

New flights at city airport push int'l passenger traffic up by 15%

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Ahmedabad: The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPI) recorded a 15% rise in international passenger traffic in the first half (H1) of FY 2025. This increase was driven by the introduction of new flights, new destinations and improved connectivity to existing destinations.

Between April and Sep 2024, the SVPI airport handled 10 lakh international passengers compared to 8.5 lakh during the same period last year, according to data furnished by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The airport handled 60 lakh passengers during H1, recording an 8% growth. Of these, 50 lakh were domestic travellers, compared to 47 lakh last year, a 6% increase. Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait were among the most-travelled destinations, according to airport sources.

"Several people travelled to the US, Canada and Europe via Dubai and Abu Dhabi, especially in summer when leisure travel went up significantly. Last year, a direct flight to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia was launched in addition to more flights to Thailand. As a result, the overall



Footfall touched 10 lakh in first half of FY 2025 from 8.5 lakh in H1 2024

passenger traffic increased," an airport source told TOI.

In Q2 (July to Sep), SVPI Airport saw a significant 10% rise in passenger movement, with 29 lakh passengers using the airport — up from 26 lakh in the same quarter last year. Notably, international passenger numbers rose from 4 lakh to 5 lakh during this period.

Air transport movement (ATM) also grew by 14%, with 24,000 landings and take-offs in Q2, compared to 21,000 previously, reflecting the expansion in flight services. The most popular domestic routes continued to be Delhi, Mum-

bai and Bengaluru.

Ahmedabad is gearing up for a travel boom ahead of the wedding and holiday season with airlines adding new destinations and offering improved connectivity. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will roll out the Winter Schedule 2024, starting Oct 26.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) Airport in Ahmedabad will soon connect passengers to four new destinations — Muscat, Da Nang (Vietnam), Srinagar and Keshod — through direct flights, according to top sources at the city airport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

31 OCTOBER 2024

Bomb hoax: Airport security tightened

All Arriving, Departing Flights Being Frisked

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Chennai: A surge in false bomb threats observed over the past 20 days has prompting airport authorities to heighten vigilance and conduct regular checks on arriving flights.

Chennai airport has experienced a series of flight delays over the past couple



File photo

Chennai airport has received nine bomb threats in a few days

of days due to hoax bomb threats received by the Airports Authority of India

(AAI) through social media platforms. According to a senior AAI official, the airport

The individual responsible for posting these threatening messages on social media still continues to be at large

received nine bomb threats, which specified flight names and other details. However, upon investigation, none of these threats was found to be credible.

Notably, two of the targeted flights had already departed Chennai airport, with one reaching its destination, before the threats were even received.

These hoax threats are not isolated to Chennai, as other airports across the country have also received similar false alarms over the past month. In response, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) directed AAI to conduct thorough checks on departing flights. Consequently, AAI officials are now scrutinizing departing flights at the secondary ladder point at Chennai airport.

Despite efforts, the individual responsible for posting these threatening messages on social media remains at large, said the official. The AAI and BCAS continue to work together to prevent such disruptions.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

पहली उड़ान में प्रभावित किसान करेंगे यात्रा

माई सिटी रिपोर्टर

ग्रेटर नोएडा। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से पहली घरेलू उड़ान लखनऊ के लिए होगी। 17 अप्रैल 2025 को पहली घरेलू उड़ान में एयरपोर्ट प्रभावित करीब 200 किसान यात्रा करेंगे। किसान लखनऊ जाकर मुख्यमंत्री से मुलाकात करेंगे। पहले दिन लखनऊ के लिए दो उड़ानें होंगी।

अधिकारियों के मुताबिक एयरपोर्ट से पहले दिन 30 विमान उड़ान भरेंगे। इनमें तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें शामिल होंगी। जबकि दो कारगो उड़ान और 25 घरेलू उड़ानें होंगी। किसानों को उड़ान के पहले दिन यात्रा कराना उनके सहयोग का सम्मान है। इन्हीं किसानों की जमीन पर यह एशिया का सबसे बड़ा एयरपोर्ट बनकर तैयार हो रहा है। घरेलू उड़ान के लिए हवाई जहाज की क्षमता 210 सीटों की होगी।



नोएडा एयरपोर्ट

15 से रनवे का ट्रायल

15 नवंबर से हवाई अड्डे पर रनवे का ट्रायल होने जा रहा है। रनवे पर एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (एएआई), इंडिगो और अकासा के छोटे-बड़े सभी प्रकार के विमानों को उतारकर टेस्टिंग की जाएगी। एयरपोर्ट पर लगे सर्विलांस सिस्टम और आईएलएस कैलीब्रेशन का एयरक्राफ्ट के जरिए प्रशिक्षण सफल हो चुका है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

30 OCTOBER 2024

NAVI MUMBAI AIRPORT TO START OPERATIONS IN FIRST HALF OF 2025: ADANI GROUP CFO

Adani Group CFO Jugeshinder Singh announced Navi Mumbai Airport will start operations by mid-2025, following successful runway trials this month.

TGG NETWORK
AHMEDABAD

Group CFO of Adani Group, Jugeshinder 'Robbie' Singh on Tuesday said the Adani Group's newly built airport at Navi Mumbai will start operations in the first half of 2025.

Earlier this month, Adani Group successfully managed the landing of Indian Air Force aircraft at a Navi Mumbai runway.

"With this, we are on track to start operations in the first half of next year 2025," Singh said while announcing the Adani flagship company's quarterly and half-yearly results.

"We managed to further add six new routes, six new airlines and 13 new flights



Adani Group CFO Jugeshinder Singh

across all the seven operational airports," Singh informed the shareholders in a video message.

The Navi Mumbai airport will feature a 3,700-metre runway capable of handling large commercial aircraft, modern passenger

terminals, and advanced air traffic control systems. The Terminal 1 of the airport alone is projected to handle up to 20 million passengers annually. Upon full completion, it will have a total capacity to handle 90 million passengers per year.

According to Adani Group website, the conglomerate "forayed into civil aviation with a vision to leverage its rich experience of building stellar infrastructure in transforming Indian airports."

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Adani Airport Holdings Limited was incorporated in 2019 as a 100 per cent subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd, the flagship company of the Adani Group.

The Adani Group had made its maiden venture

into the airports sector by emerging as the highest bidder for the operation, management, and development of six airports: Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati, and Thiruvananthapuram, and signing concession agreements with the Airport Authority of India for all six airports.

Adani airports now handle 25 per cent of passenger footfalls and 33 per cent of India's air cargo traffic, according to its website.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

30 OCTOBER 2024

New airport to open in first half of 2025

FPJ News Service

MUMBAI

Group CFO of Adani Group, Jugeshinder 'Robbie' Singh on Tuesday said the Adani Group's newly built airport at Navi Mumbai will start operations in the first half of 2025. Earlier this month, Adani Group successfully managed the landing of Indian Air Force aircraft at a runway.

"We managed to further add six new routes, six new airlines and 13 new flights across all the seven operational airports," Singh informed the shareholders in a video message.

The airport will feature a 3,700m runway capable of handling large commercial aircraft, modern passenger terminals, and advanced air traffic control systems. The Terminal 1 of the airport alone is projected to handle up to 20 million passengers annually.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

31 OCTOBER 2024

Liquor outlets along Goa border to be closed on Maha poll days

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

The general assembly election in Maharashtra will have some impact in Goa as the liquor outlets located on the borders will remain shut on November 18 till the voting day on November 20, and the counting day on November 23.

The Department of Finance (Revenue and Control) issued

a notification directing all licenced premises "for the sale of liquor" bordering Maharashtra within a 5km radius to be closed from 5 pm on November 18 to 6 pm on November 20 and on November 23.

However, the licenced premises having a licence for "Bar and Restaurant" may be allowed to keep the restaurant open for serving food only and the bar counter to re-

main closed. "No liquor shall be allowed to be served on the above mentioned day. The owners of the licenced premises having "Bar and Restaurant" shall also display a board in the premises stating that no liquor will be served and that only the restaurant is open for serving food," reads the notification undersigned by Under Secretary (Finance-R&C) Pranab Bhat.



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

31 OCTOBER 2024

Liquor outlet moves HC over delay in starting biz at Mopa airport

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The Mumbai Wines and Trades Private Limited, granted a wine shop licence at Manohar International Airport (MIA), Mopa; has moved the High Court of Bombay at Goa challenging the delay in starting operations.

The Vacation Bench of Justice Sandeep Marne and Justice Manjusha Deshpande scheduled the writ petition for admission on November 11 while directing the State to submit its affidavit-in-reply within one week.

In its petition, the corporate firm expressed that it has been unable to commence the business of setting up liquor shop in the terminal buildings of the Airport despite being selected as a successful bidder in the auction process conducted by the Airports Authority of India. Moreover, it stated, that the AAI did not express any objection.

