notably, international operations remain relatively stronger. In July, Indian carriers flew 2.96 million passengers overseas, a 6.7% rise from a year earlier, and 6.8% higher than June. For April-July, the total was 11.73 million, up 10%.

Even so, Ica trimmed its FY26 international growth estimate to 13-15% from 15-20%, citing safety concerns and regional tensions.

On the financial front, airlines are staring at deeper losses. The rating agency expects industrywide

net losses to nearly double to ₹95,000-1,05,000 crore this fiscal from ₹55,000 crore last year. This is due to increasing aircraft deliveries in a scenario of softening demand, foreign exchange pressures,

and higher lease rentals.

Fuel, which makes up 30-40% of operating costs, remains a drag despite some relief—ATF prices averaged ₹95,181/KL in FY25, 8% lower from a year earlier. Prices have fallen 10% in the first five months of FY26.

Operational constraints are adding to the pressure at airlines. Supply chain issues and Pratt & Whitney engine failures have kept more than 130 aircraft grounded as of March 2025, around 15-17% of the industry's fleet.

Although the situation has improved, airlines continue to depend on costly wet leases and face higher expenses from reduced fuel efficiency. Crew shortages have also led to cancellations and delays, further testing passenger confidence.

Ica has maintained a "Stable" outlook on the sector, citing steady yields and high load factors that are cushioning costs. But with traffic growth tapering, losses widening, and global headwinds intensifying, India's aviation industry is set for a year of consolidation rather than lift-off, it said.

### SECTOR OUTLOOK

**Flat August traffic at 131.7 lakh prompts Ica to lower FY26 domestic growth forecast to 4-6%**





# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2025

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## Lufthansa to Cut Thousands of Jobs on Monday in Pursuit of Efficiency



**FRANKFURT** Lufthansa is expected to announce several thousand job cuts on Monday at its first company-wide capital markets day in six years, according to two sources close to the matter, as it seeks to show the market its commitment to increasing efficiency. The group had two profit warnings in 2024 as it struggled with labour-related challenges and rising costs. It promised investors it would implement an ambitious turnaround programme in the coming years. The airline group intends to reduce its administrative staff by 20% in the coming years, the two sources said, although the exact number of redundancies is being determined. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter. Lufthansa declined to comment. Any redundancies would impact the whole group, not just the core airline, a third source with knowledge of the talks said.

## Air traffic growth sluggish in August

NITIN KUMAR  
New Delhi, September 26

**DOMESTIC AIR TRAVEL** remained stagnant in August, with passenger traffic inching up by just 0.3% y-o-y to 13.17 million, according to Ica.

In light of the sluggish growth, Ica has revised its forecast for domestic air passenger growth in FY26 to 4-6%, down from its earlier estimate of 7-10%. The revised projection pegs the total number of domestic passengers at 172-176 million, after a 7.6% rise in FY25, which saw 165.4 million flyers.

International air traffic estimates for Indian carriers have also been scaled back. Ica now expects international passenger traffic to grow at 13-15% in FY26, compared to its previous projection of 15-20%.

The downward revision has been attributed to cross-border escalations that disrupted flight operations, as well as growing travel hesitancy following a recent aircraft accident. Ica noted that these factors, along with global trade headwinds, including the impact of US tar-

### ON LOW FUEL



Domestic passenger traffic

**13.17 million**

Increase (y-o-y) **0.3%**

Domestic capacity deployment :

around **89,184** departures

Contraction (y-o-y) **5.8%**

iffs, are expected to dampen business sentiment and constrain travel demand in the coming quarters.

Consequently, Ica has projected the aviation sector's net losses to widen significantly to ₹9,500-10,500 crore in FY26, up from ₹5,500 crore in FY25. The loss expansion is primarily due to subdued passenger growth amid a period of increasing aircraft deliveries.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2025

 Hindustan Times

## DGCA plans strict new action for pilots, crew caught drinking

**Neha LM Tripathi**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has proposed sweeping changes to alcohol testing rules that could see pilots lose their licences permanently after just three positive tests, marking the strictest aviation safety overhaul in nearly a decade.

