

= Rajiv Gandhi International Airport =

Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (IATA : HYD , ICAO : VOHS) is an international airport that serves Hyderabad , the largest city in the Indian state of Telangana . It is located in Shamshabad , about 20 kilometres (12 mi) south of Hyderabad . The airport is operated by GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd , a public ? private venture . It was opened in March 2008 to replace Begumpet Airport as the primary commercial airport for Hyderabad . It is named after Rajiv Gandhi , former Prime Minister of India .

The airport has one passenger terminal , a cargo terminal and two runways . There are also aviation training facilities , a fuel farm , a solar power plant and two MRO facilities . As of 2015 , RGIA is the fifth busiest airport by passenger traffic in India , serving 11 @. @ 9 million passengers . The airport serves as a hub for Air India Regional , Blue Dart Aviation , SpiceJet , Lufthansa Cargo and TruJet , and as a focus city for IndiGo .

= = History = =

= = = Planning (1997 ? 2004) = = =

The idea to construct a new airport for Hyderabad was first conceived around 1997 by the N. Chandrababu Naidu administration . The existing commercial airport , Begumpet Airport , was unable to handle rising passenger traffic . The State Government initially considered converting Hakimpet Air Force Station to civilian use ; however , the Air Force refused . When the State proposed the construction of a new airport for the Air Force , the Ministry of Defence suggested the State consider sites south of Begumpet Airport . By October 1998 , the State had narrowed down to three possible locations for the new airport : Bongloor , Nadargul and Shamshabad . Due to its convenient location near two highways (NH 44 and NH 765) and a railway line , Shamshabad was selected in December 1998 .

In November 2000 , the State Government and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed a memorandum of understanding on the airport project , establishing it as a public ? private partnership . The State and AAI together would hold a 26 % stake in the project , while the remaining 74 % would be allotted to private companies . Through a bidding process , a consortium consisting of GMR Group and Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad (MAHB) was chosen as the holder of the 74 % stake . In December 2002 , Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (HIAL) , later renamed GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) , was created as a special purpose entity , into which the State , AAI and GMR ? MAHB placed their stakes .

In September 2003 , the members of GHIAL signed a shareholders ' agreement , as well as an agreement for state subsidy of over ? 400 crore (US \$ 59 million) . A concession agreement between GHIAL and the Central Government was signed in December 2004 , stipulating that no airport within a 150 @-@ kilometre (93 mi) radius of RGIA could be operated . Thus , the closure of Begumpet Airport was required .

= = = Construction and opening (2005 ? 08) = = =

Construction began on 16 March 2005 when Sonia Gandhi laid the foundation stone . Two days prior , the Central Government had named the airport after former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi , who had undergone pilot training in Hyderabad . The naming resulted in opposition from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) . At Begumpet Airport , the international terminal was named after Rajiv Gandhi while the domestic terminal was named after TDP founder N. T. Rama Rao ; the TDP wanted to continue this naming convention at the new airport . However , the new airport has only one terminal .

Roughly three years after the foundation stone laying ceremony , the airport was inaugurated on 14 March 2008 amid protests . The Telugu Desam Party repeated its demand for the naming of the

domestic terminal . In addition , on 12 and 13 March , 20 @, @ 000 AAI employees had conducted a strike against the closure of Begumpet Airport , as well as that of HAL Airport in Bangalore , fearing they would lose their jobs .

RGIA was originally scheduled to open to commercial operations on 16 March 2008 ; however , the date was delayed due to protests from some airlines over the high ground handling rates at the airport . Once the rates were reduced , the launch date was set for 23 March . Although Lufthansa Flight 752 from Frankfurt was scheduled to be the first flight to land at RGIA , two SpiceJet flights landed earlier . However , the Lufthansa flight still received the planned ceremonial welcome upon its 12 : 25 am arrival .