The State government, had last year, introduced a new amendment to the Goa Excise Duty Rules, allowing licensed retail liquor outlets at airports to operate round the clock amid discussions and debates.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

पहली फ्लाइट में जेवर के 200 किसान सफर करेंगे



ग्रेटर नोएडा, चरिष्ठ संवाददाता। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से पहले दिन उड़ान भरने वाली पहली फ्लाइट में जेवर के 200 से अधिक किसान लखनऊ तक सफर करेंगे। जेवर विधायक धीरेंद्र सिंह की पेशकश पर एयरपोर्ट से प्रभावित किसानों को विमान में बैठकर लखनऊ तक सफर कराने

का निर्णय लिया गया। पहले दिन दो फ्लाइट लखनऊ के लिए रवाना होगी।

इसमें एक में मुख्यमंत्री और अन्य अधिकारी और दूसरी विमान सेवा का किसान लुत्फ उठाएंगे। प्राधिकरण के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि 17 अप्रैल 2025 से एयरपोर्ट से विमानों की उड़ान प्रस्तावित है। पहले दिन से 30 विमान सेवा शुरू करने की योजना तैयार हो चुकी है। इनमें 25 घरेलू, तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय और दो कागों फ्लाइट शामिल हैं। सीईओ डॉ. अरुणवीर सिंह ने विधायक की पेशकश को सराहनीय बताते हुए अमल करने का वादा किया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

हैदराबाद एयरपोर्ट पर विमानों में बम की झूठी धमकी के मामलों में आठ FIR

■ आईएनएस, हैदराबाद : हैदराबाद पुलिस ने शहर के राजीव गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (आरजीआईए) पर विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी के संबंध में अब तक आठ केस दर्ज किए हैं। बम की ये धमकियां पिछले एक सप्ताह में सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर दी गईं, लेकिन उड़ानों और हवाई अड्डे परिसर की गहन जांच में कुछ भी संदिग्ध नहीं मिला। ये सभी धमकी झूठी साबित हुईं। पुलिस ने बम की



धमकी देने वालों का पता लगाने के लिए विशेष टीमें गठित की हैं। आरजीआईए के सर्किल इंस्पेक्टर के. बालराजू ने बताया कि अकेले मंगलवार को छह धमकियां मिलीं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

31 OCTOBER 2024

एयरपोर्ट पर स्टेयरलिफ्ट शुरू

जयपुर@पत्रिका. जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से सफर करने वाले बुजुर्ग और दिव्यांग यात्रियों के लिए राहत की खबर है। अब उन्हें टर्मिनल 2 के ग्राउंड फ्लोर से पहले और दूसरे फ्लोर पर जाने में परेशानी नहीं होगी, क्योंकि एयरपोर्ट पर स्टेयरलिफ्ट सुविधा उपलब्ध करवाई गई है। पिछले दिनों चीफ एयरपोर्ट ऑफिसर व

सीआइएसएफ के कमांडेंट ने इसका उद्घाटन किया। दावा है कि स्टेयरलिफ्ट की सुविधा देने वाला जयपुर देश का पहला एयरपोर्ट बन गया है। प्रशासन क्षेत्र में लगी लिफ्ट की लंबाई 32 मीटर है, जबकि आगमन क्षेत्र में लगी लिफ्ट की लंबाई 18 मीटर है। यह पूरी तरह से स्वचालित है और रिमोट कंट्रोल से नियंत्रित की जा सकती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

Govt may decide on IGIA T1 repair plan soon, air train project on track

Saurabh.Sinha
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New Delhi: The Union aviation ministry is likely to decide the timing of IGIA Terminal-1's repair next week. Larsen & Toubro is learnt to have prepared a design and restoration plan for GMR-backed Delhi International Airport Ltd's T1, which will take about four months to execute. Either the work will be implemented soon so that it is over by March or the work will begin after winter. Govt is expected to take a call on the same soon, said sources.

"The L&T plan has been run by IIT Delhi. There was some thinking on allowing T1 to handle some more flights till the repair work is complete. But DIAL was not in favour of

The Delhi airport's T1 is operating at a fraction of its capacity due to the collapse of a canopy and part of the roof following heavy rain in June this year

the same as a matter of abundant precaution," said sources.

Earlier, govt had directed DIAL to get any plan for T1 approved by it before implementing the same. Union aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu is learnt to be weighing all options.

While the expanded T1 was to handle four crore passengers annually, it is currently operating at a fraction of that capacity due to the col-

lapse of a canopy and part of roof built in 2009-10 in June following heavy rain, killing a person. Govt had set up a high-level expert committee comprising IIT-Delhi's structural engineers to assess the roof collapse incident.

For airlines and passengers, this is the second winter of discontent at the country's busiest airport. Last winter, there was an issue with fog landings as only one runway had a CAT III instrument landing system. This time, there is a terminal-side capacity crunch since the collapse in June. T3 is massively overcrowded as it handles more flights along with the nearby T2 as the expanded T1 is yet to get fully operational. Once T1 gets operational as per capacity, the other terminals – T2

and T3 – will see a marked reduction in congestion.

Meanwhile, the proposed air train project at the airport is on track. Site visits by several potential bidders are on and the last date for submitting bids is Dec 19. These players are doing their own due diligence by estimating the volume of transfer traffic that will require the automated people mover.

DIAL is hoping to get as many serious bids as possible. "If all goes well, the tender may be awarded in Jan and work may begin in a couple of months after that," said sources.

The automated people mover will be another first for IGIA, which is already India's only airport to have four runways, three terminals and an elevated taxiway.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

30 OCTOBER 2024

Daily flight movements at A'bad airport to touch 300

Ahmedabad: The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPIA) is increasing its daily flight operations, with Aircraft Traffic Movements (ATMs) projected to increase to 300 per day from the current average of daily 269 flights.

The increase coincides with SVPIA's winter schedule, which began on Oct 27 and extends through March 29, 2025.

SVPIA now offers expanded domestic connectivity with direct flights to Guwahati, Hisar, Keshod, Jalgaon, Kolhapur, and Thiruvananthapuram. The airport also provides one-stop connections to Agartala, Dimapur, and Port Blair, expanding travel options for passengers. "On the international front, new direct routes to Da Nang and Muscat further extend travel possibilities for SVPIA passengers," the airport operator said in a statement.

The airport has increased flight frequencies to key domestic cities including Delhi, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Mumbai, and Pune. International connections to London (Gatwick), Kuala Lumpur, and Bangkok have also received additional flights, addressing both business and leisure travel demands. In international operations, VietJet has introduced direct services to Da Nang, while Jazeera Airways has resumed its Kuwait operations. Air India and SpiceJet are expanding their weekly flight services to London and Muscat. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

31 OCTOBER 2024

RGIA security hiked over bomb hoax

Hyderabad: Security has been beefed up at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) at Shamshabad in the wake of frequent bomb hoaxes.

Both local police and personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) are taking extra precautions in inspections and screening of passengers.

The heightened security comes after around 20 bomb hoaxes were reported on flights connecting Hyderabad with various cities during the last 10 days. On Tuesday too a threat was received from an unknown X handle warning of bombs in six flights scheduled to take off from RGIA. They all turned out to be hoaxes.

Police said in the last one-week, eight criminal cases have been filed (including the six on Tuesday). "A special team has been formed to track the person behind the hoax messages," an RGIA cop said. TNN

Air India Express enters second leg of its transformation journey

SPREADING WINGS. Airline expected to burn cash as it expands network and acquires aircraft to increase reach

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

After completing its merger with AIX Connect (formerly known as AirAsia India), the Tata Group-promoted low-cost carrier Air India Express now aims to achieve significant capacity as well as market share during the second phase of its transformation programme.

Notably, the airline is guided by a five-year-long transformation programme, V1Rise, which forms a key part of the ambitious Vihaan initiative of its parent company Air India.

The recent merger with AIX Connect marked the completion of the first phase of V1Rise, known as 'Synchronisation'.

During this phase, the unified entity unlocked synergies by merging two airlines that previously served niche

markets. The former Air India Express was a regional international carrier serving routes between India, the Middle East and South-east Asia, while AIX Connect served only domestic routes within India.

INDIAN WARMTH

"With the integration of AIX Connect into Air India Express, achieved within a year of unveiling our new brand identity and renewed purpose, we are poised to become an airline delivering best-in-class services with unique Indian warmth. Our renewed brand proposition, 'Fly As You Are,' reflects our commitment to guests," said an Air India Express official.

In the short term, the airline is expected to burn cash as it rapidly expands its network and acquires more aircraft to increase both its domestic and international reach.



TAKING AI ROUTE. The airline is guided by a five-year transformation programme, V1Rise, a key part of the Vihaan initiative of parent company Air India

As of now, Air India Express' fleet size stands at 90, compared to 26 aircraft during government ownership. The number of routes served by the airline has more than doubled, with around 400 flights a day compared to 75-77 daily flights two years ago. Under the second phase, Air India Express aims to have a fleet of over 100 aircraft by the end of the current fiscal year, with more domestic

and international routes.

"Our goal in this phase is efficient network planning, scaling up our business, and keeping costs under control. We want to fully utilise our growing aircraft fleet and offer exceptional services, giving travellers more reasons to choose Air India Express," the official said.

Air India Express plans to increase flight frequencies to tier-II and tier-III cities, aim-

ing to reach a total of 50 stations shortly. It operates from or to 48 stations now.

DOMESTIC FOOTPRINT

The airline expects that expanding its domestic footprint in smaller towns and cities will help feed into Air India's long-haul flights. Presently, Air India Express has a codeshare with Air India, allowing passengers travelling from smaller towns in India to fly on a single itinerary to destinations like San Francisco or New York.

On international route expansion, the airline is working on schedules to commence operations to Phuket and other destinations. Currently, Air India Express flies to 14 international destinations, including 13 in West Asia and Singapore, along with over 30 domestic destinations, operating more than 400 flights a day.

