

# Rajiv Gandhi International Airport

**Rajiv Gandhi International Airport** (**IATA**: **HYD**, **ICAO**: **VOHS**) is an international airport that serves Hyderabad, the capital of the Indian state of Telangana. It is located in Shamshabad, about 24 kilometres (15 mi) south of Hyderabad and it was opened on 23 March 2008 to replace Begumpet Airport, which was the sole civilian airport serving Hyderabad. It is named after Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India. Built over an area of 5,500 acres (2,200 ha), it is the largest airport of India by area.<sup>[4]</sup> It is owned and operated by GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL), a public–private consortium. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad was the first airport in India to launch domestic e-boarding facility in December 2015 and international e-boarding facility in October 2020.<sup>[5][6][7]</sup> It has also ranked in AirHelp's list of top 10 airports in the world.<sup>[8]</sup> The fourth busiest airport in India by passengers traffic, it handled almost 21 million passengers and over 140,000 tonnes (150,000 short tons) of cargo between April 2022 and March 2023.<sup>[9]</sup>

Rajiv Gandhi International Airport is India's first greenfield airport built under a public-private partnership model.<sup>[10]</sup> The airport has an integrated passenger terminal, a cargo terminal and two runways. There are also aviation training facilities, a fuel farm, a solar power plant and two maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO) facilities. The airport serves as a hub for Alliance Air (India), Amazon Air, Blue Dart Aviation, SpiceJet and IndiGo. It is a focus city for Air India.

## History

### Planning (1991–2004)

The existing commercial airport, Begumpet Airport, was unable to handle rising passenger traffic. The state government led by then chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu initially considered converting Hakimpet Air Force Station to civilian use; however, the Air Force refused.<sup>[11]</sup> 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.<sup>[12]</sup> By October 1998, the State had narrowed down to

### Rajiv Gandhi International Airport



**IATA: HYD · ICAO: VOHS**

#### Summary

<b>Airport type</b>	Public
<b>Owner/Operator</b>	<div>GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>GMR Group</u> (74%)</li><li><u>Airports Authority of India</u> (13%)</li><li><u>Government of Telangana</u> (13%)</li></ul></div>
<b>Serves</b>	<u>Hyderabad Metropolitan Region</u>
<b>Location</b>	<u>Shamshabad, Hyderabad, Telangana, India</u>
<b>Opened</b>	23 March 2008
<b>Hub for</b>	<u>Amazon Air</u> <u>Air India Express</u> <u>Alliance Air</u> <u>Blue Dart Aviation</u> <u>IndiGo</u>

three possible locations for the new airport: Bongloor, Nadergul and Shamshabad.<sup>[13]</sup> Due to its convenient location near two highways (NH 44 and NH 765) and a railway line,<sup>[12]</sup> Shamshabad was selected in December 1998.<sup>[14]</sup>

In November 2000, under the N. Chandrababu Naidu government and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed a memorandum of understanding on the greenfield airport project, establishing it as a public–private partnership.<sup>[15]</sup> The State and AAI together would hold a 26% stake in the project, while the remaining 74% would be allotted to private companies.<sup>[16]</sup> Through a bidding process the Shamshabad international airport with already land acquired of 5500 acres is in government possession and N. Chandrababu Naidu assigned bid to consortium consisting of Grandhi Mallikarjuna Rao (GMR Group) and Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad was chosen as the holder of the 74% stake.<sup>[12][16]</sup>

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.<sup>[12][17]</sup>

In September 2003, the members of GHIAL signed a shareholders' agreement, as well as an agreement for state subsidy of over ₹4 billion (US\$50 million).<sup>[12][18]</sup> 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.<sup>[19]</sup> Thus, the closure of Begumpet Airport was required.<sup>[20]</sup>

### Construction and opening (2005–2008)

The project was forwarded when Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy gained power and construction began by GMR on 16 March 2005 when Sonia Gandhi laid the foundation stone.<sup>[21]</sup> Two days prior, the Central Government had named the airport after former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi,<sup>[22]</sup> who had undergone pilot training in Hyderabad.<sup>[23]</sup> 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; TDP wanted to continue this naming convention at the new airport. However, the new airport has only one terminal.<sup>[24]</sup>

