

Purvanchal e-way to have emergency airstrip for Boeing

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Lucknow: The underconstruction Purvanchal expressway will have an airstrip like the Yamuna and Agra-Lucknow expressways. Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) has begun construction of an emergency airstrip which will have capability to land even jumbo Boeing 747.

UPEIDA has also mooted an airstrip for the Ganga expressway near Shahjahanpur and is looking for another airstrip on Bundelkhand expressway due to its proximity to Gwalior and Agra IAF airbase which handle fighter jets and cargo/refueller aircraft.

UPEIDA CEO Awanish Awasthi told TOI: “The Construction of 3,300-metre-long airstrip near Kurebhar (between Faizabad-Ambedkar Nagar border) is underway. The airstrip will have capability to land even jumbo 747 who have capacity to fly with 4.39 lakh kg weight.”

“There are basically three reasons for building airstrip on expressway. One, defence where military aircraft can make emergency landing or use it during war as alternative airstrip/airbase. Two, state emergency to provide air transport or support in case of flood, earthquake. Third, for medical evacuation or airlift in case of major road accident,” said Awasthi.

He said Purvanchal expressway, to be known as the ‘gateway to Delhi’ for people of eastern part of UP and Bihar, will be completed on schedule. “This expressway will provide fastest and direct hassle free connectivity to the national capital,” he added.