Air India to cancel 60 flights on India-US routes



Mumbai: Non-availability of aircraft due to maintenance issues has forced the Tata Group-owned Air India to cancel some 60 flights on the India-US routes between November and December this year, according to an airline source. The flights include services to San Francisco and Chicago, among others, the source said. PTI

दीवाली पर हवाई किराया 32 फीसदी तक घटा

दीपक पटेल और अजिंक्य कावले
नई दिल्ली/मुंबई, 30 अक्टूबर

दीवाली के दौरान प्रमुख घरेलू मार्गों पर हवाई किराये में 32 फीसदी तक की कमी आई है। यात्रियों की ओर से मांग कम रहने और विमान कंपनियों की मूल्य निर्धारण रणनीति के कारण किराये में कमी आई है।

आम तौर पर पहले बुकिंग करने पर विमान कंपनियाँ सस्ती दरों पर टिकट देती हैं और जैसे-जैसे यात्रा की तारीख नजदीक आती है किराया बढ़ता जाता है। मगर अब विमान कंपनियाँ अग्रिम बुकिंग पर ज्यादा किराया वसूल रही हैं और यात्रा की तारीख करीब आने पर कम किराया लिया जा रहा है।

यात्रा वेबसाइट इक्सिगो के अनुसार बेंगलूरु-पुणे मार्ग पर 31 अक्टूबर से 3 नवंबर के बीच यात्रा के लिए इकॉनॉमी श्रेणी में औसत तत्काल किराया 2,879 रुपये है जबकि

पिछले साल इस दौरान किराया 4,232 रुपये था। विमान क्षेत्र के शोधार्थी और एविएशन ब्लॉग नेटवर्क थॉट्स के संस्थापक अमेय जोशी ने मूल्य निर्धारण रणनीति में बदलाव पर कहा, 'पिछली कुछ तिमाहियों में पहले से बुकिंग करने पर किराये में भारी वृद्धि देखी गई लेकिन प्रस्थान के करीब किराया कम हो गया और ज्यादातर मामलों में 'जल्दी टिकट बुक करो, सस्ते में यात्रा करो' की सोच बदल गई है।

मुंबई-अहमदाबाद मार्ग पर 31 अक्टूबर से 3 नवंबर के बीच यात्रा के लिए हवाई किराया घटकर 2,462 रुपये रह गया है जो पिछले साल त्योहार के दौरान 3,085 रुपये था। यह यात्रा से 1 से 3 दिन पहले टिकट लेने का किराया है।

24 अक्टूबर को इंडिगो के मुख्य वित्त अधिकारी गौरव नेगी ने संकेत दिया था कि चालू वित्त वर्ष की तीसरी तिमाही में भी हवाई यात्रा की मांग नरम रहने के आसार हैं।





Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

A-I to cancel 60 flights on India-US routes in Nov-Dec

Non-availability of aircraft due to maintenance issues has forced Tata Group-owned Air India to cancel around 60 flights on the India-US routes between November and December, according to an airline source. The flights, which have been cancelled during the peak travel period, include services to San Francisco and Chicago, among others, the source said. Air India said it has cancelled a “small” number of flights between November and December on account of delayed return of some aircraft from heavy maintenance and supply chain constraints, without naming the destinations. **PTI**

Spot Diwali airfares on key routes nosedive

DEEPAK PATEL & AJINKYA KAWALE
New Delhi/Mumbai, 30 October

Spot airfares on major domestic routes have dropped by up to 32 per cent for travel around Diwali, driven by subdued demand and a strategic shift in airline pricing.

Typically, airlines have promoted early bookings with lower fares, increasing prices closer to the travel date. Now, they're reversing this approach by charging more for early bookings and reducing fares as the travel date nears.

According to data from travel site Ixigo, the average spot economy fare on the Bengaluru-Pune route has fallen to ₹2,879 for travel between October 31 and November 3, down from ₹4,232 during last year's Diwali period of November 10-14, representing a 32 per cent decrease in spot fares. These findings are based on bookings made one-three days before departure.

Ameya Joshi, an aviation researcher and founder of the blog Network Thoughts, noted the significant shift in pricing strategies. "The past few quarters have seen

prohibitive fares for advance bookings, only to dip closer to departure," he said, adding that this trend has changed the notion of "book early, book cheap."

"Capacity, measured by available seat kilometres (ASK), is growing faster than passenger numbers in India's domestic market, and that's where the issue lies," he explained. "To fill capacity, airlines must discount, but avoiding discounts means empty seats – and the highest cost for an airline is an empty seat."

Ixigo data also showed that the average spot economy fare on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route for travel between October 31 and November 3 is down to ₹2,462, a 20.2 per cent drop from ₹3,085 during the Diwali period last year.

IndiGo's chief financial officer, Gaurav Negi, indicated on October 25 that demand was expected to slow in the third quarter of 2024-25 due to a high base effect from last year's strong performance. IndiGo, Negi stated, anticipates a moderation in passenger unit revenue (PRASK) of single to mid-single digits for Q3 compared to last year,

when both demand and yields were exceptionally high.

IndiGo, India's largest airline, reported a net loss of ₹986.7 crore in the second quarter of 2024-25, marking a loss after seven consecutive profitable quarters.

Demand for metro routes has eased compared to last year, when pent-up demand following the pandemic surged. "Bookings for air tickets have slowed down for Diwali. This could be because the pent-up demand after the Covid-19 pandemic was high, and that is stabilising now," said Rajiv Mehra, president of the Indian Association of Tour Operators.

Others suggest there may be a focus on saving over spending this festive season. "Travel to metro cities like Mumbai and Delhi hasn't seen the usual festive spike, and even destinations like Udaipur, Jodhpur, and Kerala aren't experiencing a huge demand," said Ajay Prakash, board member of the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH). "People might be focusing on savings rather than splurging this year."



One-way average economy fare for travel between

Routes	Nov 10, '23 and 14, '23	Oct 31, 2024 and Nov 3, '24	% increase/decrease
Bengaluru-Pune	4,232	2,879	-32.0
Delhi-Pune	5,782	4,368	-24.5
Mumbai-Ahmedabad	3,085	2,462	-20.2
Delhi-Mumbai	6,243	5,251	-15.9
Delhi-Srinagar	6,998	5,944	-15.1
Delhi-Ahmedabad	3,823	3,331	-12.9
Bengaluru-Kolkata	9,030	7,965	-11.8
Mumbai-Bengaluru	4,089	3,614	-11.6
Delhi-Hyderabad	5,143	4,705	-8.5
Kolkata-Delhi	6,512	6,032	-7.4
Bengaluru-Hyderabad	4,170	3,994	-4.2
Mumbai-Hyderabad	3,940	3,793	-3.7

Note: Diwali last year was celebrated on November 12. This year, it is being celebrated on October 31.; This data is for tickets purchased 1-3 days before departure.; Source: Ixigo



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

60 Air India flights on India-US route cancelled

AGENCIES
REUTERS

Non-availability of aircraft due to maintenance issues has forced Tata Group-owned Air India to cancel some 60 flights on the India-US routes between November and December this year, according to an airline source.

The flights, which have

been cancelled during the peak travel period, include services to San Francisco and Chicago, among others, the source said.

Air India, in a statement, said it has cancelled a "small" number of flights between November and December on account of delayed return of some aircraft from heavy maintenance and supply chain

constraints, without naming the destinations.

It also said that affected customers have been "informed" and offered flights on other Air India group services operating on the same or adjacent days.

"Air India has cancelled some 60 flights to and from San Francisco, Washington, Chicago, Newark and New York between No-

vember 15 and December 31, as it does not have adequate wide-body aircraft to operate some of the flights to these destinations," the sources told PTI.

As part of this, Air India has cancelled 14 flights on the Delhi-Chicago route, 28 flights on the Delhi-Washington route, 12 flights between the Delhi-

■ P4

Air India flights on India-US route

CONTINUED FROM P1

SFO route, four flights on the Mumbai-New York route as well as two flights on the Delhi-Newark route, the sources said.

"Air India is facing delays in getting aircraft from the MRO operator it is sending to for maintenance. Then some of its wide-body planes are also grounded due to technical issues. This has resulted in the shortage of aircraft and consequently in flight can-

cellations," they added.

"Due to the delayed return of some aircraft from heavy maintenance and supply chain constraints resulting in a temporary reduction in operating fleet, Air India regrets that a small number of flights have been cancelled between now and end-December," an Air India spokesperson said. Affected customers have been informed and offered flights on other Air India group services operating on the same or ad-

acent days, a free change to any other date or a full refund, the spokesperson said, adding, "Air India sincerely regrets the inconvenience caused by this constraint beyond our control".

Air India currently operates five flights between Delhi and Washington, while Delhi-JFK (New York) and Mumbai-JFK routes have seven flights per week. On the Delhi-Chicago route also, the airline operates seven flights per week.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

विमानों को धमकी की गंभीरता से होगी जांच

नई दिल्ली, प्रेड: नागरिक उड्डयन ब्यूरो (बीसीएएस) ने विमानों में बम रखे होने की धमकी की गंभीरता का आंकलन करने को नागरिक विमानन सुरक्षा व खुफिया एजेंसियों के लिए नए दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए हैं। फ्लाइट में बम रखे होने की सूचना पर मंथन करते समय एजेंसियां अब इंटरनेट मीडिया हैंडल का नाम, धमकी देने वाला किसी आतंकी या प्रतिबंधित संगठन से तो नहीं जुड़ा, विमान में वीआइपी की उपस्थिति जैसे मानदंडों को ध्यान में रखेंगी।

ये दिशा-निर्देश उभरती सुरक्षा चुनौतियों विशेषकर विभिन्न इंटरनेट मीडिया मंचों के जरिये विमानों में बम रखे होने की फर्जी सूचनाएं फैलाने की बढ़ती प्रवृत्ति के मद्देनजर जारी किए गए हैं। पिछले 16 दिनों में भारतीय विमान कंपनियों की 510 से ज्यादा घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में बम रखे होने की सूचनाएं मिली हैं, जो बाद में झूठी साबित हुईं। ये ज्यादातर सूचनाएं एक्स पर गुमनाम हैंडल से दी गईं।

