

## **Hindustan Times**

### **Chandigarh airport: Ahead of international flight, drive on to recruit 200 personnel for airport security**

Two days before Chandigarh international airport starts its flights, the process of recruitment of 200 security personnel — to be deployed outside the airport — has started.

The Union cabinet had sanctioned these posts two weeks ago, HT has learnt.

Punjab does not have the sanctioned or dedicated manpower for the airport and security personnel have been withdrawn from elsewhere.

Sources said security inside the airport is looked after by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) with the Punjab Police charged with the operations in the periphery and the outside.

Of these, around 60 security officials from the police post in the jurisdiction of SAS Nagar are deployed at the airport at any given time.

“If you ask me that do we have a police station for the international airport, we do not have it. Only two weeks ago, the Centre sanctioned the posts of security personnel for the airport. Recruitment is on,” said DGP, Punjab, Suresh Arora.

Need for overhaul pointed in August

In August, the ministry of home affairs (MHA) had ordered a security audit of the airports, which had indicated that a security overhaul needed to be carried out.

The bureau of civil aviation security (BCAS) had also inspected the Chandigarh airport and had held meetings with airport authorities to review the security measures last month.

Sources said that at the meeting between the BCAS and the Chandigarh airport authorities, the agenda for discussion was having a permanent police post at the airport, to train a bomb-squad team and also get an anti-sabotage teams at the airport.