

Noida airport's runway, ATC to be ready next month, Centre told

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Noida: The runway and air traffic control tower of the Noida international airport will be ready next month and the terminal building by May 2024, concessionaire Zurich AG's subsidiary YIAPL has told officials of the civil aviation ministry ahead of an infrastructure review meeting to be chaired by the Prime Minister on November 29.

In an online meeting headed by ministry secretary Vumlunmang Vualnam on Friday, officials said the construction work was adhering to the timeline and there would be no change in the September 29, 2024, deadline that had been set for the first phase of the airport to become operational.

The additional chief secretary of the civil aviation department, SP Goyal, civil aviation director Kumar Harsh and YIAPL CEO Christoph Schelnmenn attended the meeting along with NIAL chief Arun Vir Singh.

The airport is looking to begin operations with up to 65 flights daily. Of these, 62 will operate on domestic routes, two will fly to foreign destinations and one will carry cargo. Last month, the airport received its unique IATA code — DXN.

Officials of the Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL) — which is monitoring the project on the government's behalf — said approach roads would also be ready before the airport was made operational.

A 750m elevated road connecting the Yamuna Expressway with the airport and a 31km speedway linking Delhi-

Mumbai Expressway in Haryana's Ballabhgarh with the Yamuna Expressway are likely to be ready by next April. These roads are being built by the National Highways Authority of India.

According to NIAL CEO Singh, construction work on the project has reached the halfway mark. Around 7,700 workers are engaged in the project currently.

The ATC tower is slated to be handed over to the Airports Authority of India by this month, after which equipment will be installed on it. YIAPL had recently posted on X (formerly Twitter) that the final slab on the eight-floor high tower had been laid.

The airport surveillance radar (ASR), which is used to detect and display the position of aircraft in the terminal area and the airspace around it, will, however, take some time. Singh said it was expected to be ready by December next year, three months after the airport was launched.

"We will try to expedite its installation by September so that the airport's operations are not affected. NIAL will hold talks with the stakeholders and push for it," he added.

Officials are currently acquiring land for a road leading to a section of the airport that will handle cargo operations.

As part of the project, a rehabilitation and rescue centre for animals and birds displaced by the airport will be constructed on 10 hectares. Work on it will start once funds arrive. Two ranney wells — each of four MLD capacity — will be installed to supply water to the airport.