वर्तमान कार्यप्रणाली के अनुसार किसी एयरलाइन, हवाई अड्डे

● उड्डयन ब्यूरो ने बम होने की फर्जी सूचनाओं के मद्देनजर उठाया कदम, नए दिशा-निर्देश जारी

● इंटरनेट मीडिया हैंडल का नाम, विमान में वीआइपी की उपस्थिति जैसे मानदंड ध्यान में रखे जाएंगे

दिल्ली से भेजे थे एयरलाइनों को बम से उड़ाने के ईमेल

नागपुर पुलिस ने कहा है कि एयरलाइनों के विमानों से बम से उड़ाने की झूठी धमकी देने वाले जिस संदिग्ध की पहचान उसने उसने महाराष्ट्र के राज्य के गोंदिया निवासी 35 वर्षीय जगदीश उड्डे के रूप में की है, उसने ये धमकी भरे ईमेल दिल्ली से भेजे थे। फिलहाल धमकी भरे ईमेल का उड्डे से संबंध होने का पता चलने के बाद से आरोपित फरार है।

या विमानन संबंधी तंत्र में बम की धमकी या किसी अन्य खतरे का विश्लेषण करने के लिए हवाई अड्डे पर बम खतरा आकलन समिति (बीटीएसी) की बैठक बुलाई जाती है, जोकि गंभीर मामला या फिर अफवाह घोषित करने का निर्णय लेती है। समिति में बीसीएएस, सीआइएसएफ, स्थानीय पुलिस, हवाई अड्डा संचालक और एयरलाइन अधिकारी तथा कुछ अन्य एजेंसियों के प्रतिनिधि शामिल होते हैं। बीटीएसी 2014 में लाई गई बम खतरा आकस्मिक योजना (बीटीसीपी) का हिस्सा है,

जिसे उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने भारतीय विमानन क्षेत्र, इसकी परिसंपत्तियों और मानव संसाधनों के लिए बम, तोड़फोड़ और अपहरण के खतरों से निपटने के लिए लागू किया है।

फ्लाइट में बम की झूठी सूचना देने पर केरल से एक गिरफ्तार: केरल के मलाप्पुरम जिले के करीपुर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से अबू धाबी जाने वाली एयर अरेबिया की फ्लाइट में बम की झूठी धमकी देने के आरोप में एक व्यक्ति को गिरफ्तार किया गया है। उसकी शिनाख्त पलक्कड़ के 26 वर्षीय मोहम्मद इजास के रूप में हुई है।

विमानों की कमी के कारण नवंबर-दिसंबर में रद्द रहेंगी अमेरिका के लिए एअर इंडिया की 60 उड़ानें

मुंबई, प्रेट्र : विमानों की कमी के कारण भारत और अमेरिका के बीच इस वर्ष नवंबर-दिसंबर में एअर इंडिया की लगभग 60 उड़ानें रद्द रहेंगी। जिन उड़ानों को रद्द किया गया है, उनमें सैन फ्रांसिस्को और शिकागो के लिए उड़ानें शामिल हैं।

एअर इंडिया ने एक बयान जारी कर कुछ उड़ानें रद्द करने की बात तो कही, लेकिन उनकी सही संख्या एवं गंतव्यों के बारे में जानकारी नहीं दी। लेकिन सूत्रों ने बताया कि सैन फ्रांसिस्को, वाशिंगटन, शिकागो, नेवार्क और न्यूयार्क के लिए 15 नवंबर से 31 दिसंबर के बीच लगभग 60 उड़ानों को रद्द किया गया है। इनमें दिल्ली-शिकागो के बीच 14 उड़ानें, दिल्ली-वाशिंगटन के बीच 28 उड़ानें,

सैन फ्रांसिस्को, वाशिंगटन, शिकागो, नेवार्क व न्यूयार्क की उड़ानें भी शामिल

मेंटेनेंस के लिए गए विमानों के देरी से मिलने की वजह से हो रही है कमी



दिल्ली-सैन फ्रांसिस्को के बीच 12 उड़ानें, मुंबई-न्यूयार्क के बीच चार उड़ानें और दिल्ली-नेवार्क के बीच दो उड़ानें

शामिल हैं।

सूत्रों ने कहा, 'एअर इंडिया को रखरखाव के लिए एमआरओ (मेंटेनेंस, रिपेयर, ओवरहाल) आपरेटर से विमान मिलने में देरी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। इसके अलावा इसके कुछ वाइड-बाडी विमान तकनीकी समस्याओं के कारण जमीन पर हैं। इस कारण विमानों की कमी हो गई है और उड़ानें रद्द हो रही हैं।' एअर इंडिया के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि प्रभावित ग्राहकों को सूचित कर दिया गया है और उन्हें उसी दिन या आगामी कुछ दिनों में संचालित होने वाली एअर इंडिया समूह की अन्य उड़ानों पर किसी अन्य तिथि में मुफ्त में बदलाव करने या पूर्ण धन वापसी की पेशकश की गई है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

■ AI to Cancel 60 Flights on India-US Routes



MUMBAI Non-availability of aircraft due to maintenance issues has forced Tata Group-owned Air

India to cancel some 60 flights on the India-US routes between November and December this year, according to an airline source. The flights, which have been cancelled during the peak travel period, include services to San Francisco and Chicago, among others, the source said. Air India, in a statement, said it has cancelled a "small" number of flights between November and December on account of delayed return of some aircraft from heavy maintenance and supply chain constraints, without naming the destinations. It also said that affected customers have been "informed" and offered flights on other Air India group services operating on the same or adjacent days.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

Airbus Delivers First A321XLR

Airbus delivered its first A321XLR jet to Spain's Iberia on Wednesday, the European planemaker said, stepping up a battle with Boeing in the middle



of the jet market. The plane, which took five years to develop and targets a market previously served by Boeing's out-of-production 757 or larger wide-bodies, was handed over late on Tuesday and was due to fly to Madrid on Wednesday, according to Flightradar24 data.

The delivery, first reported by Reuters on Tuesday, highlights a drive by Airbus and Boeing to extend the performance of the industry's best-selling single-aisle jets.

Launched in 2019 to steal a march on Boeing's plans at the time to build a new jet in the middle of the market, the A321XLR targets a gap left by the out-of-production Boeing 757, where the A321 family outsells the largest versions of the 737 MAX. **Reuters**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

AI cancels flights in Nov-Dec due to scarcity of aircraft

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, October 30

NON-AVAILABILITY OF AIR-CRAFT due to maintenance issues has forced Tata Group-owned Air India to cancel some 60 flights on the India-US routes between November and December this year, according to an airline source.

The flights, which have been cancelled during the peak travel period, include services to San Francisco and Chicago, among others, the source said.

Air India, in a statement, said it has cancelled a "small" number of flights between November and December on

account of delayed return of some aircraft from heavy maintenance and supply chain constraints, without naming the destinations.

It also said that affected customers have been "informed" and offered flights on other Air India group services operating on the same or adjacent days.

"Air India has cancelled some 60 flights to and from San Francisco, Washington, Chicago, Newark and New York between November 15 and December 31, as it does not have adequate wide-body aircraft to operate some of the flights to these destinations," the sources.

Agencies being more selective in terming bomb threats as serious

SUKALP SHARMA
New Delhi, October 30

IN VIEW OF the scores of fake bomb threats to flights of Indian airlines, more layers have been added to the criteria for threat assessment, it has been learnt. Further, the agencies are now being highly selective in declaring such threats as "specific", which triggers a detailed security protocol for the affected flights, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The bomb threat security protocols often disrupt airline operations and cause them financial losses, lead to hardships for passengers, and put the aviation security infrastructure under stress.

Cyber experts from government departments and intelligence agencies have been roped in and centralised coordination between airport-specific Bomb Threat Assessment Committees (BTAC) is also being done to take informed calls on such threats, per sources. The revised criteria that was put in place a few days ago includes considerations like whether the threat



The bomb threat security protocols often disrupt airline operations and cause them financial losses

File

was posted from an anonymous social media account that has threatened multiple flights in one go, and whether a VIP was on board the aircraft.

Officials declined to elaborate further on the criteria and the decision-making process, saying that the details are a sensitive operational matter.

It is worth noting that over the past few days, despite the surge in such threats, the number of diversions and initiation of post-landing bomb threat protocols has been miniscule.

This contrasts with the initial days of such threats being posted, which saw numerous flight diversions, delays, and even cancellations.

The current spate of bomb hoaxes to Indian airlines' flights started on October 14. Since then, over 500 flights have received threats, a vast majority posted from anonymous and unverified social media handles. All such threats so far have turned out to be fake. Given the trend, the government is of the view that such threats should be

dealt with in a manner that minimises flight disruptions without compromising on security and safety.

When a threat is received, the BTAC of the designated airport is tasked with assessing the threat and classifying it as specific or non-specific. If the threat is classified as specific, a detailed security protocol is followed, which could include diverting the aircraft to a suitable nearby airport and entails strict security checks of passengers, cargo, and the aircraft itself upon landing. In case of a "non-specific threat", no immediate action is taken. BTAC members include representatives of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), local police, the airline concerned, and the airport operator, among others.

"Initially, most of the threats posted on social media were being deemed as specific threats if they mentioned specific flight numbers. That is not the case anymore. In our experience of the past few days, most of these unfounded threats are now being classified as non-specific

by the BTACs. The assessment now has more criteria, inputs, and additional layers," said a senior airline official, who did not wish to be identified.

In an interaction with journalists on October 21, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu had said that while all requisite norms are being followed the BCAS and BTACs were keeping the process "dynamic" based on the learnings in recent cases.

