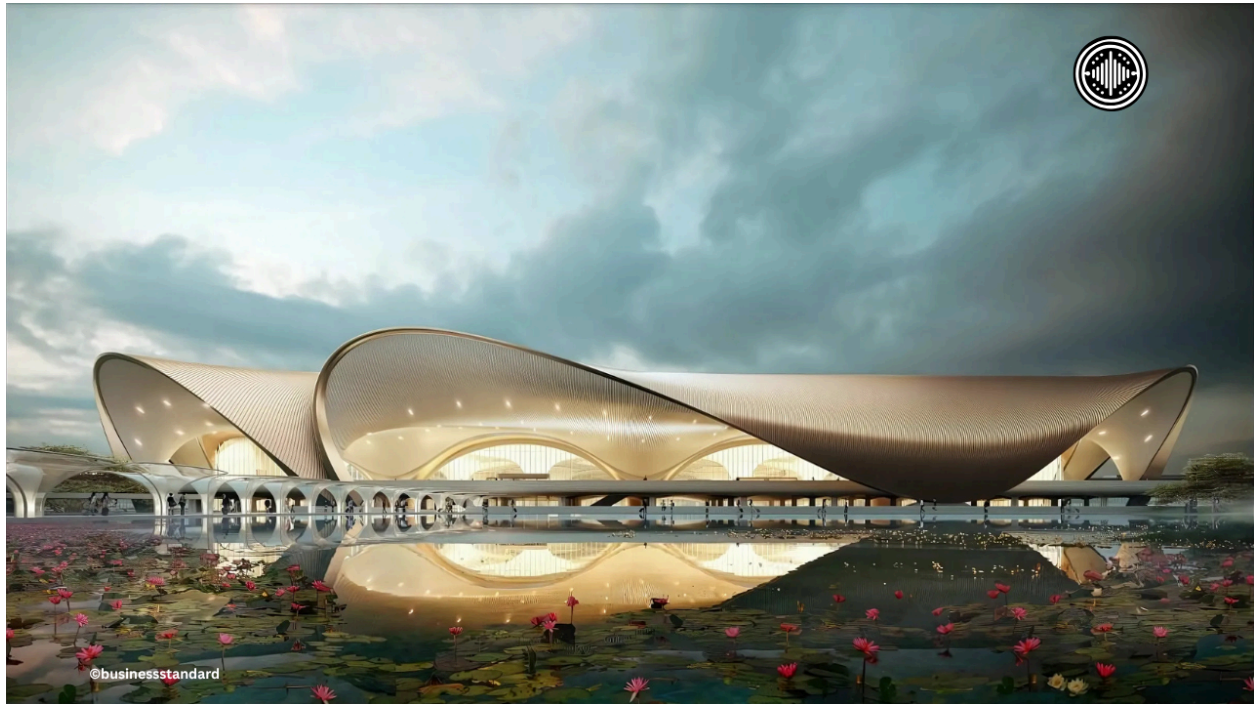


## Navi Mumbai Airport Secures Final Regulatory Nod, Set for Commercial Launch



The Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) is on the verge of a major milestone, with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) expected to grant its aerodrome license by the end of August. This crucial regulatory approval paves the way for the airport, developed by Adani Airports Holdings (AAHL), to begin full commercial operations in mid-November. The move marks the culmination of a multi-year construction project and is a significant step toward alleviating the severe congestion at Mumbai's existing Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA).

The aerodrome license from the DGCA is the final authorization required to begin commercial flights. Adani Airports Holdings (AAHL) CEO Arun Bansal stated that after receiving the license, there will be a 45-day period before commercial operations commence. This time frame allows for security integration with the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and other essential final preparations. The airport plans to launch both domestic and international flights simultaneously, aiming to reach its initial capacity of 20 million passengers per annum (MPPA) within six months of opening.

To prepare for this approval, aviation regulators conducted inspections in mid-July, with a final inspection scheduled for a few weeks before the license is granted. The airport's readiness has been tested with successful trial landings by both an Indian Air Force aircraft and an A320

commercial jet. The formal approval process will lead to the publication of the airport's flight procedures in the Electronic Aeronautical Information Publication (eAIP), which is a key step for airlines and pilots to begin operations.

Looking ahead, NMIA's ambitious expansion plans are already in motion. The airport operator has decided to expand the second phase to accommodate 40 million passengers, increasing the total capacity to 60-65 MPPA by 2029. This expansion will involve the construction of a second runway, an additional terminal building, and an automated people mover system. The total investment for the project is expected to be close to ₹50,000 crore. The launch of the Navi Mumbai airport is a pivotal moment for the region's infrastructure, promising to transform air travel and boost economic activity in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.