

# After IndiGo, Noida airport signs deal with Akasa Air

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.



The NIA and Akasa Air signed a deal on Friday at Wings India '24

“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 endeavour 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 connectivity not just with NCR but western UP as well. “Aka-

sa 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 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.