"They have been coming up with different processes so that it gets a little easier to address these kinds of situations from our side, not to say that we are easing down the whole process of assessing. We are keeping it very dynamic. We are not keeping ourselves rigid in terms of the guidelines and are assessing and learning from what has been happening. The BCAS also has been innovative in their approach, and this is in thorough consultation and coordination with all the necessary agencies, be it the ministry of home affairs or airport level security officers," Naidu had said, adding that all threats are being assessed on a case-by-case basis.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

30 OCTOBER 2024

AHMEDABAD

Flights to Keshod begin

In efforts to promote Gujarat and India's pilgrimage sites as top global tourism destinations by re-exposing Indian culture, a direct flight service from Ahmedabad to Keshod has been launched. Additionally, the Somnath Trust has initiated a free pickup bus service for pilgrims visiting Somnath today on the auspicious day of Dhanteras. The Ahmedabad to Keshod direct flight service will operate three days a week—Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday—providing more travel options for devotees and tourists. On these days, the flight will depart from Ahmedabad at 10:10 AM and arrive in Keshod at 10:55 AM. The return flight will leave Keshod at 1:15 PM and return to Ahmedabad at



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

30 OCTOBER 2024

NEW DELHI

SpiceJet clears TDS dues worth ₹310 cr

SpiceJet on Tuesday said it has cleared pending TDS dues worth Rs 310 crore till the September quarter of the current fiscal. The carrier, which had been facing turbulent times, last month raised Rs 3,000 crore.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

30 OCTOBER 2024

62 flights get hoax bomb threats

Megha Kuchik

MUMBAI

The Sahar police have booked an unidentified individual for issuing a hoax bomb threat to as many as 62 flights, including that of IndiGo, Air India and Vistara, on October 28. "Hi, there are bombs onboard the MENTIONED (flight numbers) planes. Contact me:shaikha.nasser20077@gmail.com. Many lives will be lost today," read the post uploaded on X.

According to the FIR, the threat was uploaded from the handle 'Mandai massacre' between 2.15pm and 2.45pm, tagging the said carriers. The airline staff immediately notified security agencies, including the Central Industrial Security Force and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.

Of 62 flights, four were scheduled to land in Mumbai and seven to depart from the city. No suspicious items were found onboard any of the planes.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

31 OCTOBER 2024

Air India to cancel 60 flights on India-US routes in Nov-Dec

PTI
MUMBAI

Non-availability of aircraft due to maintenance issues has forced Air India to cancel some 60 flights on the India-US routes between November and December this year, according to an airline source.

The flights, which have been cancelled during the peak travel period, include services to San Francisco and Chicago, among others, the source said.

Air India, in a statement, said it has cancelled a "small" number of flights between November and December on account of delayed return of some aircraft from heavy maintenance and supply chain



constraints, without naming the destinations. It also said that affected customers have been "informed" and offered flights on other Air India group services operating on the same or adjacent days.

"Air India has cancelled some 60 flights to and from San Francisco, Washington, Chicago, Newark and New York between November 15 and December 31, as it does not have adequate wide-body aircraft to operate some of the flights to these destinations," the sources told PTI.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

संकट : अमेरिका मार्ग की करीब 60 उड़ानें रद्द

मुंबई। रखरखाव की समस्याओं के चलते विमानों की कमी के कारण एयर इंडिया को इस साल नवंबर और दिसंबर के बीच भारत-अमेरिका मार्गों पर लगभग 60 उड़ानें रद्द करनी पड़ीं। एक एयरलाइन सूत्र ने यह जानकारी दी। सूत्रों ने कहा कि जिन उड़ानों को रद्द किया गया, उनमें सैन फ्रांसिस्को और शिकागो के लिए सेवाएं शामिल हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

एयर इंडिया के विमान में बम होने का फर्जी संदेश

इंदौर, एजेसी। एयर इंडिया की दिल्ली से इंदौर होते हुए मुंबई जाने वाली फ्लाइट में पाइप बम रखे होने का फर्जी संदेश सोशल मीडिया पर पोस्ट किया गया। इसके बाद पुलिस ने अज्ञात व्यक्ति के खिलाफ मामला दर्ज किया है। बुधवार को पुलिस ने घटना के बारे में जानकारी दी।

इंदौर के एयर इंडिया के अधिकारी ने पुलिस में शिकायत दी। एक्स के एक खाते पर मंगलवार शाम पांच बजकर आठ मिनट पर धमकी भरा संदेश डाला गया कि इस एयरलाइन की उड़ान संख्या एआई 636 में पाइप बम रखा है। दिल्ली से आई यह उड़ान शाम चार

■ दिल्ली से इंदौर होते हुए
मुंबई जा रही थी फ्लाइट,
अज्ञात पर मामला दर्ज

बजकर 38 मिनट पर ही इंदौर से मुंबई के लिए रवाना हो चुकी थी।

दिल्ली से ई-मेल भेजा था :
महाराष्ट्र की नागपुर पुलिस ने बुधवार को कहा कि संदिग्ध ने धमकी भरे ईमेल दिल्ली से भेजे थे। संदिग्ध जगदीश श्रीराम उइके ने आतंकवाद पर एक किताब लिखी है और वह महाराष्ट्र के गोदिया जिले के अर्जुनी मोरगांव का रहने वाला है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

बम की सूचना पर मानदंडों का ध्यान रखेंगी एजेंसियां

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। विमानों में बम रखे होने की सूचना के बाद उड़ानों में घंटों देरी और उड़ानें रद्द होने के मामले को एजेंसियों ने गंभीरता से लिया है।

बम की सूचना की गंभीरता पर नकार करते समय एजेंसियां कई मानदंडों को ध्यान में रखेंगी। इसके बाद फैसला लेगी कि किस स्तर की कार्रवाई करनी चाहिए, जिससे यात्रियों को कम से कम परेशानी हो।

नागरिक विमानन सुरक्षा व खुफिया एजेंसियों के लिए नए दिशा-निर्देश नागरिक उड्डयन ब्यूरो (बीसीएस) द्वारा जारी किए गए हैं। ये दिशा-निर्देश उभरती सुरक्षा चुनौतियों विशेषकर विभिन्न सोशल मीडिया मंचों के जरिये विमानों में बम रखे होने की फर्जी सूचनाएं फैलाने की बढ़ती प्रवृत्ति के मद्देनजर जारी किए गए हैं। पिछले दो हफ्ते में 510 से ज्यादा घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में बम रखे होने की सूचनाएं मिली हैं, जो बाद में झूठी साबित हुईं।

अभी यह है नियम: अभी किसी एयरलाइन, हवाई अड्डे या विमानन संबंधी तंत्र के किसी भी भाग को

ये बदलाव किए गए

नये प्रोटोकॉल के तहत, समिति धमकी देने वाले व्यक्ति या संगठन की पहचान करेगी। यह देखने के लिए उनके ब्योरे की जांच करेगी कि क्या वे किसी आतंकी या प्रतिबंधित संगठन से संबंधित हैं या नहीं।

समिति घटा लगाएगी कि क्या लक्षित उड़ान में कोई वीआईपी या वीवीआईपी सवार है, जिस सोशल मीडिया हैंडल से धमकी मिली है, वह सत्यापित है। क्या एक ही हैंडल का उपयोग कर कई बार धमकियां दी गई हैं।

लेकर जारी बम या सुरक्षा खतरे का विश्लेषण करने के लिए हवाई अड्डे पर बम खतरा आकलन समिति की बैठक बुलाई जाती है। समिति सूचना को विशिष्ट या गंभीर या अविशिष्ट या अफवाह घोषित करने का निर्णय लेती है। समिति में बीसीएस, सीआईएसएफ, स्थानीय पुलिस, हवाई अड्डा संचालक व एयरलाइन अधिकारी व कुछ अन्य एजेंसियों के प्रतिनिधि शामिल होते हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

Air India set to cancel 60 flights over next 2 mnths

MUMBAI: Non-availability of aircraft due to maintenance issues has forced Tata Group-owned Air India to cancel 60 flights on the India-US routes between November and December this year, people aware of the matter told news agency PTI.

The flights, which have been cancelled during the peak travel period, include services to San Francisco and Chicago, among others, they said.

Air India, in a statement, said it has cancelled a "small" number of flights between November and December on account of delayed return of some aircraft

from heavy maintenance and supply chain constraints, without naming the destinations.

It also said that affected customers have been "informed" and offered flights on other Air India group services operating on the same or adjacent days. "Air India has cancelled some 60 flights to and from San Francisco, Washington, Chicago, Newark and New York between November 15 and December 31, as it does not have adequate wide-body aircraft to operate some of the flights to these destinations," the people cited above told PTI.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

30 OCTOBER 2024

IN BRIEF



SpiceJet pays TDS dues worth ₹310 crore till Sept. quarter

SpiceJet on Tuesday said it has cleared pending TDS dues worth ₹310 crore till the September quarter of the current fiscal. The carrier, which had been facing turbulent times, last month raised ₹3,000 crore. “Beginning September 26, SpiceJet has cleared over ₹600 crore in pending dues, including outstanding salaries, GST liabilities, and Provident Fund contributions. The firm has also successfully reached settlements with multiple aircraft lessors,” it said. PTI

.64 ▼ 320.50 FTSE: 8,155.81 ▼ 63.80 DAX: 19,215.43 ▼ 262.64

International market data till 1900 IST

BOMB THREATS TO FLIGHTS

Assessment criteria tweaked, agencies being more selective in terming threats as serious

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

IN VIEW of the scores of fake bomb threats to flights of Indian airlines, more layers have been added to the criteria for threat assessment, *The Indian Express* has learnt. Further, the agencies are now being highly selective in declaring such threats as "specific", which triggers a detailed security protocol for the affected flights, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The bomb threat security protocols often disrupt airline operations and cause them financial losses, lead to hardships for passengers, and put the aviation security infrastructure under stress.