	<u>SpiceJet</u>		
	<u>Star Air</u>		
<b>Focus city for</b>	<u>Air India</u>		
	<u>Vistara</u>		
<b>Elevation AMSL</b>	617 m / 2,024 ft		
<b>Coordinates</b>	<u>17°13′48″N</u>		
	<u>78°25′55″E</u>		
<b>Website</b>	<u>www.hyderabad</u>		
	<u>.aero</u> ( <u>https://www.h</u>		
	<u>yderabad.aero</u> )		
<b>Map</b>			
			
Location of airport in Telangana			
			
HYD (India)			
<b>Runways</b>			
<b>Direction</b>	<b>Length</b>		<b>Surface</b>
	<b>m</b>	<b>ft</b>	
09L/27R	3,800	12,162	<u>Asphalt</u>
09R/27L	4,260	13,976	Asphalt
<b>Statistics (April 2022 – March 2023)</b>			
<b>Passengers</b>	20,996,027 (▲		
	68.9%)		

Roughly three years after the foundation stone laying ceremony, the airport was inaugurated on 14 March 2008 amid protests. TDP repeated its demand for the naming of the domestic terminal.<sup>[23]</sup> 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.<sup>[25][26]</sup>

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 2008.<sup>[27]</sup> Although Lufthansa Flight 752 from Frankfurt was scheduled to be the first flight to land at RGIA, two SpiceJet flights landed earlier.<sup>[28]</sup> However, the Lufthansa flight still received the planned ceremonial welcome upon its 12:25 am arrival.<sup>[28][29]</sup>

Rajiv Gandhi International Airport reassigned the IATA airport code, **HYD**, from Begumpet Airport after the previous airport ceased international commercial flights.

### Later developments (2009–present)

In September 2011, SpiceJet launched its regional hub at RGIA, using its new Bombardier Q400 aircraft.<sup>[30]</sup> The airline, which chose Hyderabad due to its central location in the country,<sup>[31]</sup> flies to several Tier-II and Tier-III cities from the airport.<sup>[32]</sup> Regional airline TruJet too opened a hub at RGIA upon commencing operations in July 2015.<sup>[33]</sup>

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.<sup>[34][35]</sup> Airport officials remained unsure as to how the naming would occur.<sup>[36]</sup>

### Ownership

RGIA is owned and operated by GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL), a public–private venture. It is composed of the private firm, GMR Group (74%) and the public entities, Airports Authority of India (13%) and the Government of Telangana (13%). Previously, GMR Group had a consortium with Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad, in which it held a share of 11% and GMR Group shared 63% in owning the airport.<sup>[37]</sup> 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.<sup>[38]</sup> In May 2022, the Central Government extended the concession agreement term of GHIAL from 23 March 2038, up to 22 March 2068.<sup>[10]</sup> In October 2023, GMR Group

<b>Aircraft movements</b>	158,747 (▲ 39.3%)
<b>Cargo tonnage</b>	142,434 (▲ 1.7%)
Source: <u>AAI</u> <sup>[1][2][3]</sup>	



The interiors at the airport in 2008



Check-in area of the terminal



Departures area

informed in a release announcing the signing of Sales and Purchase Agreement (SPA) that it had decided to acquire the 11% stake of Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad, thus raising its overall stake to 74%.<sup>[39][40]</sup> Hence, Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad withdrew from the ownership, and GMR Group took over its stake in January 2024.<sup>[41]</sup>

## Facilities

### Structure

The airport is spread over 2,200 hectares (5,500 acres). Out of which 810 hectares (2,000 acres) have been developed towards airport needs which mainly constitutes 690 hectares (1,700 acres) of land is airside and 120 hectares (300 acres) of land is landside facilities. The remaining 1,414 hectares (3,495 acres) is expansion of the airport. No further land will be acquired. The airport is fully planned within 2,200 hectares (5,500 acres).<sup>[42]</sup>

### Runways

The airport has two runways.<sup>[43]</sup>

- Runway 09L/27R: 3,707 by 45 metres (12,162 ft × 148 ft).
- Runway 09R/27L: 4,260 by 60 metres (13,980 ft × 200 ft), ILS equipped.

Runway 09R/27L, the original and primary runway, is long enough to be able to receive the Airbus A380 which is the world's largest passenger aircraft.<sup>[44]</sup> Originally a taxiway, runway 09L/27R was inaugurated in February 2012. Its length is shorter than the main runway and able to handle 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.<sup>[45]</sup> 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. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad was the first international airport in south India to have a parallel runway at the time of inauguration of the second runway in February 2012 respectively.

