



CC/ATCG/Media –reports/2023/01

07<sup>th</sup> January 2023

To,  
Shri Sanjay Gupta  
Editor in chief  
Dainik Jagran  
Jagran Prakashan Limited  
Jagran Building , 2 Sarvodaya Nagar  
Kanpur -208005

**Sub:- False News printed in Newspaper Tarnishing image of Indian ATCOs -Reg**

Dear Sir,

In keeping democracy alive and thriving, the media plays an important role. It is a connecting link between government and people in a way that provides citizens with the knowledge about government acts, policies and inefficiencies. Along with- the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary, Media also is considered as the fourth pillar of democracy. Each pillar must act within its domain but not to lose sight of the larger picture. "The strength of a democracy depends upon the strength of each pillar and the way pillars complement each other". But to utter surprise of Air Traffic controllers Guild (I), the Article published in a leading newspaper on 07<sup>th</sup> January 2023, has tarnished the image of profession of Indian Air Traffic Controllers across the nation. Air traffic Controllers Guild (I) condemns the article strongly and seeks an immediate apology by the said newspaper agency. The headlines used by the reporter is very demoralizing and has created a panic among general flying public. The said reporter is claiming himself as an aviation expert without any knowledge of actual Air Traffic Control and earlier also has tried to tarnish the image of aviation fraternity, who is working tirelessly day in and day out. The concerned Journalist has unilaterally reported the matter without representing the view of Lucknow ATC officials or ATC guild (India), which is against the basic ethos of any form of journalism. I hereby would like to submit that as per **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** and Indian aviation regulatory body, **Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**, the provision of Air Traffic Control services comprises of **Procedural and Surveillance (Radar)** based services. In procedural services, aircraft are being directed to land safely by following a defined standard operating procedure while the same procedures are different in Surveillance based ATC services. To keep a pace with the growing air traffic movements, surveillance-based services are being provided at any airport and Lucknow is also not an exemption to this. During peak hours of traffic, at Lucknow also, Surveillance based services are being provided by Lucknow ATC. As per the legal documents for providing ATC services, one ATC unit can be combined with another ATC unit, whenever it is required depending on the volume of Air traffic . Same clause was followed at Lucknow Airport, as due to shortage of Air Traffic Controllers, it was not possible to provide Radar based Air traffic services round the clock and the Radar unit was combined with Procedural unit during the lean traffic movements. At Lucknow, the Enroute radar Services were started from 31.10.2016 and Approach Radar Services were started from 25/10/2018.



The following table states the Approx number of movements during specific hours at Lucknow Airport:

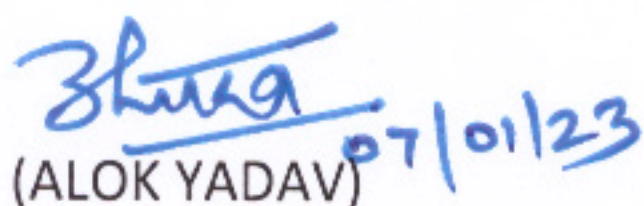
Period	Timings	No. of Aircraft Movements
31.10.2015-31.10.2016	2130-0630 IST	18
01.01.2019-31.12.2019	2130-0630 IST	17
01.01.2020-31.12.2020	2130-0630 IST	12
01.01.2021-31.12.2021	2130-0630 IST	08
01.01.2022-31.12.2022	2130-0630 IST	17

**Approach Radar Services: 0630-2200 IST, Approach Procedural Services: 2200-0630 IST. Enroute Radar Services: H24**

It is evident from the above table that during 9 hours of the night, when Air Traffic Movements are less than 2 per hours, requirement of Approach Radar is not at all there. Further I want to state that, not a single aircraft can even start the engine of the aircraft without the permission of Air Traffic Controllers, forget about the landing and take-off. The article's heading "that Controllers were sleeping, and aircrafts were landing and taking off on their own" shows that the reporter is completely unaware of the ATC procedures and just for publicity, uses such phrases. The process of licensing the controllers, like pilots, has started as early as November 2019 and there are many teething issues coming up daily which are being discussed between stakeholders to resolve them in the interest of safety, continuity and efficiency of operations. Before publishing such kind of sensitive issues, the reporter should have contacted Air Traffic Services In-Charge Lucknow for any kind of clarification on this issue. In the month of November, The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has given India's aviation safety highest ever ranking globally with a quantum leap to 48<sup>th</sup> position straight from 102<sup>nd</sup> position four years back. This itself shows how safe and efficient Air Traffic Control Services are being provided by Indian ATCOs. Such kind of articles are not only demoralizing these dedicated Air traffic controllers but at the same time tarnishing the image of Indian aviation, globally. ATC Guild(I) strongly condemned such kind of articles and requests Press Information of Bureau to declare it as fake and misleading news in the interest of aviation fraternity and nation.

ATC Guild(I) always assures you best of cooperation for the betterment of society.

Regards.

  
(ALOK YADAV)

General Secretary

Copy to-

- 1- Hon'ble Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia , Union Minister of Civil Aviation, RGB, New Delhi-03
- 2- Hon'ble Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, New Delhi
- 3- Hon'ble Smt. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, Chairperson, Press Council of India, New Delhi
- 4- The Chairman, AAI, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi-03
- 5- All Editor in Chief of Leading News Papers.