= = = Later developments (2009 ? present) = = =

In September 2011 , SpiceJet launched its regional hub at RGIA , using its new Bombardier Q400 aircraft . The airline , which chose Hyderabad due to its central location in the country , flies to several Tier @-@ II and Tier @-@ III cities from the airport . Regional airline TruJet too opened a hub at RGIA upon commencing operations in July 2015 .

In November 2014 , the Ministry of Civil Aviation resolved that the domestic terminal of RGIA would be named after N. T. Rama Rao , resulting in protests from members of the Rajya Sabha . Airport officials remained unsure as to how the naming would occur .

= = Ownership = =

RGIA is owned and operated by GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) , a public ? private venture . It is composed of public entities Airports Authority of India (13 %) and the Government of Telangana (13 %) , as well as a private consortium between GMR Group (63 %) and Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad (11 %) . Per the concession agreement between GHIAL and the Central Government , GHIAL has the right to operate the airport for 30 years , with the option to continue doing so for another 30 years .

= = Airfield = =

The airport has two runways :

Runway 09L / 27R : 4 @, @ 260 by 60 metres (13 @, @ 980 ft × 200 ft) , ILS equipped .

Runway 09R / 27L : 3 @, @ 707 by 45 metres (12 @, @ 162 ft × 148 ft) .

Runway 09R / 27L , the original and primary runway , is long enough to be able to receive the Airbus A380 , the world 's largest passenger aircraft . Originally a taxiway , runway 09L / 27R was inaugurated in February 2012 . Its shorter length and width allow it to handle smaller aircraft such as the Airbus A340 and Boeing 747 . It is mainly used when runway 09R / 27L is undergoing maintenance , and as air traffic to the airport rises it will be used more often . North of these runways are the three parking aprons : the cargo , passenger terminal and MRO aprons . The passenger terminal apron contains parking stands on both the north and south sides of the terminal .

= = Terminal = =

RGIA has a single passenger terminal , which covers 105 @, @ 300 square feet (9 @, @ 780 m²) and has a capacity for 12 million passengers per year . The western side of the terminal handles international flights while the eastern side is for domestic operations . There are 46 immigration counters and 96 check @-@ in desks with 19 kiosks for self check @-@ in . There is a total of nine gates , seven of which are located on the south side of the terminal and the other two on the north side . Three gates are each equipped with two jetways to accelerate the handling of widebody aircraft . Public lounge facilities are provided by Plaza Premium Lounge , which operates three lounges in the terminal ; there are also three separate lounges for VIPs . The pre @-@ security " airport village " is a meeting point for passenger pick @-@ up .

= = Airlines and destinations = =

= = = Passenger = = =

= = = Cargo = = =

The following cargo airlines fly to RGIA :

= = Statistics = =

= = GMR Aerospace Park = =

The GMR Aerospace Park contains several facilities primarily related to the aviation sector . It has a 250 @-@ acre (100 ha) special economic zone , which includes a 20 @-@ acre (8 @.@ 1 ha) Free Trade and Warehousing Zone , as well as a domestic tariff area .

= = = Aviation training = = =

The GMR Aviation Academy is located in the park . It was established in 2009 in co @-@ operation with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) , International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) , Airports Council International (ACI) and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) . The academy offers programmes related to airport operations , which are accredited by the listed organisations . The park also includes the Asia Pacific Flight Training (APFT) academy , an initiative of GMR Group and Asia Pacific Flight Training . Launched in 2013 , it provides pilot training courses .

= = = GMR Aero Technic Ltd MRO = = =

The MRO operated by GMR Aero Technic Ltd is one of two MROs at the airport . Built at a cost of ? 350 crore (US \$ 52 million) and inaugurated in March 2012 , the facility can handle up to five aircraft simultaneously . Initially , the MRO was a joint venture between GMR Group and Malaysian Aerospace Engineering (MAE) , a subsidiary of Malaysia Airlines . However , amid its parent 's poor financial situation following the Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 incident , MAE was unable to fund the MRO , which had been accruing losses . GMR bought out MAE 's stake in December 2014 .

