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Airport launch mere months away, NIAL plans panel to monitor project's progress

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Noida: Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL), the govt body overseeing the airport project in Jewar, plans to appoint a monitoring group that will ensure terms and conditions of the concession agreement are adhered to.

The first phase of the airport, to be built on 1,334 hectares, is expected to begin commercial operations by Oct this year. The concession period for the airport is for 40 years from Oct 1, 2021.

Initially, the airport will feature a runway and terminal each, with a capacity to handle 12 million passengers annually. The project is set to be developed in four phases, ultimately expanding to two runways and two terminal buildings and accommodating up to

70 million passengers annually. The total project is estimated to cost Rs 29,561 crore.

NIAL has started the process of hiring a consultant firm. Queries will be accepted till June 14 and a pre-bid conference would be held on June 18. Final submission date is June 25. Technical bids will open the following day and financial bids on June 28.

Officials said the monitoring group's primary role was to ensure the project stuck to the concession agreement's terms and conditions. This involves preparing a detailed activity chart for the concessionaire and conducting monthly reviews of the project status and progress based on key performance indicators.

Moreover, the monitoring group will support the review of the airport's master plan, providing recommendations wherever necessary. Document control is another crucial area, with the monitoring group tasked with developing a document classification system, communication protocol, and a process for disseminating all project-related papers. Monitoring and reporting on key contracts executed by the concessionaire, particularly those above Rs 25 crore, will be vital to ensure alignment with the concession agreement and safeguarding of the Yamuna Expressway Authority's interests.

The group will also assist the Authority in selecting an independent engineer (IE) or extending current IE's term if required. Coordination among various govt departments will be critical for timely execution of support activities, such as identification and shifting of utilities, obtaining speedy clearances and approvals, and adhering to environmental norms.

Effective connectivity planning and coordination with state roads departments, such as PWD, NHAI, and other agencies, will also be essential.

The monitoring group will develop detailed activity charts and process maps to facilitate coordination, identify bottlenecks, resolve issues, and report red flags. The group will support the Authority in meeting any condition precedents or obligations under the concession agreement.

It will also assist in executing other agreements and clearances involving the Authority and the concessionaire, reviewing govt policies as required, and preparing responses for internal, statutory, or CAG audits related to the concession agreement.