

# Flights to take off from Noida int'l airport by April next year

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**NOIDA:** Chief executive officer of Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL), the concessionaire of the Noida international airport in Jewar, said on Thursday that validation flights, for testing the arrival and departure procedures at the greenfield airport, are likely to take off this December and commercial operations are scheduled to begin by April 2025.

Earlier, commercial flights were scheduled to begin by 2024-end but it was pushed to April 2025 in view of the progress of work, said YIAPL.

"The airport work remains on course with its development milestones. Validation flights, to test flight procedures, as well as filing of the aerodrome licence application are expected by December 2024. Commercial operations at the airport are scheduled to begin by the end of April 2025. There has been exceptional progress in the two years since the commencement of construction. The airport is set to play a significant role in the growth of Indian aviation upon completion," said Christoph Schnellmann, CEO, YIAPL.

The YIAPL took a media group on a site visit on Thursday and updated them about the progress on the airport, which will also have a cargo hub spread over 80 acres. The entire aviation hub will be spread over 5,000 hectares once fully developed, said officials.

The YIAPL said the passenger terminal is taking shape and the work on facade and roofing is underway. The installation of the baggage handling system is nearing completion. The 60-metre wide and 3.9km long runway is complete, Schnellmann said.

Works on runway markings, approach lights and airfield ground lighting is underway currently. The urban system design works and finishing works are in progress at the air traffic control tower and navigational aids have been calibrated. Currently, the calibration of the instrument landing system



An overview of the Noida international airport in Jewar, Greater Noida, along the Yamuna Expressway.

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(ILS) is underway at the site, said YIAPL.

YIAPL said the airport, the largest in the country, is set to offer a fully electric fleet of ground service equipment and passengers will be treated to a paperless and completely digital experience.

"We have signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with IndiGo and Akasa Air with network planning and operational requirements under discussion. Key aero concessions, including fuelling services, ground handling, and cargo, have been awarded. Non-aero concessions for retail, dining, lounge, duty-free shopping, and hotel have been signed," said Kiran Jain, chief operating officer, Noida International airport.

He said the factory acceptance tests for key airport systems are complete, and equipment have started arriving on site.

Check-in kiosks, self-service bag drops, and e-gates are being tested.

In terms of operational readiness, the NIAL has done agreements for crucial operational and maintenance services, including airfield lighting, passenger boarding bridges, lifts and escalators have been



Ongoing construction work at the airport on Thursday.

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signed. NIA will apply for aerodrome licence by the end of 2024.

"We continue to work closely with contractor, Tata Projects Limited, and all stakeholders to maintain a high momentum of construction activity. The airport will combine Indian warmth and hospitality with Swiss technology and efficiency," said Jain.

"The first phase of the airport will feature one runway and one terminal, with the capacity to handle traffic of 12 million passengers annually," added Jain.



Ongoing facade work on the terminal building.

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