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Agencies plan facial recognition feature in CCTVs for airport staff

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NEW DELHI: Security agencies in the aviation sector are considering integration of facial recognition technology and CCTV for airport staffers apart from deploying other technology tools for faster security checks and reducing queues at these facilities, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) said on Saturday.

The measures were deliberated upon at a meeting of officials from all agencies on Saturday, during which the officials discussed ways to boost airport security, protection of VIPs, and unified training of personnel at airports while making air travel seamless, the CISF statement said.

Officials from the ministry of civil aviation, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA),

Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Airport Authority of India (AAI), Bureau of Immigration (BOI), Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), Special Protection Group (SPG), National Security Guard (SPG), Delhi Police, Air India Express and Indigo airlines apart from chief security officers of 69 civil airports guarded by the CISF attended a day-long workshop in the national capital.

"This workshop focused on making airport security not just stronger, but also more efficient and passenger-friendly," DIG (Int) of CISF, Ajay Dahiya said.

The discussions revolved around integrating facial recognition with airport entry passes (biometric AEP) and CCTVs, along with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and Fast Tag integration for vehicles. This means

potentially faster entry into the airport and quicker processing at security checkpoints, reducing queues and wait time. Digitised standard operating procedures will lead to quicker responses to any security concerns," Dahiya said.

The CISF is the national civil aviation security force and it has 69 airports of the country under its cover at present.

The CISF said that another issue discussed in the meeting was security of VIPs and other special guests at the airport.

"Enhanced VIP security protocols were a point of discussion, including advanced anti-drone strategies and robust insider threat checks," Dahiya said.

CISF said that in the workshop, the deliberations focused on refining the understanding of threat and using technology.