The draft amendments to Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR), released on Friday and open for comment until October 24, eliminate previous leniency for first-time offenders and introduce harsh penalties that escalate rapidly with repeat violations.

Under the proposed rules, even

first-time breath-analyser violations would trigger a three-month licence suspension. A second positive test would result in a three-year ban, whilst a third violation would mean permanent licence cancellation.

The regulator has also reserved severe consequences for expatriate pilots, who would face immediate and permanent cancellation of their Foreign Air Transport Approval if caught drinking before or after flights. The approval cannot be reapplied for under the new rules.

Senior aviation personnel, including examiners, instructors and check pilots would lose their training authorisations for three

years in addition to standard penalties if found consuming alcohol.

Post-flight testing, previously less punitive, now carries significant consequences. A first positive result would mean one-year licence suspension and action under Schedule VIA of Aircraft Rules 1937, while a second would trigger permanent licence cancellation. Expatriate pilots face FATA cancellation even for first post-flight violations.

The amendments also address procedural gaps. If crew members operate flights without undergoing pre-flight breath-analyser tests, airlines must ensure post-flight examination at the first landing point.

## Huge jump in airfares ahead of festivals

Mum-Patna route sees 52% rise; B'loru-L'know, Mum-Kol routes' fares jump 47%

ARSHAD KHAN @NewDelhi

DRIVEN by strong festive-season demand, advance airfares across major Indian cities have risen by up to 52% for travel between October 19 and 25, 2025, compared to the peak festive period of last year (October 30 to November 5, 2024).

Online travel aggregator ixigo data shows the Mumbai-Patna route has recorded the steepest rise, with average one-way non-stop fares soaring 52% to ₹14,540 around Diwali festive period. On Bengaluru-Lucknow and Mumbai-Kolkata sectors, fares have jumped 47% each, to ₹9,899 and ₹10,264, respectively.

Aloke Bajpai, Group CEO, ixigo - "Advance flight bookings for the festive season in October have already surpassed last year's trends, with bookings to major metros recording over 100% YoY growth. Given the strong demand, advance airfares to major metros have also increased 20-25% compared to last year. We are also gearing up for festive sales across flights, hotels and buses, including attractive offers and discounts to travellers this festive season." Ixigo said they are seeing a sharp surge in train and bus bookings.

### SURGE PRICING

■ Avg fare (₹) from 30 Oct-5 Nov 2024  
 ■ Avg fare (₹) from Oct 19-25, 2025  
 ● Change %



Advance train bookings for popular routes have surged by 18-25% this year for Diwali dates while bus bookings this festive season have surged 3x YoY for October 2-12 travel window for Dussehra getaways.

While the outlook remains positive, prolonged rainfall in certain regions is weighing on travel and hospitality industry. Ajay Prakash, vice Chairperson, Federation of Associations in

Indian Tourism and Hospitality told TNE this season has been 'okay' but nothing great.

"As compared to last year, it is a bit lower and the primary reason is excessive rain. The rains have been unusually heavy this year. West Bengal just a day before saw torrential downpour; Uttarakhand is another state that has borne nature's fury, so it will have an impact on tourism. No big rise in airfares and

hotel room rates so far and it is business as usual so far. However, we expect things to get better once monsoon ends and domestic tourists tend to book last minute, too," stated Prakash. Ravi Gosain, President of IATO, said prolonged rains have played a dampener and airfares and average room rates have not spiked yet. He expects things to perk up for the travel and hospitality industry around Diwali.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2025

## International travels pick pace in Aug, up 7%

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

AIRPORTS across the country recorded 3.3 crore passengers in August 2025, marking a one percent increase from the 3.27 crore passengers who flew during the same period last year.

Despite a negative growth domestically, international traffic has driven air passenger growth across the country, reveals the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The Air Traffic Report, made public by AAI on Thursday, reveals that 66,73,252 flyers opted to travel abroad last month, marking a 7.7% increase over the 61,93,449 flyers recorded during the same month in 2024.

