

Aerocity security: Worried police tell DIAL to act fast

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FOUR MONTHS after the Ministry of Civil Aviation issued directions to the Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL)—the operator of the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)—to prepare a comprehensive security plan for Aerocity, the Delhi Police has issued a reminder to DIAL, saying no progress has been made on the issue.

The Delhi Police said since three hotels on the 43-acre project had received clearance to start dining and lodging services, DIAL needs to make security arrangements to ensure nothing untoward happens at the site, which was red-flagged by security agencies in 2011. Security agencies then called it a potential launchpad for militant attacks.

DIAL said in a statement, “An elaborate area security plan for Ae-

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rocity has been formulated in conjunction with security agencies concerned. The basic aspects are a combination of technology and visibility. The technology aspects are in various stages of procurement and include CCTVs, defensive equipment and communication systems. The construction of perimeter defence has already been planned and likely to be in place soon. A private security agency has been deployed and a final review is being carried out to rationalise and augment the number...”

Sources said the area security plan was approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, and was then sent to the civil aviation ministry for final approval.

The civil aviation ministry directed DIAL to make arrangements for access control and CCTV cameras, and deploy security personnel in the area.

While the hotels made their own security plans on the basis of which they were given clearance, DIAL was asked to provide security in the parking area outside the premises of the hotels and private security guards at the entry and exit points of Aerocity.

Sources said since three hotels — JW Marriott, Lemon Tree and Red Fox — have got clearance to start dining and lodging services, the hotels are now flooded with visitors and guests.