

Teen sensation Mirra Andreeva, 16, continues her remarkable Aus Open debut as she rallies from 1-5 down in 3rd set to beat France's Diane Parry 1-6, 6-1, 7-6 (5), P24

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) | \*APPLICABLE ONLY ON MONTHLY PURCHASE (IN DELHI NCR)



## Akasa after IndiGo, Noida airport signs 'base' MoU with 2nd airline

### Structure Of Terminal Building Ready Too, Work On Interiors Are On

Aditya.Dev@timesgroup.com

**Noida:** After IndiGo, Noida International Airport (NIA) has signed a deal with Mumbai-based Akasa Air for both domestic and international flight operations.

The deal was signed on Friday at 'Wings India 2024', which was organised in Hyderabad by the civil aviation ministry, Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

The newest carrier in the Indian aviation market – which started its commercial operations in August 2022 – aims at establishing a comprehensive air network, connecting major metros and Tier 2 and 3 cities across the country.

Akasa Air has recently placed an order for 150 Boeing 737 MAX airplanes. Over the next eight years, the company's fleet is expected to soar from 22 to 226.

"Noida International Airport exemplifies our government's focus on developing aviation infrastructure as the country moves towards becoming an international aviation hub. Akasa Air's proposed partnership with the airport aligns with our en-

### TAKING SHAPE FOR 2024 TAKE-OFF

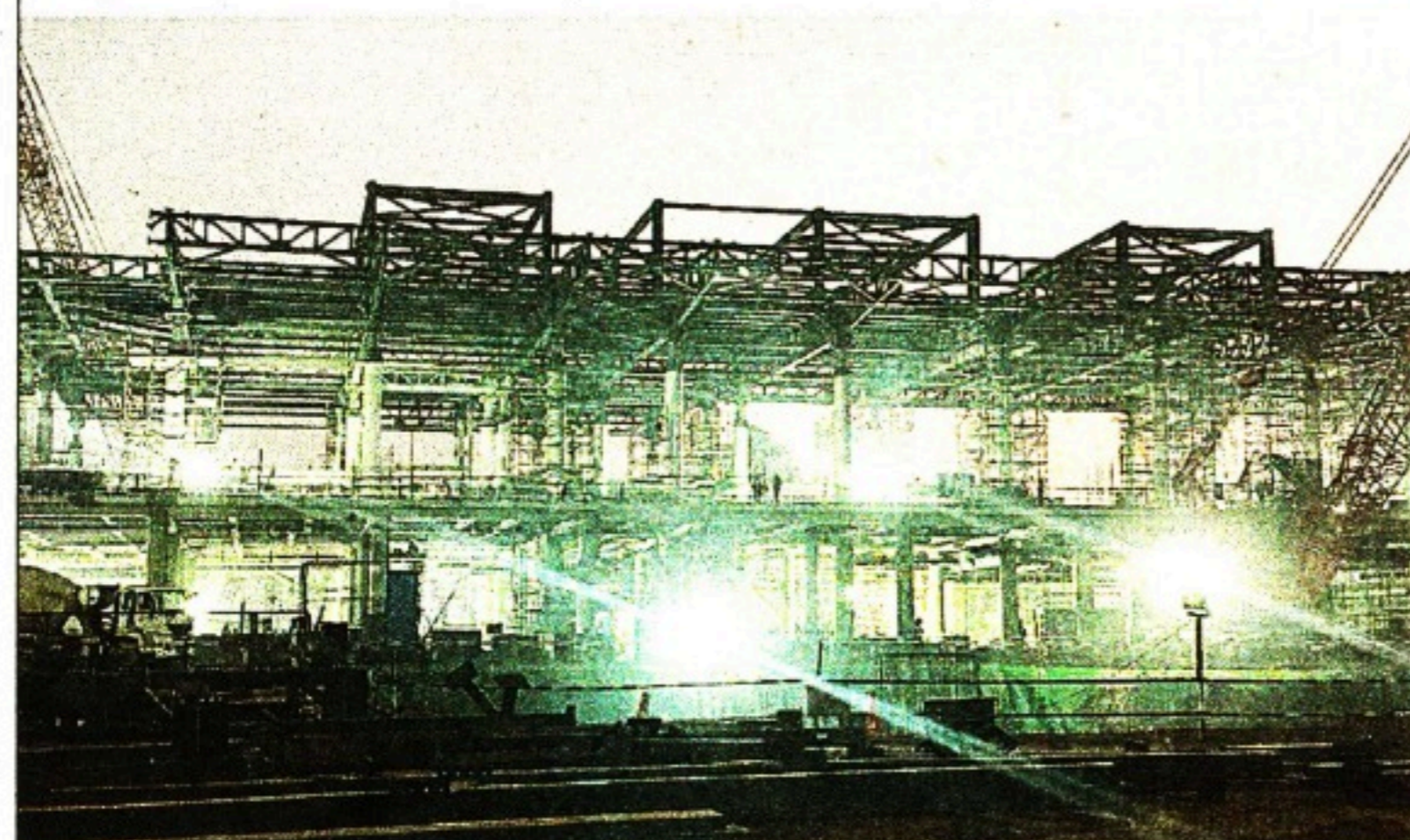
The first phase, spread over 1,334 hectares, likely to be operational by 2024 end

**3,900m-long tarmac** | First layer of dense graded bituminous macadam poured, more layers to be added

**Terminal bldg** | Spread over 1 lakh sq m; facade is ready; interior work to start

**38m tall ATC Tower** | Construction complete, work on glass, facade and equipment installation underway

**17km boundary wall** | Construction completed; construction of an interior/operational boundary wall has started



**IATA code** | Airport received its unique code – DXN – in October last year

**65 daily flights** | Operation to start with 62 flights on domestic routes, 2 to foreign destinations & one for cargo



deavour to build a holistic network that connects the length and breadth of the nation. We look forward to the much-awaited launch of the airport," said Vinay Dube, founder and CEO of Akasa Air.

Christoph Schnellmann, the NIA CEO, said the move would strengthen air con-

nectivity not just with NCR but western UP as well. "Akasa Air is one of the fastest-growing airlines in the country. We are thrilled to have them join us in our mission to establish a comprehensive air network connecting major metros as well as Tier 2 and 3 cities," he added.

In November last year, NIA had signed an agreement with IndiGo to become the airport's launch carrier.

NIA, which is eyeing an October launch, is planning to start operations with 65 flights daily – 62 on domestic routes, two to foreign destinations and one for cargo. The airport

has already got its unique IATA code – DXN.

The airport, officials believe, will meet its deadline. The installation of equipment by the AAI has begun on the 3.9km long runway, they said. The structure of the terminal building is ready too and is awaiting work on the interiors. The ATC tower's structure is complete and the glass facade is being set up.

Officials in the Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL) – the government agency monitoring the airport project – said the runway had been levelled with one layer of dense graded bituminous macadam (DBM). More such layers would be added over the next few months.

Much of the project work now will focus on the interiors, officials said. The airport's first boundary wall, which is 17km long, has been constructed. Work on the outer wall, which is of equal length, is being readied.

In its first phase, NIA will have one runway and one terminal, with a capacity to handle 12 million passengers annually. After the fourth phase, the airport's capacity will shoot up to 70 million passengers a year.