

After flying 4hrs, first SAS flight to India in 17 yrs sent back over regulatory delay

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Mumbai: After a gap of 17 years, Scandinavian carrier SAS recommenced flights to India with an early morning landing planned in Mumbai on Wednesday, but the inaugural flight had to turn back mid-way over pending regulatory issues.

On Tuesday, flight SK969 departed Copenhagen for Mumbai around 8.30pm, about four hours behind schedule, according to Flightra-
dar24, a flight-tracking site. About four hours into the flight, the A330 aircraft was in Azerbaijan skies when it turned back to Copenhagen.

“The Copenhagen-Mumbai flight returned to Copenhagen after the final approval expected from the au-

‘OK WAS EXPECTED’

➤ **The Copenhagen-Mumbai flight was over Azerbaijan when it turned back**

“The flight returned to Copenhagen after the final approval expected from the authorities was not issued. SAS completed all necessary operational and regulatory preparations for the launch... (&) had every expectation the formal approval would be finalised while the flight was en route —SAS statement

horities was not issued as anticipated,” said the airline in a statement.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation did not respond to a query sent by TOI.

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