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Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport – Ahmedabad

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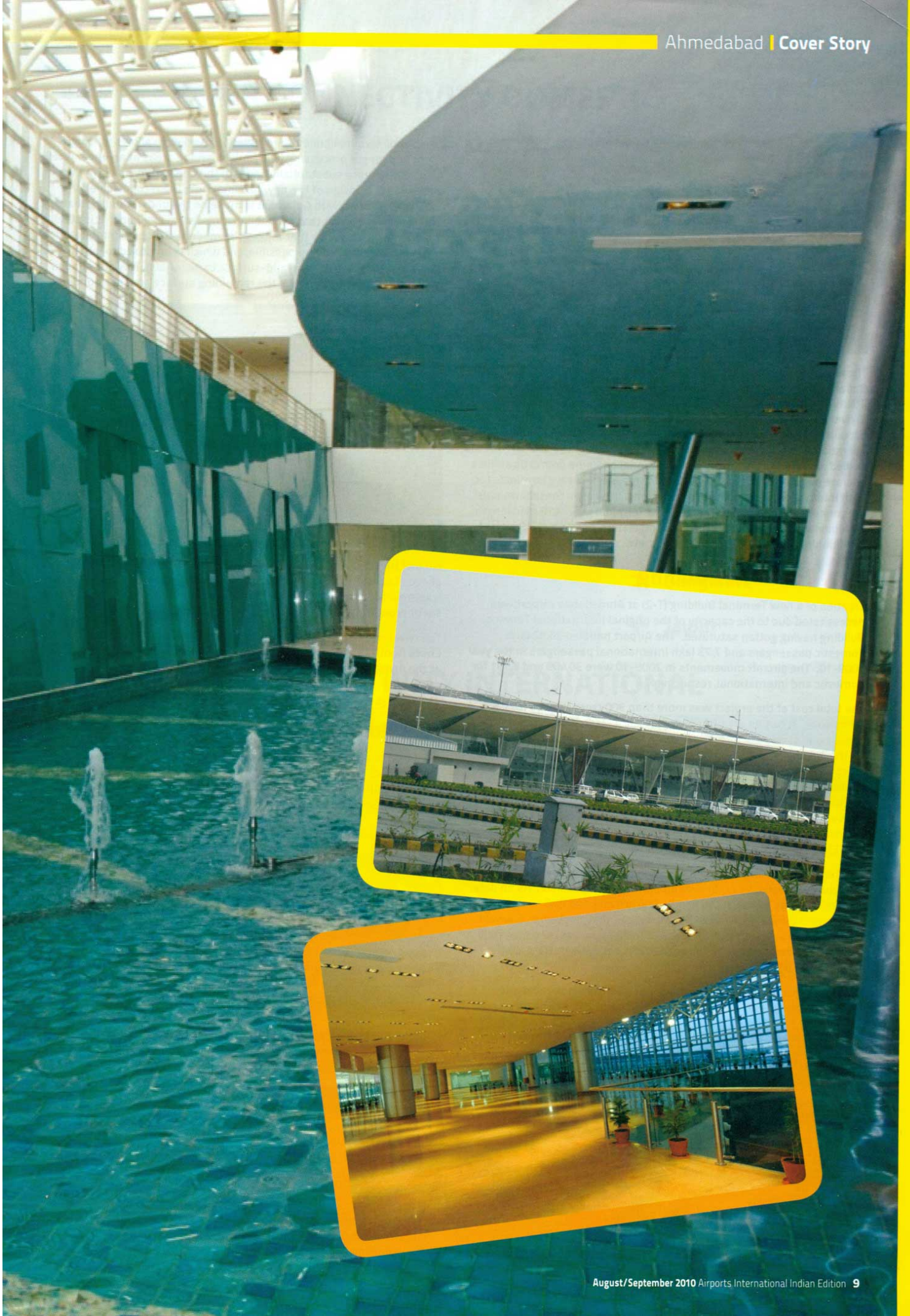
Ahmedabad is a city with a rich blend of Hindu and Islamic architecture that is characteristic of northern India. Regarded as a major centre of the country for the textile and pharmaceutical industries and reputed for the country's premier institute of management, it also features within its region many temples of the Jain sect amongst other significant temples and mosques.

The state which Ahmedabad serves as the principal city, Gujarat has featured prominently in Indian history, and many Gujaratis have left their mark in Ahmedabad in the form of monuments, such as Gandhi's Ashram dedicated to the Father of the Nation, do testify. His name is also commemorated in the newer state capital of Gandhinagar 32 km away, beyond the airport itself. Another local luminary, one of the main architects of the creation of the India of today was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, also, known as the Iron man of India and in whose memory the airport at Ahmedabad has been rechristened – Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport.

The Airport

The Ahmedabad Airport was established in 1937 and is situated about 8 km from Ahmedabad's main railway station. Although international operations commenced in September, 1992, the status of "international airport" was bestowed only on 23rd May, 2000. This airport also happens to be the 'alternate airport' to Mumbai and Delhi. The disruption of traffic as an outcome of diversions is kept to the barest minimum. Ahmedabad Airport holds the undisputed record of being the leading airport in India to get Integrated Management System Certifications, which includes ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certificates.

