Prioritizing Safe Travel: Mumbai International Airport Encourages Responsible Travel during Festive Season

- A staggering total of **10,850,465 bags** were managed at CSMIA from December 2022 to May 2023.
- The baggage system at CSMIA boasts an approximate **8-kilometer baggage belt** that handles a remarkable capacity of **9,600 bags per hour** at Terminal 2 and **4,800 bags per hour** at Terminal 1.
- Dry coconut (copra), e-cigarettes, lighters, power banks, spray bottles are the top prohibited items frequently found in check-in baggage.
- Mumbai Airport confiscated a total of **943 dry coconuts** from passengers' check-in bags in May 2022 alone.

Mumbai, 25 September 2023: As September unfolds, the arrival of the festive season introduces a time of lively celebrations and cherished cultural traditions. This also anticipates a substantial increase in domestic passenger traffic, making Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) busier than ever. The airport is all set to warmly welcome, embrace and celebrate India's unique tapestry of festive spirit during this bustling season. CSMIA, amidst diverse travellers, becomes a hub celebrating India's rich culture during the festive season. With rising passenger numbers nationwide, safety is paramount. CSMIA prioritizes passenger security, ensuring reassurance for all. This responsibility, however, is a shared one.

While CSMIA diligently upholds safety through its robust systems and stringent protocols, passengers also play an equally crucial role in ensuring their own safety and the safety of their fellow travellers. It's a cooperative effort where both the airport and passengers have vital roles to play. Adhering to safety guidelines, such as the proper handling of personal items and prohibited substances, is essential for a seamless and secure travel experience.

Lately, there has been a noticeable increase in the rate at which check-in baggage is being declined at airports. While CSMIA deeply understands the emotional importance attached to certain religious items, especially during festive periods, some of these seemingly harmless items can potentially be life-threatening and pose grave safety and security risk. This rising trend in the rejection rate of check-in baggage can largely be attributed to a lack of awareness among general travellers regarding items that are prohibited or dangerous to be carried in the aircraft. Passengers must prioritize knowing and comprehending the guidelines issued by the airport or airlines concerning items that are considered hazardous and prohibited.

Some of the prohibited items frequently found in check-in baggage could be listed as follows:
- Dry coconut (copra)
- Fireworks, flares, or party poppers
- Matches
- Paint
- Fire Camphor
- Ghee, pickles, or other oily food items

Some other items that are considered top culprits include **e-cigarettes, lighters, power banks, spray bottles** to name a few. Unbeknownst to many passengers, all these items pose potential risks to flight safety when mishandled or stored improperly. These items are typically known to be associated with fire hazards, explosions, or interference with the aircraft's electrical systems.

The proportion of check-in bags that were rejected compared to the total number of screened bags, increased from **0.31% in December 2022 to 0.73% in May**. During May 2022 alone, the security team at Mumbai Airport confiscated a total of **943 dry coconuts** from passengers' check-in bags. Dry coconut contains high amount of oil which is highly flammable and can cause fire if it encounters heat inside the aircraft. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) added it to the list of prohibited items in March of the previous year, with the majority of passengers still lacking awareness about this inclusion.

CSMIA's management, along with its highly skilled staff and cutting-edge technology for baggage handling, effectively identifies and separates luggage containing the mentioned prohibited items. The In-Line Security team shoulders immense responsibility, safeguarding both passengers and the airport itself. Their expertise is evident as they meticulously inspect each bag, a process that takes **just 20 to 30 seconds per bag**. Accuracy being paramount, with a need to maintain **100% precision** to guarantee the safety of all passengers. A staggering total of **10,850,465 bags** were managed at CSMIA from December 2022 to May 2023.

