

First trial operations successfully conducted in New Integrated Terminal of Chennai Airport

Chennai, 25.04.2023: AAI's Chennai International Airport achieved a major milestone as the New Integrated Terminal Building (NITB) had its first successful trial operation after it was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 08.04.2023. The first flight was conducted today with US Bangla airline, operating Dhaka-Chennai-Dhaka Sector. The arrival/departure operations were carried out following all regulatory procedures and with all amenities in place, while passengers experienced a pleasant transit through the new terminal. The inbound flight arrived (BS 206 @1306 hrs) with 191 passengers on board while the outbound flight departed (BS 205 @1416 hrs) with 192 passengers.

The successful completion of first operation is a sure shot in the arm for the airport, as this will help to further augment the operations in the new terminal and to provide world class services to customers. "The experience was quite good, and the staff were extremely cooperative, I wish the best for them" commented one of the passengers who arrived from Dhaka to Chennai. Passengers did admire the aesthetic interiors of the new terminal. "The new terminal is very beautiful, organised and everything is going smoothly and perfectly, remarked another passenger who was departing to Dhaka. US-Bangla Airlines, which operated the trial first flight, expressed their delight at having completed the trial successfully.

The trial operation went on smoothly with the cooperation of all airport stakeholders, while facilities including check-in, immigration, customs, ATRS, Baggage handling systems, Fixed Link Bridges' & aerobridges were methodically operationalised for

seamless functionality complying with ORAT* (Operational Readiness and Airport Transfer) process. As first trial operation is completed, the airport operations in new terminal will be scale up in a calibrated manner. To begin with, narrow-bodied operators will shift operations to the new terminal in a phased manner. IndiGo airline is likely to operate two trial schedules on April 28. The trials will continue with multiple operators as the terminal stabilises to accommodate more and more operations each day. The wide body operations are expected to commence from last week of May.

The New Integrated Terminal Building of Chennai Airport promises to offer state-of-the-art facilities and amenities to passengers, promising an enriching travel experience.

*ORAT is a recognised and proven risk mitigation technique that increases opportunities for a seamless transition of new airport projects, services, and facilities from construction to active operations. It involves all the stakeholders from an early stage so that the new airport facility functions perfectly from day one.

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