### Terminal

The terminal is designed to handle 12 million passengers. It has a builtup area of 117,000 m<sup>2</sup> (1,260,000 sq ft). The terminal has 10 baggage claim belts 7 for domestic flights and 3 for international flights.<sup>[46]</sup> In November 2023, the terminal was expanded towards the eastern side. Its total operational area is 274,118 m<sup>2</sup> (2,950,580 sq ft). With the expanded terminal, the passenger capacity has been increased to 34 million passengers per annum. The expanded area now has 24 remote bus domestic departure gates and arrival facilities, 12 passenger boarding aero bridges, contact stands, and a domestic-to-domestic (D-D) transfer area. Furthermore, this area is equipped with three ATRS machines, one screening machine and 12 departure gates.<sup>[47]</sup> The western side of the terminal handles international flights while the eastern side is for domestic operations.<sup>[48]</sup> There are 46 immigration counters and 96 check-in desks with 19 kiosks for self check-in.<sup>[49]</sup> There is a total of nine gates, seven of which are located on the south side of the terminal and



Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad was the first airport in India to launch domestic e-boarding facility in December 2015

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.<sup>[50]</sup> The pre-security "airport village" is a meeting point for passenger pick-up.<sup>[48]</sup>

The airport has 57 parking bays: 47 remote parking bays and 10 aero bridges. In January 2019 the GHIAL added another 26 parking bays which makes a total of 83 parking bays.<sup>[51]</sup>

