

# Noida airport foundation soon: NIAL signs licence memo with Swiss developer

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The agreement was signed in the presence of chief minister Yogi Adityanath and senior government officials. (Photo: PTI)

**LUCKNOW:** The ambitious Jewar airport project stepped closer to reality with Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) on Saturday signing a licence memorandum with Yamuna International Airport Private Limited, the special purpose vehicle of developer, Zurich international. NIAL is implementing the joint-venture project of the UP government.

The agreement was signed in the presence of chief minister [Yogi Adityanath](#) and senior government officials, including officials of civil aviation department, [Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority](#) and representatives of Zurich Airport International (AG). This firmed up the possibility of Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) shortly laying the project foundation, paving way for construction.

[CM Yogi](#) expressed happiness over the time-bound progress of the project despite the pandemic. He said, the airport was coming up in an area which was once infamous for land disputes. He said, his government directly coordinated with villagers, leading to seamless acquisition of land straddling 1,334 hectares in the first phase.

**'Aviation sector will generate jobs, propel economic prosperity'**

From site clearance from [civil aviation ministry to immigration services](#) nod from [home ministry](#) or taking no-objection from [environment ministry](#), work was completed within the deadline. He stressed the aviation sector will not only generate employment, but also propel economic prosperity through investments and boost tourism.

The CM said, the process of connecting Jewar airport to high-speed rail and Indira Gandhi International Airport by road and metro rail is underway. Civil aviation minister Nand Gopal Nandi said, the greenfield airport will provide a global identity to UP.

Hammered out on a PPP model, the first phase of Jewar airport is scheduled to be completed in three years. It will have a capacity to handle 12 million passengers annually, which will be raised to 70 million by 2040-50. It will also double up as a cargo airport with a capacity to handle 2.6 million tonnes of cargo by 2040-50.

The project is proposed to have two runways in the initial stage, which will be increased to six. The state government has acquired adequate land for rehabilitation of families affected by land acquisition.