Cyber experts from government departments and intelligence agencies have been roped in and centralised coordination between airport-specific Bomb Threat Assessment Committees (BTAC) is also being done to take informed calls on such threats, per sources. The revised criteria, which was put in place a few days ago, includes considerations like whether the threat was posted from an anonymous social media account that has threatened multiple flights in one go, and whether a VIP was on board the aircraft.

Officials declined to elaborate further on the criteria and the decision-making process, saying that the details are a sensitive operational matter.

It is worth noting that over the past few days, despite the surge in such threats, the number of diversions and initiation of post-landing bomb threat protocols has been miniscule. This contrasts with the initial days of such threats being posted, which saw numerous flight diversions, delays, and even cancellations.

The current spate of bomb hoaxes to Indian airlines' flights started on October 14. Since then,



The bomb threat security protocols often disrupt airline operations and cause them financial losses. *File*

over 500 flights have received threats, a vast majority posted from anonymous and unverified social media handles. All such threats so far have turned out to be fake. Given the trend, the government is of the view that such threats should be dealt with in a manner that minimises flight disruptions without compromising on security and safety.

When a threat is received, the BTAC of the designated airport is tasked with assessing the threat and classifying it as specific or non-specific. If the threat is classified as specific, a detailed security protocol is followed, which could include diverting the aircraft to a suitable nearby airport and entails strict security checks of passengers, cargo, and the aircraft itself upon landing. In case of a "non-specific threat", no immediate action is taken. BTAC members include representatives of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), local police, the airline concerned, and the airport operator, among others.

"Initially, most of the threats posted on social media were being deemed as specific threats if they mentioned specific flight numbers. That is not the case anymore. In our experience during

the past few days, most of these unfounded threats are now being classified as non-specific by the BTACs. The assessment now has more criteria, inputs, and additional layers," said a senior airline official, who did not wish to be identified.

In an interaction with journalists on October 21, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu had said that while all requisite norms are being followed the BCAS and BTACs were keeping the process "dynamic" based on the learnings in recent cases.

"They have been coming up with different processes so that it gets a little easier to address these kinds of situations from our side, not to say that we are easing down the whole process of assessing... We are keeping it very dynamic. We are not keeping ourselves rigid in terms of the guidelines and are assessing and learning from what has been happening. The BCAS also has been innovative in their approach, and this is in thorough consultation and coordination with all the necessary agencies, be it the MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs) or airport-level security officers," Naidu had said, adding that all threats are being assessed on a case-by-case basis.





Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

Air India to cancel 60 India, US flights

Non-availability of aircraft due to maintenance issues has forced Tata Group-owned Air India to cancel some 60 flights on the India-US routes between November and December this year, according to people in the know of the matter.

The flights, which have been cancelled during the peak travel period, include services to San Francisco and Chicago, among others, they said.

Air India, in a statement, said it has cancelled a "small" number of flights between November and December on account of delayed return of some aircraft from heavy maintenance and supply chain constraints, without naming the destinations.

It also said that affected customers have been "informed" and offered flights on other Air India group services operating on the same or adjacent days.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

Geopolitical analysis, VIP onboard among criteria in new norms to check hoax bomb threats to flights

New norms to check hoax bomb threats to flights

In the past two weeks, over 510 domestic and international flights have received bomb threats

Continued from P1

Security regulators and agencies to better tackle the spate of the ongoing "random" Internet-based bomb threats being made to various Indian airlines.

The BTAC, as per the new guidelines notified on October 19, will adopt a "multi-layered" approach to assess threats and determine the "credibility and seriousness" of such threats issued on social media and satisfy themselves about the "credibility" of the source of information.

Some additional questions will now be answered by the BTAC before categorising a threat as specific, that would lead to triggering of established security protocols of diverting an aircraft, sending it to an isolation bay upon landing or just before taking off, and conducting fresh anti-sabotage checks of passengers and their belongings.

As per the new protocols, the committee will establish the identity of the person or organisation making the threat, check their credentials to see if they belong to a terrorist or proscribed outfit, ascertain the motive and specific socio-economic, and political situation within the country or around the globe that could be linked to the threat.

It will also gauge if the targeted flight has a VIP or VVIP onboard if the social media

handle from which the threat has been made is verified, if the account or handle is anonymous or pseudonymous and if the same handle was used to issue multiple threats.

A senior aviation security officer said that these new guidelines have been set into motion and this has led to the declaration of bomb threats to more than 400 flights as a hoax in the last few days. This has saved a lot of trouble for passengers, airlines, airports and security agencies as each of these random and mindless threats was being taken seriously leading to serious strain on resources.

"It was analysed that in most cases over the last two weeks,

one social media (handle) issued multiple threats and had specific flight numbers. Earlier, such threats were declared specific but now a multi-factor authentication is being done to check the menace of mindless bomb threats," the officer said.

The cyber wings of some of the intelligence and probe agencies are now working along with the BTAC too, he said. The new guidelines also have stated that on receipt of a bomb threat, the BTAC can be convened over an Internet-based secure platform but this is only an "interim" arrangement till the members of the committee assemble physically at the designated control room.

AGENCIES



Closer Look

- » BTAC operates under Bomb Threat Contingency Plan established in 2014
- » Protocols updated to counter ongoing Internet-based bomb threats effectively
- » Multi-layered approach assesses credibility of threats from social media

decides to declare it "specific" or serious or "non-specific" or hoax.

The committee comprises officials from the BCAS, CISF, local police, airport operator and airline officials and representatives of some other agencies.

The BTAC is part of the Bomb Threat Contingency Plan (BTCP) of 2014 put in place by the Union Civil Aviation Ministry to deal with bomb, sabotage and hijack threats to the Indian aviation sector, its assets and human resources.

PTI had first reported on October 22 that the protocols for the BTAC were tweaked by Indian aviation **Continued on P4**

NEW DELHI: The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has issued new guidelines for civil aviation security and intelligence agencies to address the growing challenge of hoax bomb threats made against Indian airlines through various social media platforms.

These guidelines consider factors such as the anonymity or pseudonymity of the social media handle, analysis of the geopolitical situation, and the presence of VIPs on the targeted flights, as new criteria for assessing the credibility and seriousness of such threats.

In the past two weeks, over

510 domestic and international flights have received bomb threats, which later proved to be hoaxes. These threats were mostly made through anonymous social

media handles, causing significant operational and financial distress for the airlines.

As per the current practice, a Bomb Threat Assessment Com-

mittee (BTAC) is convened at a designated airport to analyse a bomb or security threat issued against an airline, airport or any part of the aviation ecosystem that



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

Kerala man held for hoax bomb threat to Air Arabia flight

MALAPPURAM (KERALA): A man was arrested for allegedly issuing a fake bomb threat to an Abu Dhabi-bound Air Arabia flight from Karipur international airport in this district, police said on Wednesday.

The accused was identified as Mohammed Ijas (26) from neighbouring Palakkad district. According to Karipur police, the airport director, on Tuesday evening, received an email from Ijas claiming that a bomb was planted on the Air Arabia flight flying from Kozhikode to Abu Dhabi.

AGENCIES



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

30 OCTOBER 2024

SpiceJet clears TDS dues worth ₹310 crore



NEW DELHI: SpiceJet on Tuesday said it has cleared pending TDS dues worth Rs 310 crore till the September quarter of the current fiscal.

The carrier, which had been facing turbulent times, last month raised Rs 3,000 crore.

“Beginning September 26, 2024, SpiceJet has cleared over INR 600 crore in pending dues, including outstanding salaries, GST liabilities, and Provident Fund (PF) contributions. Additionally, the company has also successfully reached settlements with multiple aircraft lessors,” the airline said in a release.

According to the release, the carrier has also cleared pending TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) dues amounting to Rs 310 crore, including employee TDS, up to the second quarter of FY2025.

“We are committed to setting our house in order and are pleased to have cleared all pending TDS dues,” SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh said.

Shares of the airline were trading flat at Rs 57.10 apiece in late afternoon trade on the BSE. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

30 OCTOBER 2024

Nagpur cops identify man behind series of bomb threats to airlines; suspect on the run

NAGPUR: Police in Maharashtra's Nagpur have identified a 35-year-old man from Gondia in the state as the person behind a spate of hoax bomb threats that triggered panic, caused flight delays and led to increased security at airports and other establishments, an official said.

The Nagpur city police's special branch has identified the man as Jagdish Uikey, an author of a book on terrorism, who was arrested in 2021 in a case, he said.

"Uikey is currently on the run after these emails were traced back to him," the senior police official said.

The investigation, led by Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Shweta Khedkar uncovered detailed information linking Uikey to the emails.

Uikey sent emails to various government bodies, including the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Railway Minister, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputy, airline offices, the Director General of Police (DGP) and the Railway Protection Force (RPF), the official said.

On Monday, the Nagpur police stepped up security outside Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis's residence in the city after Uikey sent an email threatening to protest unless given a chance to present his information on



Over 100 flights get bomb threats on Tuesday

NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI: More than 100 flights operated by various Indian airlines received bomb threats on Tuesday, according to sources. In 16 days, over 510 domestic and international flights have got the threats that later turned out to be hoaxes. The threats were issued mostly through social media. **See P6**

the secret terror code he claimed to have deciphered. He also requested a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss his knowledge of terror threats, he added.

Uikey's email sent on October 21 to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, and also forwarded to the DGP and RPF, led to security measures at railway stations, the official said.

Continued on P6

Nagpur cops identify man behind series...

"A special team has been formed to arrest Uikey," he said, adding that he will be apprehended him soon.