## Airlines and destinations

### Passenger

Airlines	Destinations
<u>Air Arabia</u>	<u>Sharjah</u> <sup>[52]</sup>
<u>AirAsia</u>	<u>Kuala Lumpur–International</u> <sup>[53]</sup>
<u>Air India</u>	<u>Bangalore</u> , <u>Chennai</u> , <u>Delhi</u> , <u>Dubai–International</u> , <u>Mumbai</u> , <u>Riyadh</u> , <u>Tirupati</u>
<u>Air India Express</u> <sup>[54]</sup>	<u>Amritsar</u> , <u>Bangalore</u> , <u>Chennai</u> , <u>Dammam</u> , <u>Goa–Dabolim</u> , <u>Gwalior</u> , <u>Jaipur</u> , <u>Jeddah</u> , <sup>[55]</sup> <u>Kochi</u> , <u>Kolkata</u> , <u>Lucknow</u> , <u>Muscat</u> , <u>Riyadh</u> , <sup>[56]</sup> <u>Siliguri</u> (begins 2 April 2024), <sup>[57]</sup> <u>Surat</u> , <u>Thiruvananthapuram</u> , <sup>[58]</sup> <u>Varanasi</u> , <sup>[59]</sup> <u>Vijayawada</u> (begins 2 April 2024), <sup>[60]</sup> <u>Visakhapatnam</u>
<u>AIX Connect</u>	<u>Bangalore</u> , <u>Chennai</u> , <u>Goa–Dabolim</u> , <u>Jaipur</u> , <u>Kolkata</u> , <u>Visakhapatnam</u>
<u>Akasa Air</u> <sup>[61]</sup>	<u>Bangalore</u> , <u>Delhi</u> , <u>Mumbai</u>
<u>Alliance Air</u>	<u>Bangalore</u> , <sup>[62]</sup> <u>Chennai</u> , <sup>[63]</sup> <u>Goa–Dabolim</u> , <sup>[64]</sup> <u>Jabalpur</u> , <sup>[65]</sup> <u>Jagdalpur</u> , <u>Kochi</u> , <sup>[66]</sup> <u>Mysore</u> , <sup>[67]</sup> <u>Pune</u> , <sup>[68]</sup> <u>Raipur</u> , <u>Tirupati</u> , <sup>[69]</sup> <u>Vidyanagar</u> , <sup>[70]</sup> <u>Vijayawada</u> <sup>[71]</sup>
<u>British Airways</u>	<u>London–Heathrow</u> <sup>[72]</sup>
<u>Emirates</u>	<u>Dubai–International</u> <sup>[73]</sup>
<u>Etihad Airways</u>	<u>Abu Dhabi</u> <sup>[74]</sup>
<u>Fly91</u>	<u>Goa–Mopa</u> , <u>Sindhudurg</u> <sup>[75][76]</sup>
<u>Flydubai</u>	<u>Dubai–International</u> <sup>[77]</sup>
<u>Flynas</u>	<u>Riyadh</u> <sup>[78][79]</sup>
<u>Gulf Air</u>	<u>Bahrain</u> <sup>[80]</sup>
<u>IndiGo</u>	<u>Abu Dhabi</u> , <sup>[81]</sup> <u>Ahmedabad</u> , <u>Amritsar</u> (begins 31 March 2024), <sup>[82]</sup> <u>Aurangabad</u> , <u>Bangkok–Suvarnabhumi</u> , <sup>[83]</sup> <u>Bangalore</u> , <u>Belgaum</u> , <u>Bhopal</u> , <u>Bhubaneswar</u> , <u>Chandigarh</u> , <u>Chennai</u> , <u>Coimbatore</u> , <u>Colombo–Bandaranaike</u> , <sup>[84]</sup> <u>Dammam</u> , <u>Darbhanga</u> , <u>Dehradun</u> , <u>Delhi</u> , <u>Doha</u> , <u>Dubai–International</u> , <u>Durgapur</u> , <u>Goa–Dabolim</u> , <u>Goa–Mopa</u> , <sup>[85]</sup> <u>Gondia</u> , <sup>[86]</sup> <u>Gorakhpur</u> , <u>Guwahati</u> , <u>Hubli</u> , <u>Indore</u> , <u>Jabalpur</u> , <u>Jagdalpur</u> (begins 31 March 2024), <sup>[87]</sup> <u>Jaipur</u> , <u>Jeddah</u> , <sup>[88]</sup> <u>Jodhpur</u> , <u>Kannur</u> , <u>Kochi</u> , <u>Kolhapur</u> , <u>Kolkata</u> , <u>Kozhikode</u> , <u>Kuwait City</u> , <u>Lucknow</u> , <u>Madurai</u> , <u>Malé</u> , <u>Mangalore</u> , <u>Mumbai</u> , <u>Muscat</u> , <u>Mysore</u> , <u>Nagpur</u> , <u>Nashik</u> , <sup>[89]</sup> <u>Patna</u> , <u>Port Blair</u> , <u>Pune</u> , <u>Raipur</u> , <u>Rajahmundry</u> , <u>Ranchi</u> , <u>Ras Al Khaimah</u> , <sup>[90]</sup> <u>Salem</u> , <sup>[91]</sup> <u>Sharjah</u> , <u>Shirdi</u> , <u>Siliguri</u> , <u>Singapore</u> , <sup>[92]</sup> <u>Srinagar</u> , <sup>[93]</sup> <u>Surat</u> , <u>Thiruvananthapuram</u> , <u>Tiruchirappalli</u> , <u>Tirupati</u> , <u>Udaipur</u> , <u>Vadodara</u> , <u>Varanasi</u> , <u>Vijayawada</u> , <u>Visakhapatnam</u>
<u>Jazeera Airways</u>	<u>Kuwait City</u> <sup>[94]</sup>
<u>Kuwait Airways</u>	<u>Kuwait City</u> <sup>[95]</sup>
<u>Lufthansa</u>	<u>Frankfurt</u> <sup>[96]</sup>
<u>Malaysia Airlines</u>	<u>Kuala Lumpur–International</u> <sup>[97]</sup>



