

Prayagraj airport soars to highest footfall amid rush

Arvind.Chauhan
@timesofindia.com

Lucknow: As a large number of devotees continue to visit Maha Kumbh even as the mega religious fair nears culmination, the Prayagraj airport is also recording unprecedented footfall even after major 'snan' days are over.

The airport recorded its highest ever footfall of 20,297 passengers on Sunday. A total of 178 flights operated on Sunday, including 120 scheduled and 58 non-scheduled flights.

Pictures and videos of the airport circulated on social media showed passengers sitting on the floor awaiting their flights. According to an official at the Airport Authority of India (AAI), the Sunday's passenger footfall, which exceeded 20,000, was the highest figure ever documented at Prayagraj airport. The airport handles approximately 3,800 passengers daily with around 20 arrivals and departures.

"The fares for Prayagraj have escalated manifold, and on some dates, it has surpassed Rs 1 lakh. Still, neither the passenger volu-

FLYING HIGH

| DAY | SCHEDULED FLIGHTS | NON-SCHEDULED FLIGHTS | TOTAL FLIGHTS | TOTAL PASSENGERS |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Jan 11 | 24 | 4 | 28 | 2,991 |
| Jan 12 | 29 | 2 | 31 | 3,878 |
| Jan 13 | 34 | 3 | 37 | 4,620 |
| Jan 14 | 38 | 8 | 46 | 5,266 |
| Jan 15 | 36 | 5 | 41 | 4,601 |
| Jan 16 | 30 | 11 | 41 | 3,943 |
| Jan 29 | 42 | 5 | 47 | 6,209 |
| Feb 3 | 62 | 1 | 63 | 9,601 |
| Feb 11 | 86 | 71 | 157 | 13,963 |
| Feb 12 | 78 | 43 | 121 | 12,497 |
| Feb 13 | 96 | 65 | 161 | 16,310 |
| Feb 14 | 94 | 74 | 168 | 14,674 |
| Feb 15 | 120 | 69 | 189 | 19,822 |
| Feb 16 | 120 | 58 | 178 | 20,297 |
| Total | 2,054 | 856 | 2,910 | 3,20,952 |
| Jan 13 (Paush Purnima) Jan 14 (Makar Sankranti) Jan 29 (Mauni Amavasya) Feb 3 (Basant Panchami) Feb 12 (Maghi Purnima) | | | | |

me nor the flight frequency has reduced," the official said. Since the Maha Kumbh air travel operations began at Bamrauli airport the airport has registered more than 3.2 lakh footfall with 4,511 flights.

Between Jan 11 and Feb 16, a total of 2,910 scheduled and 856 non-scheduled

flights were operated. "The footfall at Prayagraj airport is likely to increase further and may exceed Lucknow airport's average footfall of around 21,000 a day," the official said. To manage the substantial passenger movement, AAI has deployed a team of 13 personnel for operation and terminal duty.