



Accidental Discharge of Licensed Weapon at Varanasi Airport

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 16 AUG 2026 2:02PM by PIB Delhi

On 16 August 2026, at approximately 0930 hours, a passenger, namely Shri Kamlesh Kedarnath Rai, scheduled to travel from Varanasi to Mumbai on Air India Express flight IX 1810 declared a licensed firearm (7.62 mm pistol with 21 live cartridges) at the check-in counter, as required under the prescribed procedure.

The passenger was escorted to the designated screening area for completion of the mandatory security formalities. During the handling and inspection of the weapon, a round was accidentally discharged. The projectile ricocheted and caused injuries to two screening personnel, Shri Rohit Raj and Ms Suman Kumari.

Both personnel were immediately provided assistance and shifted to New Lakshmi Trauma Center, Varanasi, for medical treatment.

The local police were informed immediately and the passenger has been detained for investigation and further action in accordance with law.

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) is examining the circumstances leading to the incident, including adherence to the prescribed procedures for handling and carriage of licensed weapons at airports. Appropriate action will be taken based on the findings.

The incident was promptly contained and airport operations are continuing without disruption.

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