Air India Express Flight Returns to Hyderabad After Mid-Air Technical Snag

An Air India Express flight bound for Phuket, Thailand, was forced to return to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad on Saturday, July 19, 2025, just minutes after takeoff due to a detected technical snag. The incident, involving Air India Express flight IX 110 carrying approximately 98 passengers and crew, underscored the airline's commitment to safety protocols by promptly returning to its origin out of an abundance of caution.

The Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft, registration VT-BWA, was initially scheduled to depart at 6:20 AM but took off at 6:40 AM, already experiencing a slight delay. However, less than 20 minutes into its flight, at an altitude between 5,000 and 10,000 feet, the flight crew identified a technical issue. Acting swiftly and prudently, the pilots elected to turn the aircraft around, making a safe landing back at Hyderabad at 6:57 AM.

An Air India Express spokesperson confirmed the event in a statement, emphasizing, "One of our flights returned to Hyderabad shortly after take-off due to a technical issue. The crew elected to return out of an abundance of caution." The airline immediately prioritized passenger comfort and onward travel. Refreshments were provided to guests during the delay, and an alternative aircraft was arranged without significant further delay. The rescheduled flight, with passengers on board, departed for Phuket at 1:26 PM, approximately seven hours after the initial incident.

Passengers onboard expressed a mix of frustration and relief on social media platforms. One passenger on X (formerly Twitter) noted the "frustrating" lack of immediate updates while waiting inside the aircraft, while another described the experience as "very scary." Despite the

inconvenience, the airline reiterated that "safety remains our top priority in every aspect of our operations."

This incident is the latest in a series of recent technical issues affecting Indian carriers. Earlier in the week, an IndiGo flight from Delhi to Imphal also had to return shortly after takeoff on Thursday, July 17, 2025, due to a minor technical snag. Such occurrences highlight the rigorous safety standards and protocols followed by airlines, where even minor technical anomalies trigger immediate responses to ensure passenger well-being. The quick and safe return of the Air India Express flight underscores the importance of well-trained flight crews and responsive ground support in managing unforeseen operational challenges.