Test passenger flight to take off from Noida airport today

Multiple Takeoffs, Landings & Testing Of Signals, Lights In Validation Exercise

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Noida: A passenger flight — complete with crew members and staff of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) — will carry out a trial run at the Noida International Airport on Monday, marking a major milestone in operational readiness. The validation, officials said, is set to start around noon. The exercise will include technical assessment, landing and takeoff manoeuvres from the airport's runway. Data collected during the exercise — conducted jointly by AAI's technical team and the airport staff — will be submitted with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for examination.

Once approved, the authorities will apply for an aerodrome licence — which is mandatory for operations to start.

Validation flights — also called proving flights — are integral to the certification process, ensuring compliance with safety, reliability, and operational standards.

As part of the DGCA manual, these flights simulate real-world operations to evaluate compatibility of the airport's infrastructure, procedure, and systems with regulatory requirements. Before the validation flight, extensive preparations are undertaken, including developing a schedule of events to outline tests and timelines. This schedule is also shared with the DGCA.

Before the trial run is conducted, a preliminary assessment of the airport's facilities is carried out, including runways, navigation aids like the instrument landing system and precision approach path indicator, and air traffic control systems.

"The validation exercise itself involves various technical assessments performed by a specialised aircraft equipped with monitoring equipment. The aircraft will carry out multiple takeoffs, landings, and taxiing manoeuvres to evaluate runway conditions, grip levels, obstacle clearance, lighting functionality, and taxiway connectivity," an official said. "Data collected during the validation exercise is analysed for metrics, such as aircraft behaviour during landing and takeoff, accuracy of navigation signals, response time of lighting, and communication. Any deviation from established standards is documented and a comprehensive report is prepared and submitted to the DGCA for review. If there are deficiencies, corrective measures are implemented before further trials," the official added. After Monday's trials, airline partners Akasa and Indigo, may conduct their own operational exercises at the airport. Once those are done, the airport will apply for an aerodrome licence, which is expected in 90 days. The validation process is likely to conclude by Dec 15.
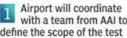
According to the timeline, the validation test was scheduled to take place between Nov 30 and Dec 15. In Oct, the airport completed a key milestone by calibrating its ILS and PAPI systems.
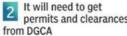
According to officials, 85% of the project's first phase is completed. For instance, the airport's 3.9km runway is fully operational, and the terminal building is nearing completion. The ATC tower, standing 38 metres tall, is ready, and its communication systems will be a focal point of Monday's trial.

ALL ABOUT THE TEST FLIGHT

Authorities will carry out a 'validation flight' on Dec 10 to check if all systems, procedures and equipment are working as per standards

PREPARATION

1. Airport will coordinate with a team from AAI to define the scope of the test

2. It will need to get permits and clearances from DGCA

3. Calibration checks such as instrument landing system (ILS) will have to be carried out before the test flight

AIM OF THE TESTS

✓ Check performance of all airport infrastructure

✓ Ensure all protocols for airspace co-ordination are in place

✓ Collect technical data to submit to aviation regulators

✓ Scrutinise emergency response systems are operational

What the test flight will involve?

THE FLIGHT

An AAI test aircraft, with built in special equipment, will carry out several manoeuvres. It will land and takeoff multiple times, taxi on the runway, and simulate real-world operations, even emergency scenarios

THE TESTS INCLUDE

1. **Runway performance test** | Will assess runway length, lighting system and surface conditions

2. **Navigation system evaluation** | Will check accuracy of ILS and precision approach path indicator (PAPI) system

3. **Communication protocol tests** | To ensure smooth coordination between air traffic controller and aircraft

4. **Emergency simulations** | To check response airport response in adverse cases of engine failure or weather disruptions

What's next?

> Data collected from the test will be analysed by experts and a report will be submitted to DGCA for review and feedback

Based on the report, DGCA may ask for more tests or adjustments

Once it is 'validated', the airport can apply for aerodrome licence, which is mandatory for starting commercial operations