

Air India flights make emergency landing



On April 9, 2007 Air India faced yet another problem with its aging fleet. In a day there were two emergency landings at IGI Airport New Delhi.

First, it was the flight AI349 Shanghai-Bangkok-Delhi-Mumbai flight an Airbus A310 with 183 people on board. The A-310 was headed to land at Delhi around the schedule time of 5.50 am, when the pilot got a malfunction signal while lowering the landing gear. He informed the Delhi Air Traffic Control (ATC) and then decided to go for a low pass over the airport so that airline engineers could see the landing gear. The Commander L N Pandey took two low sorties over the airport so that both AI engineers and ATC officials could get a good look at the plane's wheels. According to airline sources "He wasn't getting the signal that the nose wheel had locked in its position and didn't want to risk lives. Finally, engineers watching the plane in its low sorties told him things looked fine and that he should land". However, after the emergency landing when the aircraft was being towed, the nose landing gear collapsed and the aircraft nosedived blocking the main runway for few hours (see photo above). Air India is facing the landing gear problems with its aging fleet of Airbus A310.

In the afternoon, Air India faced yet another emergency landing at the same airport. This time it was AI 736 from Dubai, a Boeing 767. The emergency was attributed to a suspected landing gear snag. the aircraft made a successful landing in its second attempt At 3.15p.m. local time, . The plane was taken to a remote bay after all the passengers were disembarked.

All passengers onboard both the flights were safe.