



ETHIOPIAN VOLCANO ERUPTION DISRUPTS UAE-INDIA FLIGHTS

■ People watch ash billow from an eruption of the long-dormant Hayli Gubbi volcano in Ethiopia's Afar region. The volcano erupted on Sunday for the first time in nearly 12,000 years, sending ash plumes up to 45,000 feet drifting across the northern Arabian Sea toward western and northern India. Flights between India and the UAE were cancelled or rerouted, with routes over Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh affected. **SEE ALSO**

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Dubai's lost property law to protect owners' rights

THOSE HANDING OVER LOST PROPERTY TO BE REWARDED

DUBAI

BY ANUPAM VARMA
News and Business Editor

A new law that rewards those who hand over lost or abandoned property, and penalises those who use such property as their own without declaring it to the authorities, was announced in Dubai yesterday.

Law No. (17) of 2025 issued by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, in his capacity as the Ruler of Dubai, also sets definitions of lost and abandoned property.

The law defines lost property as money or movable items that can be legally owned and have value, which are lost by their owner without the intention of giving them up. Abandoned property refers to money or movable items that can be legally owned and have value, of which the owner or lawful possessor has intentionally or implicitly given up ownership. Both definitions don't include stray animals.

Finding lost property

According to the law, anyone who finds lost property, except a public employee performing official duties, must register it in Dubai Police's electronic system within 24 hours and hand it over within 48 hours. They are not allowed to use, keep, or claim the property as their own, and failing to comply may result in criminal penalties.

The Dubai Police, when receiving the property, will record its description, condition, the finder's details, and the date and

LAYING DOWN THE LAW

Dh**200**k

Maximum fine for those who violate new lost property law

Dh**50**k

Maximum reward for someone who hands over lost property

1 Lost property: The law defines lost property as money or movable items that can be legally owned and have value, which are lost by their owner without the intention of giving them up.

2 Abandoned property: It refers to money or movable items that can be legally owned and have value, of which the owner or lawful possessor has intentionally or implicitly given up ownership.

place it was found, along with any other necessary information.

Rights of owners

Under the law, the owner of the lost property has the right to reclaim it before Dubai Police dispose of it, or to claim its value within three years if it is sold. If the property is given away or otherwise disposed of without compensation, the owner has the right to recover it from whoever possesses it. If multiple people claim ownership, the property or its value is given to the person confirmed by a final court ruling.

No claim may be made without a valid reason after three years from the date the property is announced as found. The owner must cover storage and announcement costs to reclaim the property or its value.

Rewards for finders

Dubai Police may honour a finder with a certificate of appreciation or a financial reward

of 10 per cent of the property's value, up to Dh50,000, deducted after disposal, whether the owner claims it or not. A finder may request to keep the property if the owner has not come forward within one year of it being found, subject to rules and safeguards set by Dubai Police. If the owner later claims the property, the finder must return it.

The law also requires Dubai Police to set up an electronic system to record lost and abandoned property, announce found items as needed, determine the costs of storing and announcing them, and manage the property according to the law.

Hefty fine

Dubai Police may issue a written warning to anyone who violates this law or its decisions, requiring them to correct the violation within a set deadline. Fines range from Dh500 to Dh100,000, doubling for repeated violations within a year, up to Dh200,000.

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