The In-Line Security team's efficiency allows them to swiftly identify any suspicious items within seconds and prevent such bags from making their way onto the aircraft. The baggage system at CSMIA is an impressive feat, boasting an approximate **8-kilometer baggage belt** that handles a remarkable capacity of **9,600 bags per hour** at Terminal 2 and **4,800 bags per hour** at Terminal 1. With their dedication and vigilance, the In-Line Security team ensures that bags dropped at the airline security counters are rigorously screened, cleared, and promptly delivered to the baggage handlers in approximately **10 minutes**. This commitment to safety underscores the seamless and secure travel experience provided by CSMIA.

Passengers must familiarize themselves with the list of prohibited items and the guidelines provided by the airport and airlines. Safety during air travel is a shared responsibility among passengers, airports, and airlines. While airports and airlines play a crucial role in security, passengers must also pack responsibly and mindfully. Together, we can ensure safe journeys.

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The Check-in baggage screening process at CSMIA:

Step 1 - Passengers handover their Check-in bag at the airline counters. The airline representative sticks a barcode tag on the bag.

Step 2 - The bag goes through an X-Ray, one level down, transported on blue conveyor belts.

Step 3 - Eight X-Ray machines scan each bag and send it off. The In-Line Security team member receives the scanned X-Ray image and within 20 to 30 seconds it's decided if the bag is clear to go ahead. CCTV cameras track each bag during this entire process.

Step 4 - Once cleared by In-Line Security team member, the bags go through vertical separation. All the cleared bags are dropped down to a green conveyor belt whereas the suspicious bags go on to the red line.

Step 5 - The bags on the red belt pass through another round of screening by In-Line Security team members. If found suspicious, the owner is contacted and informed about the prohibited items in the bag which resulted in rejection.

Step 6 –

- If the passenger is present at the airport, he/she must be physically present when the bag is opened. After the removal of prohibited items by In-Line Security team members, the bags are once again scanned and if cleared they join the remaining bags on green conveyor belt.
- If the passenger is present at the airport but there is little time left for the flight to takeoff, then the airline representative will take the passenger to a dedicated facility from where the passenger via CCTV and Video Screens can see the prohibited item being removed from the bag by In-Line Security team members. After the removal of prohibited items, the bags are once again scanned and if cleared they join the remaining bags on green conveyor belt.
- If the passenger has left the airport, he/she must give authorization to the respective airline staff to open the bag in presence of the In-Line Security team members and remove the prohibited items. In this case, passengers must wait till the respective airline sends the bag back to the destination.

Step 7 – The bags travelling the green belt get on the tilt-trays belt, which tilts them into the final conveyor belt.

Step 8 - The final conveyor belt that contained all the luggage dropped by the auto-separation belt.

Step 9 - Porters load the bags into a container wagon and drive off to the aircraft.

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About Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL):

Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) is managed by Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, the flagship company of the globally diversified Adani Group. MIAL is a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) venture between AAHL, holding a majority stake of 74%, and the Airports Authority of India, holding the rest 26%. AAHL aims to converge India's biggest cities in a hub and spoke model through the Group's proven strength in developing and managing complex transport & logistics hubs.

With a strong understanding of modern-day mobility requirements, the Adani Group's vision for MIAL is to reinvent Mumbai International Airport as India's biggest aerotropolis, where the traditional airport nucleus of passenger and cargo infrastructure will be reinforced by interdependent clusters of commercial and residential infrastructure to create the nation's busiest airport ecosystem.

MIAL has been further envisioned as a global air-travel focal point where domestic and international flyers actively engage in business and leisure supported by metropolitan expansion that catalyses aviation-linked businesses and employment opportunities. At MIAL, we intend to create distinctiveness with an experiential offering that puts Mumbai first.

For more information –

MIAL Corporate Communications:
Priyanka Rajan: Tel. +91 77100 09910, Email: priyanka.rajan@adani.com

Avian WE:
Rashneen Anand: Tel. +91 70455 27436, Email: rashneena@avianwe.com
Divya Naidu: Tel. +91 7045 872084, Email: divyeshwarin@avianwe.com