

Govt pushes for Noida airport runway completion in 2023

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Noida: The state government is pushing for the completion of the runway, air traffic control (ATC) tower and the terminal building of the Noida international airport by December next year, which is well before the October 2024 commissioning deadline for the mega project as well as the gene-

ral election that is due that summer.

Additional chief secretary SP Goyal and senior officials of the Yamuna Authority and the Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL) — a subsidiary of concessionaire Zurich AG — conducted a joint inspection on Wednesday of the site where 1,450 workers are currently engaged, mainly for

excavation.

But as the work picks up pace, the number is likely to touch 6,000 in a month. Over the past few weeks, the number of machines has increased to 86 from 49.

“Work on the runway and the ATC tower will most likely be completed by November 2023. The terminal building will also be electrified by December 15. The trials

will start from January 2024,” said Arun Vir Singh, the CEO of Noida International Airport Authority (NIAL), the government’s special purpose vehicle for the project.

Singh said that in keeping with the norms, the directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA) would conduct trials of all systems every six months. The ATC

tower will be inspected every month, he added.

On Wednesday, Goyal visited the casting sites and other workshops set up by Tata Projects Ltd, which is building the airport. He also toured the godowns for steel and construction material. There are two casting sites, one of them near the plot where the terminal building is coming up.

In order to accommodate the increasing number of workers, a dormitory with 6,000 beds has also been set up at the project site. Bunk beds have been built to accommodate 12 persons in each room. There are separate sections that house the kitchen, a medical facility and bathrooms.

Singh said work on the runway was on track.