

75% of Noida airport project over; runway to be ready this month, trials likely by July too

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Noida: Construction of Noida International Airport's runway is set to be complete this month and flights could start taking off for trials as early as June or July.

This was disclosed by officials of Noida Airport Authority Ltd (NIAL) — the govt's special purpose vehicle to monitor the airport project — at a meeting held in Lucknow last week.

According to officials, 75% of the total project is complete. Of the total budget of Rs 10,056 crore earmarked for the first phase of the airport, Rs 7,371 crore has been spent, the officials said. This includes Rs 4,362 crore given out to farmers from whom land was acquired.

"Construction of the 3,900m-long runway is almost complete. Only a final layer of asphalt is yet to be laid. That should be done this month itself. Work on installing other equipment required for flight operations — such as reflectors, signage, navigation and surveillance systems — is being carried out by Airports Authority of India (AAI). Once that is done, DGCA will take over the runway. We are expecting trials by June or July," said Arun Vir Singh, the NIAL CEO.

Officials said work on the air traffic control (ATC) tower was also nearing comple-

RADARS BY MID-OCT

Runway
3,900-metre
runway nearly ready

Reflectors, signage, navigation & surveillance equipment installation underway



What's left Final layer of asphalt; to be completed by March end

Air Traffic Control Civil work for tower complete

What's left Glass installation is going on

➤ Installation of tower equipment to start soon

Other equipment April target for radio navigation system, distance measuring equipment & instrument landing system

➤ Automatic dependent surveillance, advanced surface movement guidance & control system, automation system and surface movement radar by Aug

➤ Two airport surveillance radars to be installed by mid-Oct

Terminal building Outer structure complete; roof work in progress

What's left Electrical conduits, HVAC ducting, baggage handling area & external hydrant works



75% of the overall airport site completed

June-July | DGCA likely to begin trial runs

tion. "The civil work is over, the glass facade is being installed," the CEO said.

Other equipment required for take-off and landing of flights would be installed in a month, according to Singh.

"Work on the instrument landing system and devices that help measure distance is likely to be done in a month. Fuel farm, airport surveillance radar and radio navigation system, which helps flights to deter-

mine their position and direction, should also be ready in keeping with the schedule," he added.

While the main structure of the terminal building is complete, the roof is being constructed now. "Work on electrical conduiting, creating ducts for heating, ventilation and air conditioning, and the baggage handling area is in progress," the CEO said.

While most of the technical systems mandatory

for flight operations are likely to be ready by July, the installation of two radars on the north and south sides of the airport might stretch to Oct this year. The airport project now has a completion date of Sept 29.

"Even if the radars are delayed, alternative arrangements would be made so that we don't have to extend the completion date," Singh said.

He is confident that the project will stick to its dead-

line. "Work is going on according to the schedule. There will be no change in the date of commercial operations (Oct)," Singh added.

The first phase of the airport will come up on 1,334 hectares. For now, it will feature one runway and a terminal, with a capacity of handling 12 million passengers annually. Commercial operations are set to start with 65 flights daily — 62 on domestic routes, two to foreign destinations and one for cargo.

NIAL CEO SAYS

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Over the next three phases, the airport is likely to have two runways and terminals, with a capacity of 70 million passengers. The total cost of the project is Rs 29,561 crore.

Noida airport got its unique IATA code — DXN — in Sept last year.