<u>Nok Air</u>	<u>Bangkok–Don Mueang</u> <sup>[98]</sup>
<u>Oman Air</u>	<u>Muscat</u> <sup>[99]</sup>
<u>Qatar Airways</u>	<u>Doha</u> <sup>[100]</sup>
<u>SalamAir</u>	<u>Muscat</u> <sup>[101][102]</sup>
<u>Saudia</u>	<u>Jeddah</u> , <u>Riyadh</u> <sup>[103]</sup>
<u>Singapore Airlines</u>	<u>Singapore</u> <sup>[104]</sup>
<u>SpiceJet</u> <sup>[105]</sup>	<u>Ayodhya</u> (begins 2 April 2024), <sup>[106]</sup> <u>Chennai</u> (resumes 31 March 2024), <u>Delhi</u> , <u>Goa–Mopa</u> , <u>Jabalpur</u> (begins 31 March 2024), <sup>[105]</sup> <u>Kochi</u> , <u>Madurai</u> (resumes 31 March 2024), <u>Pondicherry</u> , <u>Pune</u> , <u>Tirupati</u> , <u>Shirdi</u> , <u>Varanasi</u> (resumes 31 March 2024)
<u>SriLankan Airlines</u>	<u>Colombo–Bandaranaike</u> <sup>[107]</sup>
<u>Star Air</u> <sup>[108]</sup>	<u>Bangalore</u> , <u>Jamnagar</u> , <u>Kishangarh</u> , <sup>[109]</sup> <u>Nagpur</u> , <sup>[109]</sup> <u>Nanded</u> (begins 31 March 2024), <u>Pune</u> , <sup>[110]</sup> <u>Shivamogga</u> , <sup>[111]</sup> <u>Surat</u>
<u>Thai Airways International</u>	<u>Bangkok–Suvarnabhumi</u> <sup>[112]</sup>
<u>Vistara</u>	<u>Bangalore</u> , <u>Delhi</u> , <u>Goa–Mopa</u> , <sup>[113]</sup> <u>Mumbai</u> <sup>[114]</sup>

## Cargo

Airlines	Destinations	Refs.
<u>Amazon Air</u>	<u>Bangalore</u> , <u>Delhi</u> , <u>Mumbai</u>	[115]
<u>Blue Dart Aviation</u>	<u>Ahmedabad</u> , <u>Chennai</u> , <u>Delhi</u> , <u>Mumbai</u>	[116]
<u>Lufthansa Cargo</u>	<u>Frankfurt</u> , <u>Mumbai</u>	[117]
<u>Oman Air Cargo</u>	<u>Muscat</u>	[118]
<u>Qatar Airways Cargo</u>	<u>Doha</u>	[119]
<u>Turkish Cargo</u>	<u>Doha</u> , <u>Dubai–Al Maktoum</u> , <sup>[120]</sup> <u>Istanbul</u> , <u>Phnom Penh</u>	[120]

## Statistics

Annual passenger traffic at HYD airport. See Wikidata query (

# GMR Aerospace Park

## Aviation training

**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 ₹3.5 billion (US\$44 million) and inaugurated in March 2012,<sup>[127]</sup> the facility can handle up to five aircraft simultaneously.<sup>[128]</sup> 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.<sup>[129]</sup> GMR bought out MAE's stake in December 2014.

GMR Aero Technic Ltd is the only one MRO in private sector in India with extensive capability to maintain Airbus A320 family aircraft, Boeing 737, ATR 72/42 and Bombardier DHC Q400 aircraft. GMR Aero Technic is a world class aircraft maintenance organisation approved by EASA and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (India) and various civil aviation authorities and one of the few MROs certified for AS9110 standards in South East Asia region.<sup>[130]</sup>

## Other facilities

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### Air India MRO

The other MRO is operated by Air India Engineering Services Limited (AIESL), a subsidiary of Air India. Spread over 2 hectares (5 acres), the facility cost ₹790 million (US\$9.9 million) to construct and was opened in May 2015.<sup>[131][132]</sup>

### 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.<sup>[133]</sup> The terminal is operated by Hyderabad Menzies Air Cargo Pvt Ltd, a joint venture between GHIAL (51%) and Menzies Aviation (49%).<sup>[134]</sup> 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.<sup>[134][135]</sup> In May 2011, Lufthansa Cargo launched its first pharma hub at the airport.<sup>[136]</sup>



The cargo terminal, with a Lufthansa Cargo Boeing 777F being unloaded

### Fuel farm

The airport has a fuel farm consisting of six storage tanks in which 4 are filled, 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.<sup>[44]</sup> Reliance Industries built and operates the farm, which can be used by any oil company under an open-access model.<sup>[137]</sup>

### 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 9.7 hectares (24 acres) at a cost of ₹300 million (US\$3.8 million).<sup>[138]</sup> 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.<sup>[139]</sup>

## 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.<sup>[140]</sup> It was initially owned by GHIAL before being shifted to subsidiary GMR Hotels and Resorts Ltd. Owing to high losses from low occupancy,<sup>[141]</sup> GMR began seeking buyers of the hotel in August 2015.<sup>[142]</sup>



Novotel hotel at Hyderabad Airport

## Kartainment Go Karting Track

Kartainment is a professional racing and recreational Go- Karting track located in the GMR Rajiv Gandhi Hyderabad International Airport, Shamshabad.<sup>[143]</sup> It is made up of 900 meter professional track and 600 meter recreational Go-Karting track. The quality of the track and its maintenance is of extremely high standards and Kartainment is the preferred choice to host many National Karting Championship events.

