

Media Note**Mangaluru Airport Enhances Landing Safety with CAT-1 Lighting System****Editor's Synopsis:**

- Unique and first project of its kind in India and second in Asia
 - Approach lights are mounted on specially engineered towers, some higher than Qutub Minar
 - Lights can be winched down to ground level for ease of maintenance
- Project commissioned with zero accidents on site, emphasising safety in execution

Mangaluru, Karnataka | 15 June 2026: Mangaluru International Airport has successfully commissioned the Precision Approach Lighting (PAL) Category 1 system for Runway 24 following approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). This marks a significant milestone in enhancing operational safety and landing precision at the airport.

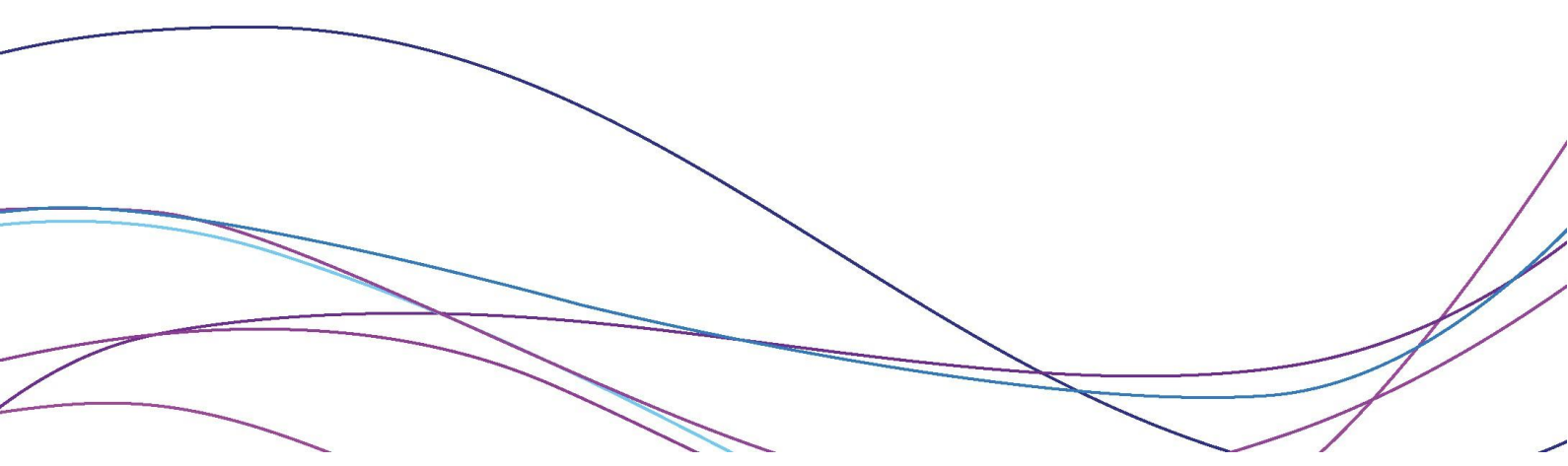
The PAL Category 1 system is designed to provide pilots with enhanced visual guidance during the critical final stages of landing, particularly under conditions of reduced visibility at a tabletop facility. With this commissioning, the airport further strengthens its commitment to safe, reliable and efficient aircraft operations while meeting regulatory compliance.

This project stands out as one of the most unique and first of its kind airfield lighting installations in India. The approach lighting system features Airfield Lighting Intelligent Management Systems (ALIMS) mounted on specially engineered towers, extending 900m outwards from the runway threshold. Most of these towers rise higher than the iconic Qutub Minar, highlighting the scale and engineering complexity involved.

Notably, the facility is only the second of its kind in Asia, placing Mangaluru International Airport among a select group of airports worldwide, with such advanced infrastructure.

The installation involved mounting precision approach lights on elevated lattice structures, an approach that is rare globally and was earlier identified as a distinctive feature of the project design. Each lattice structure, numbering 17, has a barrette with 4 lights and a sequential flashing light in the centre. The barrette can be lowered to the ground for maintenance

A key highlight of the project execution is the zero-accident record maintained throughout the construction phase, underscoring the airport's adherence to the highest standards of safety, planning and execution.

Enhancing aviation safety

The commissioning of the PAL Category 1 system brings multiple safety benefits:

- **Improved runway visibility:** The system provides a clear visual reference for pilots during approach, particularly in low visibility conditions such as rain, fog or haze.
- **Enhanced situational awareness:** The lighting configuration enables precise alignment with the runway centerline.
- **Safer operations at a tabletop airport:** Given the topographical characteristics of Mangaluru's tabletop runway, the system significantly improves pilot confidence and approach stability.
- **Reduced go-arounds and diversions:** Better visual cues aid smoother landings, improving operational efficiency and minimising disruptions.
- **Integration with advanced lighting controls:** The use of ALIMS ensures centralised monitoring and efficient management of airfield lighting systems.

The PAL system complements ongoing airside enhancements undertaken by the airport, including upgrades in runway lighting and safety infrastructure, reinforcing its long-term vision of becoming one of the safest tabletop airports in India.

"The commissioning of PAL system reflects the airport's continuous focus on adopting advanced technologies to enhance aviation safety and passenger confidence," the airport spokesperson said.

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About Mangaluru International Airport Limited (MglAL)

Mangaluru International Airport Limited (MglAL) is a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL), the flagship of the globally diversified Adani Group, and the largest private operator of eight functional airports in India through Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL). AAHL holds a 49 per cent stake, while AEL, the parent company, holds the majority 51 per cent stake in MglAL. MglAL operates and is modernising Mangaluru International Airport (IXE), a major aviation hub in Mangaluru, Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka.

Mangaluru International Airport, Mangaluru (IATA: IXE ICAO: VOML)

Mangaluru International Airport, with a rich history of 75 years, is spread over 583.77 acres and holds the distinction of being Karnataka's second busiest airport in terms of passenger traffic, having managed 2.54 million passengers in FY 2025–26. The airport, which is the first in Karnataka to have two runways, including one made of rigid pavement and overlaid with asphalt, currently caters to over 50 air traffic movements (ATMs) every day.

With a digital first approach, the airport delivers a smooth experience for passengers through advanced technology and efficient operations. As an emerging cargo hub, IXE manages air cargo of over 5,600 metric tonnes per annum.

In July 2025, Airports Council International (ACI) awarded IXE Level 4 accreditation for customer experience. The accreditation recognises the airport's advanced practices in service design and innovation, governance, and customer understanding. Mangaluru International Airport was the first Indian airport in the 5 million passenger category to achieve the Level 3 milestone. The Confederation of Indian Industry too issued Mangaluru Airport with the prestigious Zero Waste to Landfill certification.

