

AAI completes landing & takeoff gear calibration at Noida airport

Runway Lights Tested Too; System Set To Guide Pilots In Low Visibility

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Noida: Noida International Airport (NIA) has successfully completed calibration of the Instrument Landing System (ILS), which guides pilots during descent and takeoff, particularly in low visibility.

Between Oct 10 and 14, a Beech King Air 360ER completed the calibration process — conducted by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) with help from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

With the airport — the second such international facility in Delhi-NCR — set to launch commercial operations on April 17 next year, the successful completion of the calibration process means that all equipment in the runway are ready for use.

Arun Vir Singh, the chief executive officer of NIAL — the state govt's special purpose vehicle for the project — explained, "The runway, along with its requisite equip-

WHAT ILS CALIBRATION MEANS

- ILS is a radio navigation system to guide pilots during approach and landing
- Enables pilots to land safely even when visibility is significantly reduced due to fog, rain, or other adverse weather conditions
- This capability is crucial for maintaining operational efficiency and minimising delays at the airport
- PAPI is a system of lights positioned beside the runway, designed to provide visual indication to pilots on descent angle during landing

Nov 30 | Full-crew flight tests to evaluate runway readiness, validate operational systems
➤ AAI to assess the readiness of the runway for commercial flights
Feb 6, 2025 | Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) will provide codes, booking and other information on NIA

What's next

- Ticket bookings to commence shortly thereafter
- March** | DGCA to issue an aerodrome licence after concessionaire applies for it based on flight test result
- April 17** | Commercial flight operations with at least 1 international and several domestic flights are set to commence



ment, is ready for operations and has met all safety standards for landing and takeoff. ILS is a radio navigation system, which provides precise guidance to pilots during approach and landing, particularly in low visibility conditions. The system has two components—a localiser and

glide path antenna. While the first helps align the aircraft with the runway centre line, providing horizontal guidance, the antenna ensures a safe and smooth descent through vertical navigation."

Apart from the ILS, the Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) was also

put to test.

"ILS is a crucial safety apparatus that equips pilots in adverse weather conditions like rain, fog or haze. It also minimises the possibility of flight delays at the airport. PAPI, which was also tested simultaneously, involves lights positioned along the

runway, fitted to provide visual indication to pilots for their correct descent angle during the final approach," Singh said.

In the run-up to the April launch, the airport concessionaire is likely to apply for an aerodrome licence in Dec. The licence is expected to be issued by the middle of March.

Other essential information on the airport, such as codes and booking details, will be uploaded on the International Air Transport Association (IATA) website by Feb 6. "Ticket bookings will open 90 days in advance for international flights and up to 60 days for domestic services. So, you can expect booking slots to open around Jan or Feb," Singh said.

The first phase of the international airport, covering 1,334 hectares in Jewar, will feature a runway and terminal designed to accommodate 12 million passengers annually. There are plans to expand the project to four phases to include multiple hubs.