In 13 days till October 26, more than 300 flights operated by the Indian carriers received hoax bomb threats. Most of the threats were issued through social media, the government agencies earlier said.

On October 22 alone, around 50 flights, including 13 each of IndiGo and Air India received bomb threats, sources earlier said.

AGENCIES



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

31 OCTOBER 2024

COOCH BEHAR AIRPORT

Expansion project underway to boost aircraft parking capacity

SHASHIKESH ROY

COOCH BEHAR: The Cooch Behar Airport has commenced work to expand its aircraft parking capacity, a move expected to support future growth in regional air travel. Currently, the parking area measures around 60 to 70 meters. Plans are in place to add an additional 7 meters — 3.5 meters on each side — to increase the total parking space. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has approved this expansion, which will require an estimated budget of Rs 50 lakh. However, funding approval for the project is still pending.

An official at Cooch Behar Airport stated: “We have received DGCA clearance for increasing the airport’s aircraft

parking capacity and a tender will soon be issued to initiate the work.” According to the Airport Authority of India, the current parking can accommodate only one aircraft at a time. With the planned extension, however, it will be able to hold two aircraft with a capacity of 20 seats each, creating more opportunities for passenger service expansion. News of the parking upgrade has spurred discussions around the possibility of increased flight services from Cooch Behar in the near future. Local resident and textile trader Manish Baid commented: “Having more flights with additional seating would be a great benefit for the people of Cooch Behar.” In addition to parking expansion, efforts are underway to extend the airport’s runway. A recent meeting between dis-

trict administration officials and the Airport Authority of India explored options to improve runway infrastructure, a necessary step to accommodate larger aircraft.

Cooch Behar Airport has a rich history, originally constructed during the era of the Cooch Behar Maharaja and operational since that time. Commercial flights, however, ceased abruptly in 1995 during the Left Front administration. Since 2011, under Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s administration, multiple attempts have been made to resume services. While intermittent flights resumed, they often stopped after a few days. Nevertheless, a 9-seater aircraft service successfully relaunched on February 21, 2023 and has been operating consistently since then.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

31 OCTOBER 2024

Geopolitical analysis, VIP onboard among criteria in new norms to check hoax bomb threats to flights

In the past two weeks, over 510 domestic and international flights have received bomb threats

NEW DELHI: The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has issued new guidelines for civil aviation security and intelligence agencies to address the growing challenge of hoax bomb threats made against Indian airlines through various social media platforms.

These guidelines consider factors such as the anonymity or pseudonymity of the social media handle, analysis of the geopolitical situation, and the presence of VIPs on the targeted flights, as new criteria for assessing the credibility and seriousness of such threats.

In the past two weeks, over



510 domestic and international flights have received bomb threats, which later proved to be hoaxes. These threats were mostly made through anonymous social

media handles, causing significant operational and financial distress for the airlines.

As per the current practice, a Bomb Threat Assessment Com-

Takeaways

- » BTAC operates under Bomb Threat Contingency Plan established in 2014
- » Protocols updated to counter ongoing Internet-based bomb threats effectively
- » Multi-layered approach assesses credibility of threats from social media

mittee (BTAC) is convened at a designated airport to analyse a bomb or security threat issued against an airline, airport or any part of the aviation ecosystem that decides to declare it "specific" or serious or "non-specific" or hoax.

The committee comprises officials from the BCAS, CISF, local police, airport operator and airline officials and representatives of some other agencies.

The BTAC is part of the Bomb Threat Contingency Plan (BTCP) of 2014 put in place by the Union Civil Aviation Ministry to deal with bomb, sabotage and hijack threats to the Indian aviation sector, its assets and human resources.

PTI had first reported on October 22 that the protocols for the BTAC. **Continued on P6**

New norms to check hoax bomb threats to flights

Continued from P1

Were tweaked by Indian aviation security regulators and agencies to better tackle the spate of the ongoing "random" Internet-based bomb threats being made to various Indian airlines.

The BTAC, as per the new guidelines notified on October 19, will adopt a "multi-layered" approach to assess threats and determine the "credibility and seriousness" of such threats issued on social media and satisfy themselves about the "cred-

ibility" of the source of information.

Some additional questions will now be answered by the BTAC before categorising a threat as specific, that would lead to triggering of established security protocols of diverting an aircraft, sending it to an isolation bay upon landing or just before taking off, and conducting fresh anti-sabotage checks of passengers and their belongings.

As per the new protocols, the committee will establish the identity of the person or organisation making the threat, check their cre-

dentials to see if they belong to a terrorist or proscribed outfit, ascertain the motive and specific socio-economic, and political situation within the country or around the globe that could be linked to the threat.

It will also gauge if the targeted flight has a VIP or VVIP onboard if the social media handle from which the threat has been made is verified, if the account or handle is anonymous or pseudonymous and if the same handle was used to issue multiple threats.

A senior aviation security officer

said that these new guidelines have been set into motion and this has led to the declaration of bomb threats to more than 400 flights as a hoax in the last few days. This has saved a lot of trouble for passengers, airlines, airports and security agencies as each of these random and mindless threats was being taken seriously leading to serious strain on resources.

"It was analysed that in most cases over the last two weeks, one social media (handle) issued multiple threats and had specific flight numbers. Earlier, such threats were

declared specific but now a multi-factor authentication is being done to check the menace of mindless bomb threats," the officer said.

The cyber wings of some of the intelligence and probe agencies are now working along with the BTAC too, he said. The new guidelines also have stated that on receipt of a bomb threat, the BTAC can be convened over an Internet-based secure platform but this is only an "interim" arrangement till the members of the committee assemble physically at the designated control room. **AGENCIES**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

New rules in place to analyse, grade bomb threat to flights

MUKESH RANJAN @New Delhi

THE Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has issued new rules to deal with the recent avalanche of bomb threats to flights across the country. They include figuring out the pseudonymous or anonymous nature of the social media handle from where the threat emerges, geopolitical analysis and the presence of VIPs on board before determining the nature of the threat, officials said on Wednesday.

If the threat is categorised as specific, it would trigger the whole range of established security protocols of diverting an aircraft, sending it to an isolation bay, and conducting fresh anti-sabotage checks of passengers and their belongings.

But if it is determined a hoax, the flight will be allowed



Quick analysis of threat potential to flights

As per the new protocol, the BTAC will establish the identity of the person or outfit making the threat, check its credentials to see if it belongs to a terrorist or proscribed outfit, and ascertain the motive and specific socio-economic and political situation that could be linked to the threat

to proceed normally. Hundreds of hoax calls were categorised as non-specific ever since the new rules kicked in on October 19, avoiding all the hassle, sources said. Before the rules

were revamped, all flights that received bomb threats had to be immediately grounded for security check.

Over the past few weeks, more than 510 domestic and international flights received hoax bomb threats, mostly through anonymous handles on social media platform X.

Recently the National Investigation Agency positioned its cyber wing personnel with the Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC) and stationed them at each of the major airports across the country.

The BTAC is tasked with analysing a bomb or security threat to airline, airport or any part of the civil aviation ecosystem and decide whether it is specific or serious or non-specific or hoax. It adopts a multi-layered approach to assess the credibility of the threats.



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SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

30 OCTOBER 2024

विमानों को उड़ाने की धमकी देने वाले की हुई पहचान

नागपुर। एयरलाइंस को धमकी देने का सिलसिला नहीं थम रहा है। पिछले 13 दिनों के अंदर अब तक 300 से ज्यादा धमकियां मिल चुकी हैं। लगातार सवाल उठ रहा है कि आखिर इन सब के पीछे कौन हैं। नागपुर पुलिस ने महाराष्ट्र के गोंदिया के रहने वाले 35 वर्षीय एक व्यक्ति की पहचान की है। बम की झूठी धमकी देने के पीछे शख्स का ही हाथ है।



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THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

30 OCTOBER 2024

Boeing to raise \$21bn

Bengaluru/New York: Boeing on Tuesday announced it will raise about \$21 billion through a public offer and depositary shares, outpacing the \$19 billion it initially planned to raise with its Monday announcement. The Boeing stock slid early on Tuesday.

Boeing on Tuesday hiked its offering to 112.5 million shares of common stock, up from 90 million it announced on Monday, as well as \$5 billion worth of depositary shares.

Boeing priced its stock offering at \$143 per share to raise \$15.81 billion, a 7.75 per cent discount to its close on Friday. The depositary share offering raised \$4.9 billion.

The stock offering will help the plane maker strengthen its finances, which have been



Looking for favourable wind

squeezed by an over-a-month-long strike by its workers, and preserve its investment-grade credit rating.

The company intends to use the funds to cover general corporate purposes, repay debt, increase working capital and expenditure, as well as fund and invest in Boeing's subsidiaries.

The move will boost Boeing's battered finances, which

have worsened since roughly 33,000 of its workers, represented by the machinists union, walked off their jobs in September, halting production of models, including its cash-cow 737 MAX aircraft.

"The offering is certainly favourable for credit quality. We'll factor it into our assessment of the rating in the context of continued negative free cash flow," said Ben Tsocanos, aerospace director at S&P Global Ratings.

Boeing has never fallen below the investment-grade rating.

Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC, BofA Securities, Citigroup and J.P. Morgan are acting as lead joint bookrunning managers for the offerings.

Reuters



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THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

30 OCTOBER 2024

SpiceJet TDS

■ **NEW DELHI:** SpiceJet on Tuesday said it has cleared pending TDS dues worth ₹310 crore till the September quarter. The airline said it has cleared over ₹600 crore in dues, including outstanding salaries, GST liabilities, and PF contributions.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

AI cancels 60 flights to US in peak season, fares likely to soar

Mumbai: Tata Group-owned Air India (AI) has cancelled about 60 US flights scheduled for the peak travel season of Nov and Dec. Airfares on flights between India and the US are typically high this time of year, but with the cancellations, fares are set to jump further. This will affect fares not only on non-stop flights between these two countries but also on flights that involve a transit halt in a third country.

