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(PRESS RELEASE)

New Civil Air Terminal at Bathinda Airport dedicated to the nation and launch of first Alliance Air flight for Delhi-Bathinda-Delhi Sector by Shri P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation.

Bathinda, 11th December, 2016: The New Civil Air Terminal at Bathinda Airport has been dedicated to the Nation on 11th December, 2016 by Shri P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation in the august presence of Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Sardar Sukhbir Singh Badal, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Jayant Sinha, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Shri Vijay Sampla, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, AAI, Shri Ashwani Lohani, CMD, Air India and other dignitaries. The Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation took a walk through alongwith the other dignitaries and unveiled plaque in the Civil Air Terminal. Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Raju said that the new terminal and the flight connectivity will not only boost passenger travel but also be a multiplier for the overall economic growth of the region. These new facilities are a fitting tribute to the indomitable Punjabi spirit, he added.

The New Civil Air Terminal is spread in the area of 1200 sq. mtrs. The terminal has been constructed at a total cost of Rs. 25.00 crores. The Terminal is equipped to handle 100 passengers (50 Departure + 50 Arrival) with modern passenger facilities such as two (2) Check-in-counters, one (1) Security Check X-Ray Machine, one (1) Arrival Baggage Conveyor Belt, one (1) Reserved VIP Lounge with Car Parking and Apron for two (2) ATR-72-600 type aircraft.

The Terminal is made of glass and steel structure with facilities such as Public Address System, CCTV for surveillance, Fire Fighting System, Dedicated Power Supply with standby DG Sets, etc. Canopy on the city side integrate seamlessly with the main building giving due protection to the passengers from adverse weather conditions. The facility will immensely contribute towards the connectivity in the State in particular and give impetus to economic development of the region.

The Alliance Air (a wholly owned subsidiary of Air India) had launched its first flight on Delhi-Bathinda-Delhi sectors with brand new ATR72-600 type of aircraft having 70 seats. The flight will operate on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. The Alliance Air has ensured that flights are operated regularly on this sector. Alliance Air will increase the flight frequency, once the current flight operations stabilized and fog conditions abate. Alliance Air is also looking at starting flights from Ludhiana and Pathankot in the near future.

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Notes to editor:

Salient Features of New Domestic Passenger Terminal Building, Apron and associated Works:

- Passenger Handling Capacity : 100 Pax. (50 Departure + 50 Arrival)
- Area (Terminal Building) : 1200 Sqmtrs
- Check in Counters : 2
- Security Check unit : 1
- Security Check X-Ray Machine : 1
- Arrival Baggage Conveyor Belt : 1
- Reserved VIP Lounge : 1 (Common for Departure & Arrival)
- Canopy on City-side : 600 sq.mtr area
- Car Parking Capacity : 40 cars
- Apron Size : **97 M x 92 M**
- Aircraft Parking Bays : **2 Bays for ATR-72 type aircraft.**

Airports Authority of India formed under AAI Act, 1994 which came into being on 1st April, 1995 inter-alia was entrusted with the sole responsibility of development and management of airports in the country. Government of India endeavours to take flying to the masses under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), as part of its New National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP 2016.) Currently, there are around 450 airstrips/airports in India. However, only scheduled commercial operations are only at 75 airports. There are 16 underserved airports and 394 unserved airports in India. The revival of unserved airstrips and airports will be demand driven depending on firm demand from airline operators. There are many challenges in reviving regional connectivity. The expectations of public from us are very high and AAI is committed to actively engage with all stakeholders to achieve their full potential and make the task possible. While Bathinda has expanded and developed over the past decade, with a refinery coming up and private power plants in the offing, airlines in all probability can expect favourable passenger traffic levels to make regular operations commercially viable. In the near future, this airport is likely to cover all the major domestic cities and cargo operations from all over India.



Shri P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jayant Sinha, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Sardar Sukhbir Singh Badal, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab lighting the lamp on the occasion of inauguration of the New Civil Air Terminal at Bhatinda in the august presence of Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Shri Vijay Sampla, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, AAI, Shri Ashwani Lohani, CMD, Air India and other dignitaries.

Brief on Bathinda operations of Alliance Air

- Alliance Air (a wholly owned subsidiary of Air India) will be commencing its maiden flight on Delhi-Bathinda-Delhi sectors with brand new ATR72-600 type of aircraft having 70 seats. The flight will be operational on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. The schedule of operations is given below:

9I-621 Delhi to Bathinda 1215/1345

9I-622 Bathinda to Delhi 1415/1535

- The flight will give connection to/from Bathinda to/from major metros i.e. Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru & Hyderabad. It will also give connections to cities like Pune, Vijayawada, Vizag, Jaipur, Jodhpur & other cities. This flight will also provide connections to International destinations being operated by Air India.
- Alliance Air will ensure that flights are operated regularly on this sector. As you are aware the Region during this time of the year is fog bound and has low visibility. However, all efforts will be made to provide alternates to esteemed passengers.
- As Bathinda is one of the major industrial city of Punjab, with regular flight operations, there would be surge in air traffic.
- Once the flight operation stabilizes and fog conditions abate, Alliance Air will increase flight frequency.
- Bathinda airfield is controlled by Indian Air Force. Airports Authority of India is inaugurating a New Civil Air Terminal which will serve the civil air passengers.
- Alliance Air will commence flights from Ludhiana and Pathankot once the weather conditions are more favourable and UDAN bids are finalized.
- Air India will commence International flight on Delhi-Amritsar-Birmingham from 1st week of April, 2017.
