Digi Yatra Initiative

April 8, 2021

In News: Air passengers can soon use facial recognition technology to enter any airport in the country under the recently unveiled Digi Yatra initiative by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
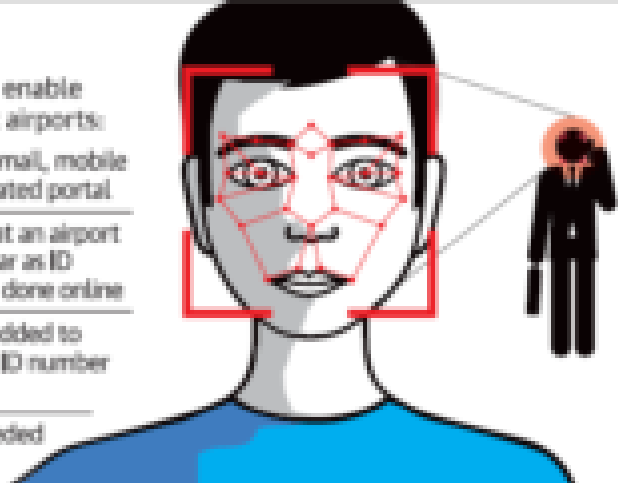
Digi Yatra Initiative

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Civil Aviation
- To promote paperless and hassle-free air travel.
- There would be one-time verification at the departure airport while travelling for the first time using the ID.
- After successful verification, facial recognition biometric would be captured and stored in the Digi Yatra ID.
- With this initiative, the civil aviation ministry is looking to make ticket booking, airport entry and boarding pass security check-in digital.
- The technology will soon be operational at Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports.
- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) plans to roll out the initiative at Kolkata, Varanasi, Pune and Vijayawada airports by April next year.

Key features

- Centralised registration system for passengers and each of them would get a unique ID on booking the tickets
- ID can be created by sharing name, e-mail id, mobile number and details of any identity proof, including Aadhaar
- The airline would share the passenger data and the ID with the airport from where the passenger would be flying out
- Optionally linking of Aadhaar to airlines at the time of

booking for faster airport entry and automated check-ins without requiring any paper-based interventions

- A biometrics-based digital processing system for passenger entry and related requirements at the airport
- Voluntary for passengers on whether to opt for facial recognition biometric for air travel
- The Digi Yatra platform would be operational by February 2019
- Will be available at major airports in the country
- Real-time notifications about congestion and delays of flights
- Passengers would be notified when their luggage reaches the baggage claim belt.

Face value

A step-by-step process to enable yourself for facial scans at airports:

Step 1 Register your name, e-mail, mobile number, ID proof on a designated portal

Step 2 One-time verification at an airport is a must and if you use Aadhaar as ID proof, then verification can be done online

Step 3 Your photo has to be added to your Digi Yatra profile and an ID number should be generated

Step 4 This ID number is needed while booking tickets

Step 5 Scan QR code and undergo facial recognition before entering airports, Facial ID along with ticket PNR is made into a single token

Step 6 Carry out self check-in, drop baggage & access security and embarkation area with a facial scan