= = Other facilities = =

= = = Air India MRO = = =

The other MRO is operated by Air India Engineering Services Limited (AIESL) , a subsidiary of Air India . Spread over 5 acres (2 @.@ 0 ha) , the facility cost ? 79 crore (US \$ 12 million) to construct and was opened in May 2015 .

= = = Cargo terminal = = =

The cargo terminal is located west of the passenger terminal . It covers 14 @,@ 330 square metres (154 @,@ 200 sq ft) and can handle 150 @,@ 000 tonnes (170 @,@ 000 short tons) of cargo annually . The terminal is operated by Hyderabad Menzies Air Cargo Pvt Ltd , a joint venture

between GHIAL (51 %) and Menzies Aviation (49 %) . Within the terminal is the Pharma Zone , a temperature @-@ controlled facility designed for storing pharmaceuticals . The first such facility to be opened at an Indian airport , it is important to RGIA as pharmaceuticals account for 70 % of exports from the airport . In May 2011 , Lufthansa Cargo launched its first pharma hub at the airport .

= = = Fuel farm = = =

The airport has a fuel farm consisting of three storage tanks , with a total capacity for 13 @, @ 500 kilolitres (480 @, @ 000 cu ft) of jet fuel . The tanks are connected to the apron via underground pipelines . Reliance Industries built and operates the farm , which can be used by any oil company under an open @-@ access model .

= = = Solar power plant = = =

In January 2016 , GHIAL commissioned a 5 MW solar power plant near RGIA , which will be used to serve the airport 's energy needs . It was built over 24 acres (9 @. @ 7 ha) at a cost of ? 30 crore (US \$ 4 @. @ 5 million) . Over the following two to three years , the capacity of the plant will be raised to 30 MW , allowing RGIA to become fully solar powered .

= = Airport hotel = =

The Novotel Hyderabad Airport , located 3 @. @ 5 kilometres (2 @. @ 2 mi) from RGIA , was opened in October 2008 . The hotel includes 305 rooms , two restaurants and a lounge for aircrew . It was initially owned by GHIAL before being shifted to subsidiary GMR Hotels and Resorts Ltd . Owing to high losses from low occupancy , GMR began seeking buyers of the hotel in August 2015 .

= = Connectivity = =

= = = Road = = =

RGIA is connected to the city of Hyderabad by NH 7 , NH 765 and the Outer Ring Road . In October 2009 , the PV Narasimha Rao Expressway was completed between Mehdiapatnam and Rajendranagar , where it joins NH 7 . The longest flyover in India at 11 @. @ 6 kilometres (7 @. @ 2 mi) , it has reduced travel time between the airport and the city to 30 ? 40 minutes .

The " Pushpak - Airport Liner " service of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation provides bus transportation to different parts of the city . It was launched in December 2012 to replace GMR 's Aero Express service .

= = = Rail = = =

Under the second phase of the Hyderabad Metro Rail project , a 28 @-@ kilometre (17 mi) rail link between Raidurg / Gachibowli and RGIA will be constructed . As of late 2015 , feasibility studies on the phase are underway .

= = Future plans = =

The master plan of the airport project encompasses three phases , with the first phase completed upon the opening of the airport in 2008 . The ultimate goal is to raise the capacity to 40 million passengers per year .

== Second phase ==

In 2009 , GHIAL decided to postpone the second phase due to lower growth in passenger traffic than anticipated . The phase was revived in late 2015 , as the airport is expected to reach its capacity in 2016 . The first leg of this phase will bring the capacity to 18 million passengers annually , and the second leg will raise it to 20 million . The passenger terminal will be enlarged with additional security lanes , check @-@ in counters and other facilities , and solar panels will be built on the roof . Once GHIAL receives approval from the Central Government , it expects construction on the second phase to take 18 ? 20 months .

== Third phase ==

The final phase of expansion will increase the terminal capacity to 40 million passengers annually .