

= Kempegowda International Airport =

Kempegowda International Airport (IATA : BLR , ICAO : VOBL) is an international airport serving Bangalore , the capital of the Indian state of Karnataka . Spread over 4 , 000 acres (1 , 600 ha) , it is located about 40 kilometres (25 mi) north of the city near the village of Devanahalli . It is owned and operated by Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) , a public ? private consortium . The airport opened in May 2008 as an alternative to increased congestion at HAL Airport , the original primary commercial airport serving the city . It is named after Kempe Gowda I , the founder of Bangalore .

As of 2015 , Kempegowda Airport is the third busiest airport by passenger traffic in the country , behind the airports in Delhi and Mumbai . It handled roughly 18 million passengers in 2015 with 400 aircraft movements per day . The airport also handled about 287 , 000 tonnes (316 , 000 short tons) of cargo .

The airport consists of a single runway and passenger terminal , which handles both domestic and international operations . A second runway and terminal are in the early stages of planning and construction . In addition , there is a cargo village and three cargo terminals . The airport serves as a hub for AirAsia India , Air India Regional , Air Pegasus and Jet Airways . It is also a focus city for IndiGo .

= = History = =

= = = Planning (1991 ? 2004) = = =

The original airport serving Bangalore was HAL Airport , located 10 kilometres (6 . 2 mi) from the city centre . However , as Bangalore grew into the Silicon Valley of India and passenger traffic to the city rose , the airport was unable to cope . There was no room for expansion and the apron could only park six aircraft . In March 1991 , former chairman of the National Airports Authority of India (NAAI) S. Ramanathan convened a panel to select the site for a new airport . The panel decided on Devanahalli , a village about 40 kilometres (25 mi) north of Bangalore . The State Government made a proposal to build the airport with private assistance , which the Union Government approved in 1994 .

In December 1995 , a consortium consisting of Tata Group , Raytheon and Singapore Changi Airport signed a memorandum of understanding with the State Government regarding participation in the project . In June 1998 , however , the consortium announced it was pulling out of the project due to delays in government approval . These included disputes over the location of the airport and the fate of HAL Airport .

In May 1999 , the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (KSIIDC) of the State Government signed a memorandum of understanding regarding the nature of the project . It would be a public ? private partnership , with AAI and KSIIDC having a 26 % share and private companies having the remaining 74 % . In January 2001 , the State Government created the company Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) as a special purpose entity and began searching for partners . By November , the project had attracted Unique Zürich Airport , Siemens Project Ventures and Larsen & Toubro . Construction was expected to begin in October 2002 ; however , governmental delays persisted . The concession agreement between the State Government , the Union Government and BIAL was signed in July 2004 . In it , BIAL required the closure of HAL Airport .

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

Construction finally commenced on 2 July 2005 . When a study predicted the airport would receive 6 . 7 million passengers in 2008 , the airport was redesigned from its initial capacity of 4 . 5 million passengers to 11 million , with the terminal size expanded and the number of aircraft stands

increased . The cost of the airport rose to ₹ 930 crore (US \$ 290 million) . Construction was completed in 32 months , and BIAL set the launch date for 30 March 2008 . However , due to delays in establishing air traffic control services at the airport , the launch date was pushed to 11 May and finally 24 May 2008 .

As the opening date for the airport approached , public criticism arose , mainly directed toward the closure of HAL Airport . In March 2008 , AAI employees conducted a massive strike against the closure of HAL Airport along with Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad , fearing they would lose their jobs . The Bangalore City Connect Foundation , a group of citizens and businessmen , staged a rally in mid-May , claiming the new airport was too small for the latest demand projections . On 23 May , a hearing was held at the Karnataka High Court over poor connectivity between the city and the airport . Ultimately , the State Government decided to go ahead with inaugurating the new airport and closing HAL Airport .

The first flight to the airport , Air India Flight 609 from Mumbai , was allowed to land the previous night as it would be continuing to Singapore shortly after midnight . The aircraft touched down at 10 : 40 pm on 23 May . The airport became the third greenfield airport under a public-private partnership to open in India , after Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad and Cochin International Airport .

== Renaming and expansion (2009 - present) ==

The original name of the airport was Bengaluru International Airport . In February 2009 , the State Government sent a proposal to the Union Government to rename the airport after the founder of Bangalore , Kempe Gowda I. When no action was taken , the State Government passed a resolution for the name change in December 2011 . The Union Government accepted the proposal in 2012 and formally approved it in July 2013 . The airport was officially renamed on 14 December 2013 amid the inauguration of the expanded terminal building .

Kingfisher Airlines once operated a hub and was one of the largest airlines at Kempegowda Airport . Following its collapse in October 2012 , other airlines stepped in to fill the gap in domestic connectivity by adding more flights . In addition , Air Pegasus and AirAsia India launched hub operations at the airport in 2014 .

The first phase of expansion was launched in June 2011 and finished in December 2013 . The ₹ 500 crore (US \$ 220 million) project doubled the size of the passenger terminal to 150,556 square metres (1,620,570 sq ft) , involving the construction of additional facilities for check-in , immigration , security and baggage reclaim constructed . One domestic gate and three international gates were added as well . A large , sweeping roof connects the original building with the expanded areas . The expanded terminal , dubbed " Terminal 1A " , has raised the annual passenger capacity of the airport to 20 million .

== Ownership ==

The airport is owned and operated by Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) , a public limited company . The Government of India has granted BIAL the right to operate the airport for 30 years , with the option to continue for another 30 years . The company is a public-private venture . 26 % is held by government entities Karnataka State Industrial Investment and Development Corporation (13 %) and Airports Authority of India (13 %) , and 74 % is held by private companies Fairfax Financial (38 %) , Siemens Project Ventures (26 %) and GVK Group (10 %) .