The airport is spread over an estate of 928 acres, wherein the main runway is 3,506 x 45 m – with a PCN (Pavement Classification Number) of 83/R/B/W/T (Rigid Portion), 94/F/B/W/T (Flexible Portion) fit for B – 747 Operation. It has two aprons, one at each terminal building, with 31 parking bays (seven international and 24 domestic), which can accommodate 'C' and 'D' type aircraft. In addition, it has six aerobridges – to be increased to eight in due course.





The airport is equipped with Cat-I ILS on Runway 23, Terminal Approach Radar (with Performance Based Navigation (PBN), Area Navigation (RNAV-1), Standard Instrument Departures (SIDs) and Standard Terminal Arrival Routes (STARs), Routes Surveillance Radar and High Intensity Ground Lighting System (GLS Category-1) – thus, making it an all weather operational airport. The airport is a 24-hour diversionary airfield for wide bodied aircraft. As on date, five international and nine domestic airlines operate out of Ahmedabad Airport and there are separate terminals for both international and domestic operations. However, these terminals are connected by an underground “Inter Terminal Link” 410 m in length with modern passenger facilities like travelators, escalators, lifts, air conditioning, landscaping, water bodies, etc.

New Terminal Building

Creation of a new Terminal Building (T-2) at Ahmedabad Airport was necessitated due to the capacity of the original International Terminal Building having gotten saturated. The Airport handled 26.82 lakh domestic passengers and 7.73 lakh international passengers in the year 2009-10. The aircraft movements in 2009-10 were 30,409 and 6,391 for domestic and international, respectively.

The total cost of the project was more than 300 crore Rupees (U.S. \$ 63 million). It has an area of approximately 41,000 m² and is made of a glass and steel structure meeting world -class norms, having state-of-the-art, passenger-friendly facilities and amenities, such as central air conditioning, escalators, public address system, Flight Information System (FIDS), car parking, etc. to name a few. Other equipment includes an inline X-ray baggage inspection system integrated with the departure conveyor system, inclined arrival baggage claim carousals, CCTV for surveillance, check-in-counters with Common Use Terminal Equipment (CUTE) and glass aerobridges with visual docking systems.

The Terminal Building has been designed in a modular concept catering for futuristic needs, as expansion on either side is possible. As on date, the building has a capacity to handle 800 arriving and 800 departing passengers during peak hour. It is envisaged that the terminal would cater to an annual traffic of 27 lakh (2.7 million) passengers, thus fully meeting the demands up to the year 2020, as per the traffic growth trends as on date.

The local Gujarat culture and heritage has been borne in mind and translated into plans, whilst designing and constructing the one-and-



a-half level terminal building. In essence, the design allows for single-storey passenger processing (with only boarding areas at an upper level) which is therefore substantially beneath the one roof form. So in thus conceiving the design of the new terminal from the recognisable form of kites associated with Gujarat, it is made on the understanding that it is this main roofline that will then distinguish the building. It is steel construction technology that makes the modern structural interpretation of the traditional kite form possible, and which is proposed together with a modular play of light-and-surface in materials. The kite-shaped cut-outs form skylights, while the remaining surface area surrounding



each of these, is a membrane of ceiling finish from below, and roofing above. Each bay of this main roof is made up of two end-to-end folded trapezoid framing-trusses that balance on an inverted skeletal-pyramid set of prongs and Y-prop columns respectively.

The new terminal building has 32 Check-in Counters and 8 Security Check Booths on the Departures Floor and five Baggage Claim Conveyors at the Arrival Hall. It also has provision of 4 aerobridges.

Airlines Operating and Connectivity Ex-Ahmedabad Airport.

A total of 14 airlines (6 international and 8 domestic) operate from Ahmedabad. They are: NACIL, Emirates, Qatar Airways, Air Arabia, Singapore Airlines, Fin Air (International), as well as NACIL, Jet Airways, Kingfisher, Spicejet, Indigo, Go Air, Jet Lite, Blue Dart Cargo, Deccan 360 (Domestic).

Mr. Anuj Aggarwal

Airport Director, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport – Ahmedabad



Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, the Airport Director, is an Engineering Graduate and holder of an Advanced Diploma in Management. He has also successfully completed the following programmes:

Eight week's Certificate Course on “Airport Executive Leadership Programme” jointly conducted by ACI and the John Molson School of Business, Concordia University, Canada.

Management Development Programme on “Aviation Management” conducted by IIM, Ahmedabad.

Mr. Aggarwal has 21 years' exposure in the aviation sector in different roles. Before taking over his current assignment, he has served as the Director of Jaipur International and Goa International Airports. He has successfully handled the construction of various engineering projects, such as terminal buildings, runways, aprons, etc. and the maintenance thereof. Mr. Aggarwal is a team player with the ability to handle a large taskforce in a disciplined and organised environment, as well as monitoring and motivating teams in optimising performance levels.

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