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Agencies plan integrating facial recognition, CCTV feed for faster security checks at airports

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Airport security and administration authorities are mulling integration of facial recognition technology and CCTV for staffers apart from deploying other technology tools for faster security checks and reducing queues at these facilities.

These measures along with synchronising automatic number plate recognition and FASTag for vehicles was discussed during a "functional workshop of airport sector" organised by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

in Delhi on June 27.

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

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 the day-long event, a force spokesperson said. "This workshop focused on making airport security not just stronger, but also more efficient and passenger-friendly," he said. The spokesperson said discussions revolved around integrating facial recognition with airport entry passes (biometric) and CCTVs, along with automatic number plate recognition and FASTag integration for vehicles.

"This means potentially faster entry into the airport and quicker processing at security checkpoints, reducing queues and wait times.

Digitised standard operat-

ing procedures (SOPs) will also lead to smarter and quicker responses to any security concerns," he said.

Airport entry passes are essentially issued by the BCAS to a variety of staffers who work in the airport and the CISF is mandated to check their IDs upon entry and exit.

Officials said integrating the airport entry passes with facial recognition system will reduce queues at a number of airports where staffers and passengers use the same gate for entry leading to confrontation sometimes as travellers question the delay in granting them entry into the facility for catching a flight.