

# Chennai readies for a date in 2012

The revamped, modernised and expanded Chennai airport will throw open its doors for commercial traffic sometime in the first quarter of 2012. Till then, the existing facilities both in terms of airside and non-aeronautical side including the existing terminals — domestic and international — will continue to operate, notwithstanding the various obstructions that passengers face every day to catch a flight out of Chennai or attempt to reach home after they land in the city.

As per the status of Chennai airport on date, it has a total land area of 1298.01 acres with length of perimeter wall running 15 kilometres and the perimeter road meandering 14 kilometres. Its main runway 07/25 is 3658 metres long or over 12,000 feet, which is enough for a Jumbo to operate. The secondary runway 12/30, which was 2085 metres or 6,765 feet, has been extended by way of a stilted bridge, on the Adayar river by another, 1,032 metres or nearly 3400 feet to take the total length to just about 10,000 feet. The length and width of the RCC/pre-stressed concrete bridge is 200 metres by 447.50 metres to accommodate secondary runway and parallel taxi track. The bridge will be able to take a A 380 superjumbo landing.

Chennai airport has 17 taxiways and 81 parking stands. It has five aerobridges to cater to international passengers and three for domestic. Chennai airport falling under the 4E category is undergoing a massive renovation that will see a completely brand new all-steel and glass front when the passengers and airlines get to use it in early 2012. The domestic terminal, which was commissioned in April 1985, went through periodic upgrades and today is spread over 19,250 square metres. Against an annual passenger handling capacity of six million, in fiscal 2010-11, the airport handled 7.80 million domestic passengers. The peak-hour handling capacity in the departure hall is 800 while in the arrival hall it is 1200. There are only four baggage conveyor belts in the domestic arrival hall. The domestic terminal has 48 check-in counters.

The international terminal, which was twice commissioned — once in April 1989 and later upgraded in May 2003 — is spread over 42,870 square metres with an annual passenger handling capacity of three million. The airport, however, handled 4.25 million passengers in 2010-11. During peak hours, it has a handling capacity of 1200 in the departure hall and 750 in the arrival hall and another 350 in

**ROAD TO MODERNISATION:**  
Construction work in progress at  
Chennai Airport.