## Aero Plaza

Aero Plaza is located within the main terminal of the airport. It is spread over two floors and was inaugurated in 2022.<sup>[144]</sup>

## GMR Aerocity Hyderabad

In April 2021, GMR Group announced the launch of GMR Hyderabad Airport City,<sup>[145]</sup> which is proposed to be the largest aerotropolis in India spread across 1,500-acre (6.1 km<sup>2</sup>) around Rajiv Gandhi International Airport,<sup>[146]</sup> and is being billed as an "integrated ecosystem covering Office Space, Retail, Leisure, Entertainment, Hospitality, Education, Healthcare, Aerospace & Logistics".



Aero Plaza Hyderabad Airport

## Connectivity

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### Road

RGIA is connected to the city of Hyderabad by NH 44, NH 765 and the Outer Ring Road. In October 2009, the PV Narasimha Rao Expressway was completed between Mehdipatnam and Aramghar, where it joins NH 44. This long flyover which is 13 km has reduced travel time between the airport and the city to 30–40 minutes and also provides three entry and exit points.<sup>[147]</sup>



Taxi stand outside the terminal

The "Pushpak – Airport Liner" service of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation provides bus transportation to different parts of the city.<sup>[148]</sup> It was launched in December 2012 to replace GMR's Aero Express service.<sup>[149]</sup>



Airport Approach Road, RGIA, Hyderabad, Telangana.

## Metro

Under the second phase of the Hyderabad Metro Rail project, a 31-kilometre (19 mi) rail link between Raidurg and RGIA will be constructed.<sup>[150]</sup> As of late 2015, feasibility studies on the phase are underway.<sup>[151][152]</sup> In August 2019, K. T. Rama Rao said that state cabinet has approved the Hyderabad Airport Metro Express Link from Raidurg to the airport.<sup>[153]</sup> The alignment to Shamshabad RGI Airport from the Raidurg metro station will be passing over Bio-diversity Junction, through Roda Mistry college lane, Khajaguda Junction. The 31 km-long Hyderabad Airport Metro Express link will cost around ₹ 6250 crore.<sup>[154]</sup> In September 2021, GMR Group, the company operating the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad said that it will invest ₹ 519.52 crore towards metro connectivity at the airport.<sup>[155][156]</sup> During foundation laying ceremony on 9 December 2022, GMR Group contributed ₹625 crore (US\$78 million), or 10 per cent of the project's cost.<sup>[157][158]</sup>

The closest Indian Railways station is Umdanagar, which is 6 km from the airport.<sup>[159][160]</sup>

## Future plans

In 2009, GHIAL decided to postpone the second phase due to lower growth in passenger traffic than anticipated.<sup>[161][162]</sup> The phase was revived in late 2015, as the airport is expected to reach its capacity in 2016.<sup>[163]</sup> 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.<sup>[164]</sup> 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.<sup>[165]</sup> In October 2017, GHIAL CEO SGK Kishore confirmed that the airport expansion would start by January 2018, and it is expected to be completed by the end of 2019. The passenger terminal is being expanded to handle 34 million passengers per year.<sup>[166]</sup> But due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which caused lockdowns, restrictions and curfews, it resulted in lack of labour and delays in work. Construction work has resumed as of mid 2021, and now it is expected to be completed by 2023.

In the midst of the expansion to 25 million, the grant for the 50 million PPA expansion was awarded.<sup>[167]</sup> The master plan of the airport involves construction of new runways and the terminal on the north side of the airport approach road which replicates the existing runways and terminal on the south of approach road. New cross taxiways will be built on east & west of terminals connecting the runways on north and south of the approach road. The approach road tunnel will be built under the new taxiways which allows free flow of traffic entering airport from ORR/Bangalore Highway junction and Srisailem Highway as well.<sup>[168]</sup> The final phase of expansion will increase the terminal capacity to 80 million passengers annually.<sup>[164]</sup>

## See also

- List of airports in India
- List of the busiest airports in India

- List of airports in Telangana
- Warangal Airport

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## External links

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- [Official website \(https://hyderabad.aero\)](https://hyderabad.aero)
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