

# 40 & counting: Ayodhya airport gets chartered flights request for Jan 22

## State Heads Among VIPs In The Queue

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** Amid preparations for a grand consecration ceremony at Ram temple, the newly inaugurated Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham (MVIAA) has already received more than 40 requests for landing of chartered flights for the January 22 event.

The requests, according to officials, have come from some of the most influential personalities, including corporate tycoons, celebrities, foreign delegates and state heads. Ultra-luxurious private jets such as 10-seater



File photo

Maharishi Valmiki International Airport has eight bays (aprons) capable of parking single aisle 200-seater aircraft

Dassault Falcon 2000, Embraer 135 LR & Legacy 650, Cessna, Beechcraft Super King Air 200, Bombardier will be among the battery of chartered flights which will be allowed to land only after Airports Authority of India (AAI) officials at MVIAA chalk out the plan for mega scale flight operation in the temple town.

However, none of the pri-

vate chartered jets would be given space to park at the airport. "Till date, we have received over 40 chartered flight requests for the January 22 event. We expect the list to grow further, maybe more than 100," said an official.

The MVIAA has eight bays (aprons) capable of parking single aisle 200-seater aircraft and smaller ones. However, it is expected that

at least four parking slots will be occupied by aircraft involved in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's movement.

"Therefore, other flights will be allowed to land, de-board the dignitary in a particular time window, and then take off to the nearest airport to return only after the



PM has left Ayodhya. The private chartered flights might also be diverted mid-air in case excessive air space occupancy is observed," said another source.

The flight operations at MVIAA will continue round the clock. The flight would land and take off even amid foggy weather or even when it pitched dark.

On Sunday, Shri Ram Jan-

mabhoomi Teerth Kshetra general secretary Champat Rai and MVIAA director Vinod Kumar Garg met to discuss the preparations of the airport to handle the flight movements on the consecration day.

Speaking to TOI, MVIAA director Vinod Kumar Garg said, "Around 100 chartered flights are expected during that period. It would be challenging to handle such a mega movement, but we will be roping in additional ground staff and others for smoother operations."

Meanwhile, the commercial flights will continue to operate even on January 22 if any airline has scheduled its flight for that day.

On Sunday, the third commercial flight landed at the airport. Presently, IndiGo and Air India express are operating flights, but soon Akasa Air too would join.