Among the flights cancelled are those from Delhi to destinations like Washington, San Francisco, Chicago, and New York, and then from Mumbai to

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AI said the cancellations were made “due to the delayed return of some aircraft from heavy maintenance and supply chain constraints resulting in a temporary reduction in the operating fleet”.

“Affected customers have been informed and offered flights on other Air India group services operating on the same or adjacent days, a free change to any other date, or a full refund,” said an AI spokesperson. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

31 OCTOBER 2024

AI cancels 60 flights to US in peak season

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Tata Group-owned Air India (AI) has cancelled about 60 US flights scheduled for the peak travel season of Nov and Dec. Airfares on flights between India and the US are typically high this time of year, but with the cancellations, fares are set to jump further.

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DILJIT DOSANJH'S DIL-LUMINATI TOUR TAKES TO THE SKIES!

A branded aircraft marked the successful launch of the much-anticipated tour

In an unprecedented first for the Indian music industry, the Dil-Luminati tour featuring Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh is now flying high — literally. Thanks to a larger-than-life collaboration between tour producers Saregama Live, Ripple Effect Studio and Air India Express, an entire aircraft has been transformed to showcase Diljit's image alongside his record-breaking Dil-Luminati tour branding. This achievement not only redefines fan engagement but also underscores the transformative direction of India's live music scene.



An aircraft has been transformed to showcase Diljit Dosanjh's image alongside his Dil-Luminati tour branding



A FIRST IN THE INDIAN MUSIC HISTORY

Diljit, known for his genre-defining contributions to Indian and Punjabi music, is the first Indian music artiste to see his image emblazoned on an aircraft. His dedicated fan base has followed his international tours across the US, Canada, Australia and the UK, where his concerts consistently sold out and set new benchmarks. Now, for his homecoming tour in India, the Dil-Luminati experience is reaching fans in ways never seen before.

On October 26, Diljit unveiled the branded aircraft, celebrating this proud moment and marking an exceptional chapter in his career. The aircraft, which will travel to domestic and international destinations, also features custom-designed boarding passes bearing Diljit's image for a set duration. Each passenger boarding this aircraft will find themselves part of the journey, bringing them one step closer to the energetic spirit of the tour.

FAN-CENTRIC INNOVATION

In addition to this landmark branding, tour organizers have designed an interactive contest to further engage Diljit's fans. Fans can click photos of the branded aircraft or capture moments with their unique boarding passes, then share them on social media. Contestants stand a chance to win tickets to upcoming shows and exclusive Dil Luminati tour merchandise, ensuring that they have multiple opportunities to connect with the tour both in the air and on the ground. Vikram Mehra, Managing Director of Saregama, said, "This tour represents a pivotal moment in In-

The future of India's live music scene

This partnership between live music and aviation marks an evolution in event production, opening up new possibilities for how artistes and their audiences connect. This memorable collaboration is not just a celebration of Diljit's return to India but a pioneering step forward in how live music events can impact the industry and the fans who make it all possible.

dian live music, reflecting the unparalleled magic Diljit brings to his audiences. Diljit isn't just an artiste; he's a cultural force who connects deeply with fans worldwide. His hard work, ethics and his humility are a lesson for everyone. At Saregama, our commitment has always been to place the artiste at the centre of everything we do, focusing on creating immersive and unforgettable experiences that resonate with fans. Our vision with the Dil-Luminati Tour is not only to set new standards for live entertainment in India, but to create lasting, meaningful connections between artistes and audiences.

Ripple Effect Studio CEO Sonali Singh added, "From sold-out stadiums to branded aircraft flying high, this tour is all about connecting with fans on an epic scale. Diljit has an undeniable magic that draws people together, and the fan response to the tour so far has been incredible. Each city brings something new, and we're thrilled that this aircraft will be travelling to each tour location, adding yet another unforgettable layer to the experience."

The tour kicked off with two sold-out shows at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on October 26 and 27, which drew over 1,00,000 fans, making it one of the highest-grossing tours in Indian music history.

Dreams take flight: Diljit

Expressing his heartfelt gratitude, Diljit said, "I am truly humbled and overwhelmed by the scale of this moment." He added, "At every concert, I encourage kids and everyone out there to dream big. 'Jatt paida hua bas shaun voaste' — it's a line close to my heart, and this experience is a reminder of how dreams can take flight with hard work and perseverance."

AI cancels 60 US-India flights in peak season, fares set to increase

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Tata Group-owned Air India (AI) has cancelled about 60 US flights scheduled for the peak travel season of Nov and Dec. Airfares on flights between India and the US are typically high this time of year, but with the cancellations, fares are set to jump further. This increase will affect fares not only on non-stop flights between these two countries but also on flights that involve a transit halt in a third country.

Among the flights cancelled are those from Delhi to destinations such as Washington, San Francisco, Chicago, and New York, and then from Mumbai to New York, said sources. Currently, AI is the only Indian carrier that operates flights between India and the US.

In a statement, AI said the cancellations were made "due to the delayed return of



GROUNDLED

some aircraft from heavy maintenance and supply chain constraints resulting in a temporary reduction in the operating fleet".

"Air India regrets that a small number of flights have been cancelled between now and the end of December. Affected customers have been informed and offered flights on other Air India group services operating on the same or adjacent days, a free change to any other date, or a full refund. Air India sincerely regrets the inconvenience caused by this constraint beyond our control," said an AI spokesperson.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

Amid unavailability of planes, Air India to cancel 60 flights on US routes in Nov-Dec

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 30

The non-availability of aircraft due to maintenance issues has forced Tata Group-owned Air India to cancel some 60 flights on the India-US routes between November and December this year, said an airline source.

The flights, which had been cancelled during the peak travel period, included services to San Francisco and Chicago, among others, the source said. Air India, in a statement, said it had cancelled a "small" number of flights between November and December on account of delayed return of some aircraft from heavy maintenance and supply chain constraints, without naming the destinations.

It also said affected customers had been "informed" and offered flights on other Air India group services operating on the same or adjacent days.



FILE PHOTO

"Air India has cancelled some 60 flights to and from San Francisco, Washington, Chicago, Newark and New York between November 15 and December 31, as it does not have adequate wide-body aircraft to operate some of the flights to these destinations," the source

said. As part of this, Air India has cancelled 14 flights on the Delhi-Chicago route, 28 flights on the Delhi-Washington route, 12 flights between the Delhi-SFO route, four flights on the Mumbai-New York route as well as two flights on the

Delhi-Newark route, the source added.

"Air India is facing delays in getting aircraft from the MRO operator it is sending to for maintenance. Then some of its wide-body planes are also grounded due to technical issues. This has resulted in the shortage of aircraft and consequently in flight cancellations," it added.

"Due to the delayed return of some aircraft from heavy maintenance and supply chain constraints resulting in a temporary reduction in operating fleet, Air India regrets that a small number of flights have been cancelled between now and end-December," an Air India spokesperson said.

Affected customers had been informed and offered flights on other Air India group services operating on the same or adjacent days, a free change to any other

date or a full refund, the spokesperson said, adding that Air India sincerely regretted the inconvenience caused by this constraint beyond their control.

Air India currently operates five flights between Delhi and Washington, while Delhi-JFK (New York) and Mumbai-JFK routes have seven flights per week. On the Delhi-Chicago route also, the airline operates seven flights per week.

Air India operates flights to San Francisco from three destinations — Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. Of this, Air India operates 11 flights per week, including one daily service on the Delhi-SFO route, while from Mumbai and Bangalore, it operates four flights per week.

Besides, Air India also operates three flights per week to Newark from Delhi and Mumbai — PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

31 OCTOBER 2024

India to make 500 fighter jets; engines an issue

AJAY BANERJEE

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

With India targeting to produce approximately 500 fighter jets on its own over the next two decades, a reliable supply of engines would be the key to this ambition.

The future war-fighting edge of the Indian Air Force and the air-combat ability of the Indian Navy depends on the production of these 500 jets, varying in strength, weapons and range. India's plan over the next two decades includes making 180 Tejas Mark-1A, 108 Tejas Mark-2 jets, followed by 126 of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)

and 100 jets for the Navy called the 'Twin-Engine Deck-Based Fighters (TEDBF).

The IAF continues to operate with fewer fighter jet squadrons than mandated. At present, it has 31 squadrons (16-18 planes each) of jets against a mandated need of 42 squadrons to tackle a collusive two-front threat against Pakistan and China.

Over the next one year, the two squadrons of the Soviet-era MiG 21 fighter jets will retire from the IAF. The Jaguar, MiG-29 and Mirage

Negotiations on with US, French makers

2000 jet fleets — all inducted in phases during the 1980s — are slated to retire in batches beyond 2029-30. These four types of jets are about 250 in number and are presently operating on an extended life cycle. The issue of engines has heated up discussion in strategic circles after US company General Electric (GE) failed to supply engines for Tejas Mark-1A jets being manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). In turn, HAL has failed to start deliveries of the jets to the IAF.

The Tribune had reported that HAL, contracted by the Defence Ministry to supply the first lot of 83 Tejas Mark-1A jets at a cost of Rs 48,000 crore, has not delivered even one plane. The reason — it does not have engines the GE was to supply under a \$716-million contract inked in 2021. For future, India is looking at two options. One is a long-term agreement with GE to make an engine in India, while the other is with French company Safran. Negotiations are on with both.

Last year, an MoU was signed between HAL and GE to produce in India the GE's 'F414' engines for Tejas Mark 2 fighter jets.