

Kempegowda International Airport Launches Eco-Friendly 'Tiger Wings' Vertical Garden In T2

08 November, 2024

Introduction

KIA Terminal 2 Unveils Massive 4,000 Sq Ft Vertical Garden

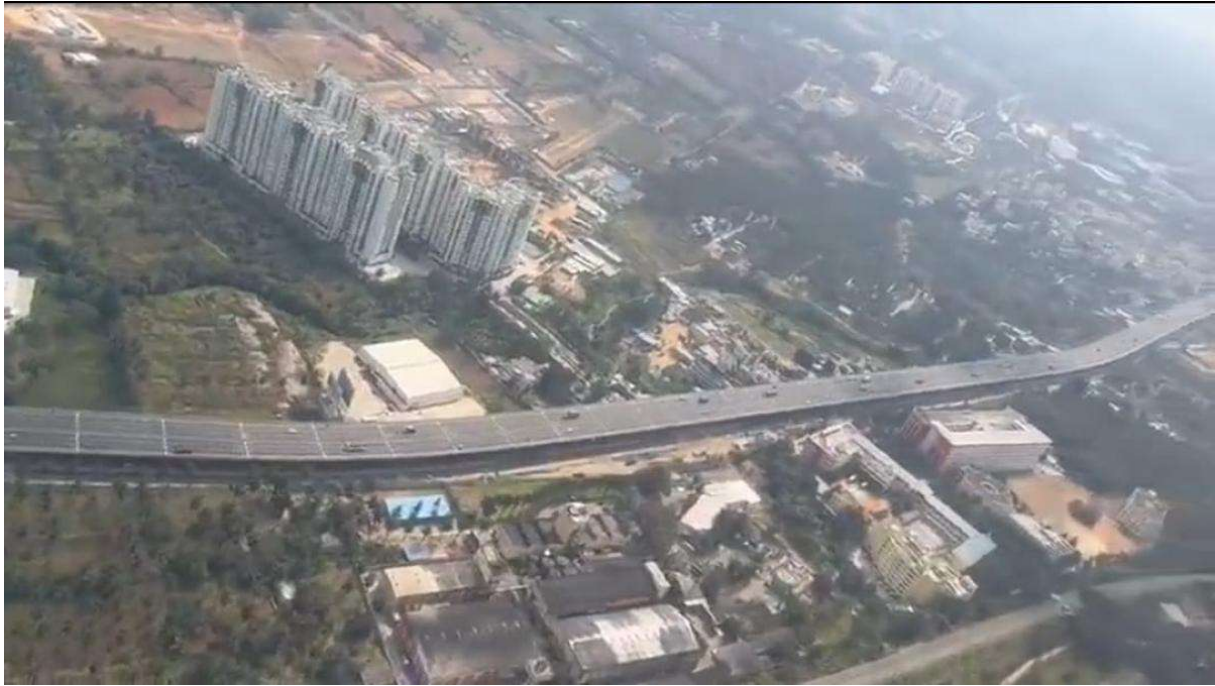
Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru launched 'Tiger Wings,' an expansive vertical garden at Terminal 2, showcasing over 15,000 plants from 153 native species. The project, spanning 4,000 square feet, was developed in partnership with Patrick Blanc, a globally renowned French botanist, and stands as his largest work in India. Inspired by Bengaluru's "Garden City" heritage, the garden is strategically designed to incorporate the local biodiversity of Karnataka and the Western Ghats, bringing nature into the bustling airport space.

Nature and Architecture Combined

'Tiger Wings' rises to 30 feet in height and stretches 160 feet across, symbolising the wings of an aeroplane with an outline traced by Asparagus plants. The installation also features red, orange, yellow, and white Ixora flowers, arranged to represent the distinctive pattern of a tiger's fur, aligning with the project's theme of merging nature and architectural design. According to Blanc, the design mimics natural cliff environments where plants grow with minimal resources, creating a self-sustaining ecosystem within the terminal.

Innovative, Sustainable Design with Eco-Friendly Systems

In a move toward sustainability, 'Tiger Wings' uses a soilless planting system, employing specialised felt imported from Germany. This felt mimics the rocky crevices where plants grow naturally, allowing them to thrive with minimal soil and water. An Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled irrigation system delivers precise amounts of water, reducing waste and ensuring the plants' health, making the vertical garden highly water-efficient.



Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway: Karnataka Section Ready Likely To Open By November

In a significant milestone for the ambitious Bengaluru-Chennai expressway project, work on the final 400-metre segment within Karnataka has resumed at full speed, following the successful relocation of a temple that had previously stalled construction. According to media reports, this 71-kilometre stretch in Karnataka, part of a broader 260-kilomet...

The project aligns with the vision of Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) to integrate green principles with technological and architectural innovation. Hari Marar, managing director and CEO of BIAL, noted that the vertical garden exemplifies Terminal 2's commitment to sustainability, art, and nature, providing a refreshing experience for travellers and enhancing the terminal's air quality.

A Unique Attraction with Local Flair

Blanc and his team made multiple trips to the forests of the Western Ghats to carefully select plant species that would thrive in the region's climate. This focus on native species not only supports biodiversity but also provides travellers with a unique glimpse into Karnataka's natural flora. Blanc, who has worked on similar projects worldwide, including at Singapore's Changi Airport, emphasised that 'Tiger Wings' is about more than aesthetics—it's about creating an environment that coexists seamlessly with the architecture, enhancing both the space and the travellers' experience.

As a long-term, low-maintenance installation, 'Tiger Wings' is expected to require minimal upkeep, relying largely on natural processes. Blanc expressed hope that the blooming plants will create an impression of a tiger stretched across the wall, adding a vibrant, living art piece to Bengaluru's landmark airport.