

## Four more Indian airports to install Digi Yatra

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Paperless check-in and boarding service, Digi Yatra, will be extended to four more airports -- Kolkata, Pune, Vijayawada and Hyderabad-- next month in March. The Ministry of Civil Aviation, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha, informed that the project is under implementation stage.

"Airports Authority of India (AAI) has awarded the work for the implementation of the Biometric Boarding System at Kolkata, Pune, Vijayawada, and Varanasi airports," the statement added.

Launched in December last year, the facial biometrics-based Digi Yatra service is currently available at three airports including Delhi, Bengaluru and Varanasi.

The Digi Yatra service is an initiative launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation for biometric boarding system using the facial recognition technology (FRT). It is a voluntary facility for air travellers to provide seamless and hassle-free experience at the Indian airports. Its main objective is to enhance passenger experience by eliminating the need for verification of ticket and ID at multiple touch points and to achieve better throughput through existing infrastructure using a digital framework.

In the Digi Yatra process, there is no central storage of passenger's personally identifiable information (PII).

All the passenger's data is encrypted and stored in the wallet of the passenger's smartphone and shared only for a limited time duration with the airport of travel origin where the passenger's Digi Yatra ID needs to be validated.

The data is purged from the system within 24 hours of flight.

The expenditure for the implementation of Digi Yatra is on the airport operators.

Private agency Dataevolve Solutions is currently providing the FRT-based Digi Yatra central ecosystem service at the airports. It has been selected through a national startup challenge run by Niti Aayog under the Atal Innovation Mission, said the reply.

The Digi Yatra free app is available at Android and iOS platform and can be downloaded on any smartphone with Google Play Store for Android and App Store for iPhones.

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