A total of 2,64,06,660 passengers travelled domestically in August 2025 as compared to 2,65,48,845 in the corresponding period last year, marking a slight dip of 0.5% (zero point 5). The Air Traffic Movements (Arrival and Departures) revealed a 1.5% dip with 3,54,440 ATMs in August 2025 versus 2,58,310 in August 2024.

A similar comparison of the patronage registered in the first five months of the ongoing financial year reveals a 3.4% increase in overall passenger count over the previous year - 17.03 crore flyers versus 16.47 crore flyers. Yet again, in-



ternational patronage has seen an increase of 6.8% while domestic passengers have gone up by 2.6% in April - August this year versus same period last year.

Max growth in intl flyers in Aug '25 Pune airport has recorded the maximum growth of 80.7% in international passengers in August 2025 (24,303 flyers) over August 2024. The other airports which have

registered commendable growth in international traffic are Coimbatore with a 48% increase (28,990 passengers), Surat with 41% increase (15,442) Mangaluru 40.2% (72,849) and Bagdogra 37.5% increase (1877 flyers). Guwahati and Chandigarh airports have dropped more than 20% of their passenger recorded during the compared period last year.

### AAI & ICAO sign project to review height restrictions

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) have signed a significant Project Document to review India's national regulations on height restrictions around aerodromes, marking a key step in strengthening the country's aviation safety framework.

### NHAI revises guidelines for signboards on highways

The NHAI has updated its signboard guidelines, making roadside boards more informative and user-friendly. These boards will display details of at least 20 essential services and include QR codes for digital access to the most up-to-date information.

Domestically, the airports that have recorded a substantial increase in August this year over the figures recorded in the same month in 2024 are: Kishanganh 93.1% (11,277 pgrs), Jaisalmer 91.2% (64), Dharbanga 87.4% (66,826), Agatti 66.3% (8725), Guwahati 63.1% 727500), Tiruchirappall 56% increase, Cudappah 55.6% (426), Tuticorin 54.8% (29788) and Agra 43.5% (17496).



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

## Leopard keeps forest staff on toes

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**

■ Lucknow

A stray leopard in the Cantonment area has put the Forest department on its toes. Adding to their problem were certain AI generated images of the leopard which began circulating on the social media.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sitanshu Pandey said that on Wednesday information was received regarding the sighting of the leopard in Ruchi Khand, Aashiyana under Sarojini Nagar Range.

"Similar sightings have also been reported in the Cantt area. In this regard, the sub-divisional forest officer, Mohanlalganj, has been nominated as the nodal officer.

A rescue team comprising personnel from the Urban Range and Sarojini Nagar Range has been constituted, and necessary security measures, including the installa-

tion of camera traps, have been initiated. The regional forest officers of Urban and Sarojini Nagar range have been instructed to closely monitor and rescue the animal," he said.

He said that the rescue team is installing camera traps at potential locations, including the Cantt area, and is conducting intensive patrolling during both day and night with appropriate security and rescue equipment.

"As a precautionary measure, an advisory has been issued to local residents, instructing that children should not be allowed to go out alone and should move in groups while making noise, cattle should be kept in safe enclosures and people should step out at night only with a torch or flashlight and a stick.

To prevent human-wildlife conflict, the regional forest officers have been directed to

adopt all precautionary measures, organise public awareness programmes, make regular announcements, and alert citizens in nearby areas," he said.

He said that it has also come to notice that some anti-social elements are posting misleading AI-generated videos of leopards and other wild animals on social media.

"A complaint regarding this has been lodged by the local forest officer at the police station concerned for registration of an FIR.

The Forest department, in coordination with the Police Department, has requested strict legal action against those creating unnecessary fear. The Awadh Forest Division appeals to all citizens not to make or circulate such misleading videos and to cooperate with the authorities in ensuring safety and maintaining public order," he added.