

Printed from

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

Text Size: |

# Rahul landing with 3min to go was safe: DGCA

Saurabh Sinha, TNN 10 December 2009, 03:16am IST

[Is Jesus Really God? - Scholars examine the facts about Jesus' claims to be God : www.Y-Jesus.com/JesusFacts](#)

Ads by Google

**Topics:** [Rahul Gandhi](#) [DGCA](#) [Chopper](#)

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's chopper may have flown into trouble and broken aviation rules had its landing in Sitapur on Monday been delayed by a mere three minutes. A preliminary DGCA probe into the Dauphin chopper's flight "made controversial by UP Congress chief Rita Bahuguna's remark that Rahul "risked his life by landing in zero visibility" " here on Wednesday gave the pilots a clean chit because of this critical 180-second grace period.

A DGCA civil aviation requirement (series A, part 1, 453) says that flights under visual flight rules (flown by pilot's vision and not aided by ATC or any instrument at touchdown point) can fly from 20 minutes before sunrise to 20 minutes after sunset. At sunset and sunrise, the sun is at zero degrees to the horizon but its light is there and remains there when it is six degrees below the horizon in both morning and evening " a journey that takes about 20 minutes.

"The local administration says sun set at 5.13 pm and the chopper landed at 5.34 pm. So the chopper landed 17 minutes after sunset and was within the 20-minute post-sunset period. The pilots did not break any rule," said highly placed sources. Following the preliminary inquiry in which the chopper pilots were quizzed here, the DGCA team concluded landing happened at 5.25 pm when "visibility was a good 2 km and light satisfactory". "The pilot said there was no conversation with any passenger about the landing," said sources, contradicting Rita Bahuguna's claim that Rahul impressed upon the pilot to land well after sunset.

Sources added that before Rahul, a chopper carrying special protection group (SPG) personnel touched down at Sitapur. As per VVIP protocol, they first sanitised the place, secured all access points and then the dust blown from their landing had to settle down before the Gandhi scion's chopper could be asked to land. "During this while, the chopper was hovering there only waiting to get the go-ahead from SPG to land," said sources.

■ **Noida Lake District** : Affordable Luxury Apartments W/ All Modern Amenities. Hurry & Book Now! : [www.jaypeegreenslakedistrict.in](http://www.jaypeegreenslakedistrict.in)

■ **Booking Airline Tickets?** : Look No Further. Book Online Now! Enjoy The Best Price Guarantee Here : [KLM.com](http://KLM.com)

Ads by Google

Powered by Indiatimes

[Home](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Life & Style](#) | [Hot on the Web](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Photos](#) | [Videos](#)

The Times of India

[Advanced Search](#)**Connect with us:** [RSS](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [TOI Mobile](#) | [mPaper](#) | [ePaper](#)**Other Times Group news sites:** [Indiatimes](#) | [The Economic Times](#) | [इकनॉमिक टाइम्स](#) | [ਓਓਐਲੀਮੈਂਟਿਕ ਟਾਈਮਜ਼](#) | [नवभारत टाइम्स](#) | [महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स](#) | [Mumbai Mirror](#) | [Times Now](#)**Living and entertainment:** [iDiva](#) | [Bollywood](#) | [Zoom](#)**Networking:** [itimes](#) | [Dating & Chat](#) | [Email](#)**Hot on the Web:** [Hotklix](#)**Services:** [Book print ads](#) | [Online shopping](#) | [Business solutions](#) | [Book domains](#) | [Web hosting](#) | [Business email](#) | [Free SMS](#) | [Free email](#) | [Website design](#) | [CRM](#) | [Tenders](#) | [Remit](#) | [Cheap air tickets](#) | [Matrimonial](#) | [Ringtones](#) | [Astrology](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Property](#) | [Buy car](#) | [eGreetings](#)[About us](#) | [Advertise with us](#) | [Terms of use](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Sitemap](#)Copyright © 2009 Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved. For reprint rights: [Times Syndication Service](#)

This site is best viewed with Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher, or Firefox 2.0 or higher, at a minimum screen resolution of 1024x768.