

After the visa controversy, Babar Azam-led Pak cricket team finally arrives in Hyderabad for the ICC World Cup 2023 — their first visit to India in seven years, P 12

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) | *APPLICABLE ONLY ON MONTHLY PURCHASE (IN DELHI NCR)

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A year from now, your flight may be landing & taking off from 'DXN'

Noida International Airport Gets IATA Code That Reflects NCR Identity

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Noida: Like 'DEL' for Delhi, 'BOM' for Mumbai and 'BLR' for Bengaluru, the upcoming Noida International Airport has got its unique aviation code into which is woven its NCR identity.

'DXN', the code approved by IATA (International Air Transport Association), was among three options submitted by Noida airport concessionaire YIAPL, its senior officials said on Wednesday, adding they were satisfied one of them had made the cut.

'DXN' isn't technically an acronym but connotes the airport's location and purpose — as the second civil aviation hub of Delhi-NCR — with 'D' standing for Delhi, 'N' for Noida and 'X' implying national and international connectivity.

Christoph Schnellmann, CEO of Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of main concessionaire Zurich AG, said, "The code, DXN, symbolizes the airport's proximity to Noida, Delhi, and western Uttar Pradesh. As one of the world's largest urban agglomerations, NCR deserves a second airport. Noida International Airport will make this long-standing dream a reality, and we are excited to receive our three-letter IATA code, which is a significant milestone towards the airport's operationalisation."

3-LETTER IDENTIFIER

What's an IATA code?

➤ There are two codes assigned to airports to control cargo and passenger transportation. One of these codes is assigned by IATA

➤ IATA codes are unique three-letter codes to identify a location, similar to pin codes, for passengers only

➤ Designators are used for reservations, schedules, ticketing, cargo documentation, etc

How are they assigned

➤ Codes are mostly generated with the letters chosen from a city's name

➤ To prevent possible confusion X can be added

DXN for NIA

➤ No specific full form for DXN, but the letters 'D' and 'N' represent Delhi and Noida, respectively

➤ 'X' implies national & international connectivity

ICAO CODES

➤ Four-letter codes assigned by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

➤ Also location indicators, but are mainly used for operations by pilots & air traffic controllers

➤ Used to identify other aviation facilities such as control centres, weather stations & international flight service stations



Subgrade work on runway on

Passenger terminal building | Work on for structural steel required to support its roof

ATC tower | 4 floors (30m high) out of 6 completed

Runway | Subgrade work underway on the 3,900m tarmac

Workers | Over 7,000 workers deployed

Machinery | Over 450 heavy and small ones deployed

lestone towards the airport's operationalisation."

IATA assigns three-letter codes to airports around the world for easy identification. These are used for ticket booking, boarding passes and to tag baggage and cargo.

The code will be activated

once operations from the airport start — the Noida airport has a scheduled commissioning date of October 2024 for the first phase with one terminal building designed for a 13 million annual flier capacity and a runway.

At the end of its fourth and

final phase, it is projected to be the country's largest airport that is spread over an area of 1,334 hectares.

For the aviation code, the airport's chief operating officer Kiran Jain said IATA needs to be convinced that a project is progressing on time.

"We received support from central agencies as well as from the state government and our airline partners, like IndiGo and Air India. IATA also carried out its own verification process and then allocated the three-letter code," Jain said.

The forecourt of the main airport terminal, which is a rendition of the Varanasi ghats, has started taking shape and four out of six floors of the air traffic control (ATC) tower are complete, YIAPL officials said, sharing a construction update for UP's most prestigious infrastructure project.

The remaining two floors of the ATC tower will be completed soon, the officials said, adding they would commence work on the interiors of the terminal building in the next three months.

Currently, work is on to build the passenger terminal's steel structure that will support its roof and subgrade (formation level on which the main tarmac will be built) is in progress along the entire length of the runway. Groundbreaking for work on the cargo terminal is scheduled for this week.

Over the next few months, more than 20 buildings are set to come up at the site, including office blocks, besides power substations, sewage and water treatment plants.