Uttar Pradesh: Chopper service to connect Lucknow to Prayagraj & Kapilvastu

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Regular chopper service connecting Lucknow with Kapilvastu & Prayagraj to start soon

The Uttar Pradesh government to soon start regular helicopter service connecting Lucknow with Prayagraj and Kapilvastu (near Gorakhpur), the two destinations that are significant in the context of religious tourism.

To this end, dedicated heliports would be set up to offer a range of services for the passengers and crew — **including** waiting rooms and lounges, well-stocked cafeterias, crew rooms, toilets, and formal reception desks.

The UP Directorate of Tourism has already invited 'Expression of Interest (EOI)' for the development, operations, and maintenance of heliports at Lucknow, Kapilvastu (at Gorakhpur), and Prayagraj through private sector participation on a lease and development basis.

For this, a pre-bid meeting will be held on Monday, said a senior **UP Tourism department official**. The last date for submitting bids is **August 7** while the technical bids are scheduled to be opened on **August 8**.

"The primary objective of the proposed heliports is to provide a facility for helicopter operations in these regions, primarily to facilitate the movement of passengers between these **three cities**. The developers, however, will also be allowed to use the land for the development of airstrip and its operation/ maintenance for aero-sports, running aviation academy, or any other **aviation-related activity** as well," the official added.

"The heliports would be developed as **Visual Flight Rules** (VFR) compliant facilities," he said.