

# Complete work at Jewar airport by June 30: Chief Secretary

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UTTAR PRADESH Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh took stock of the construction work at the Noida International Airport in Jewar on Wednesday and directed all stakeholders to complete pending works before June 30, Arunvir Singh, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), said on Thursday.

The CEO added that the Chief Secretary, during his visit, inspected all important components of the project and directed all stakeholders to provide a specific timeline for completion of works. After the meeting on Wednesday, the Chief Secretary inspected the terminal building, the cargo site and other under-construction sites of the airport, said officials.

"During the inspection, it was found that while the second roof of the terminal building was 75% complete, work on floor tiling, escalators, baggage system and signage has been finished... But work on the sewage treatment plant as well as some textile-related works is pending," he said.

"He took stock of the progress made at the airport in the last four weeks and asked officials concerned for the reason behind the delay," he added. Singh said that the Chief Secretary eventually di-



**The airport is yet to receive aerodrome licence.** *File*

rected that all works at the airport should be completed by June 30.

He added that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, which is yet to issue an aerodrome licence to the airport, will inspect the site on May 10. "If the license is issued, then Chief Minister (Yogi Adityanath) will decide on the date of starting operations at the airport..." he added.

The first phase of the airport was initially set to be operational by September 29, 2024, but the dates were later revised to April 17 this year. But with the work incomplete, the date for domestic flight operation was revised to May 15 and international flights to June 15. These deadlines are also likely to be missed now with the Chief Secretary coming up with the June 30 deadline to complete all pending works. The aerodrome licence is also expected in May.

In a statement on Wednesday, Manoj Kumar Singh had said the project is among the top priorities of the UP government.

## IAF to perform take-off, landing drills on Ganga Expressway

**Lucknow:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct a crucial trial on Friday on a 3.5-km airstrip of the under-construction Ganga Expressway in Shahjahanpur.

According to a press statement issued on Thursday, advanced fighter jets like the Rafale, Jaguar, and Mirage will perform take-off and landing drills, including night operations, to assess the expressway's viability as an alternative runway during emergencies.

This airstrip is the first in India designed for both day and night fighter landings, boosting defence preparedness and serving as a training base, the statement said. High-level security measures are in place with 250 CCTV cameras installed, and key officials will be in attendance, it said.

The air show will have daytime and night phases, testing low fly-pasts, landings, and take-offs, it said. Participating aircraft include the Rafale, SU-30 MKI, Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Jaguar, C-130J Super Hercules, AN-32, and MI-17 V5 helicopter. The Ganga Expressway will be UP's fourth expressway with an airstrip, but the first with night landing capability, according to statement. **PTI**