== Airfield ==

Kempegowda Airport has one runway :

Runway 09 / 27 : 4,000 by 45 metres (13,123 ft × 148 ft) , CAT I , ILS equipped .

Four years after it was laid , the runway was entirely resurfaced because of a serious decline in quality . From 11 March to 3 April 2012 , it was closed daily between 10 : 30 am and 5 : 30 pm . As

a result , BIAL accused construction company Larsen & Toubro of building the runway poorly . South of runway 09 / 27 are a full @-@ length parallel taxiway and the apron , which extends from the Blue Dart / DHL terminal to the passenger terminal .

= = Terminal = =

The passenger terminal accommodates both domestic and international operations . It covers 150 @,@ 556 square metres (1 @,@ 620 @,@ 570 sq ft) and can handle 20 million passengers annually . Check @-@ in and baggage reclaim are situated on the lower floor , while all departure gates are located on the upper floor . There is a total of twelve gates : six domestic gates (gates 1 , 2 , 7 , 8 , 9 , 15) and six international gates (16 , 17 , 18 , 21 @-@ 22 , 23 @-@ 24 , 25 @-@ 26) . Gate 25 @-@ 26 is equipped to serve the world 's largest passenger aircraft , the Airbus A380 . Lounges are provided by Above Ground Level and Plaza Premium Lounge , which also operates a day hotel in the terminal . For VIPs there is a separate 930 @-@ square @-@ metre (10 @,@ 000 sq ft) lounge .

= = Airlines and destinations = =

= = = Passenger = = =

= = = Cargo = = =

The following cargo airlines fly to the airport :

= = Statistics = =

= = Other facilities = =

= = = Aviation fuel services = = =

The airport has a fuel farm , spread over 11 acres (4 @.@ 5 ha) west of the cargo village and passenger terminal . It was built by IndianOil SkyTanking Ltd (IOSL) but is shared by multiple oil companies . In October 2008 , Indian Oil commissioned a 36 @-@ kilometre (22 mi) fuel pipeline between its storage terminal in Devanagonthi and Kempegowda Airport . Previously , jet fuel had to be transported to the airport by tank trucks , which created traffic and pollution problems .

= = = Cargo facilities = = =

Kempegowda Airport has three cargo terminals . One is operated by Menzies Aviation Bobba Pvt Ltd and has a capacity for 150 @,@ 000 tonnes (170 @,@ 000 short tons) of cargo ; it includes a facility for storing pharmaceuticals . Air India SATS (AISATS) operates one terminal , which can handle 200 @,@ 000 tonnes (220 @,@ 000 short tons) of cargo . AISATS is also constructing the AISATS Coolport , which will be able to hold 40 @,@ 000 tonnes (44 @,@ 000 short tons) of perishable goods . Lastly , DHL and Blue Dart Aviation jointly operate a 20 @,@ 500 @-@ square @-@ metre (221 @,@ 000 sq ft) terminal .

BIAL inaugurated a separate cargo village in December 2008 . The village is spread over 11 acres (4 @.@ 5 ha) and includes office space , conference rooms , a cafeteria for staff and parking space for nearly 80 trucks . It did not open for occupation until 2010 and initially suffered low occupancy , which some cargo agents attributed to the opening delay , high rent and limited infrastructure .

= = Connectivity = =

= = = Road = = =

Kempegowda Airport is connected to the city of Bangalore by National Highway 7 (NH 7) . In January 2014 , a six @-@ lane flyover was completed over NH 7 between Hebbal and the airport , helping to reduce travel time to and from the city . The airport car park is located at ground level and can hold 2 @, @ 000 vehicles . The airport is served by several taxi and rental car companies . In addition , ride @-@ sharing companies Ola and Uber have their own pick @-@ up zones outside the terminal .

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) provides bus transportation to major parts of the city through the Vayu Vajra (Kannada for " Diamond in the Air ") service . It is operated using a fleet of Volvo B7RLE buses . In addition , the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) operates a nonstop bus service between Kempegowda Airport and Mysore , as well as a route to Manipal via Mangalore .

= = = Rail = = =

Under Phase 3 of the Namma Metro , a rail link will be constructed between the city and Kempegowda Airport , which will receive an underground station . RITES has conducted a feasibility study and selected five possible routes ; however , the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRC) has yet to choose one . A high @-@ speed rail link was previously considered and went as far as obtaining approval from the Union Government . However , the project was eventually scrapped due to high costs and the lack of stops along the line .

= = Future plans = =

The second phase of expansion is underway , which encompasses the construction of a second runway and passenger terminal . When complete , Kempegowda Airport will be able to handle 55 million passengers per year . The estimated ? 4 @, @ 000 crore (US \$ 590 million) project received clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests in September 2014 .

Ground work on the second runway began in February 2016 and will continue for another 12 months , after which the runway will be laid . Located south of the original terminal , it will be parallel to runway 09 / 27 and measure 4 @, @ 000 by 60 metres (13 @, @ 120 ft × 200 ft) , wider than the original runway so it can accommodate larger aircraft . The new runway will also be CAT III certified , allowing for landings in fog and other low visibility conditions . The design of Terminal 2 will be finalised in August 2016 , which is being prepared by US architectural firm Skidmore , Owings & Merrill . Construction of the terminal is expected to begin in January 2017 , with the first stage allowing for a capacity of 20 million annual passengers and the second stage raising it to 35 million .