

Yogi launches direct flight between Lucknow, Varanasi

25th Domestic Destination Connected To State Capital

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday inaugurated a direct flight between Lucknow and Varanasi on Thursday. Now, the 300km distance between the two cities could be covered in just 55 minutes.

"This flight will increase air connectivity to the holy city of Kashi. Besides giving a boost to domestic tourism, it will attract more international tourists to Varanasi," the CM said while inaugurating the flight at Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow.

The CM said that the demand of entrepreneurs, businessmen, representatives, and pilgrims visiting the Kashi Vishwanath Dham was being met today with the launch of the air service between Varanasi and Lucknow.

Yogi said though the dis-



CM Yogi Adityanath flagging off the flight in Lucknow

tance from Lucknow to Varanasi is around 300km this air service was a necessity given the importance of the holy city."

On the occasion, Yogi presented the ticket to the first woman passenger of the inaugural flight.

"Earlier, no one thought about domestic airports at smaller places but today the work of connecting the towns such as Azamgarh, Shravasti, Chitrakoot, Aligarh, Moradabad, Saharanpur

with air service is progressing at a fast pace," he said.

The CM reiterated the state government would soon finish work on five world-class international airports in UP. At present, UP has three international airports – Lucknow, Varanasi and Kushinagar. Two upcoming international airports are in Ayodhya and Noida.

Passenger footfall at Varanasi airport increased from 19 lakh in 2016-17 to more than 25 lakh in 2022-23 fiscal, the CM said and added that around 2,000 new aircraft are set to enter the Indian market soon.

"The launch of this service will not only provide great convenience to passengers and tourists by decreasing the travel time to 55 minutes but will also increase tourist traction towards the historically significant state capital," said tourism minister

Jaiveer Singh.

This flight service is projected to not only boost tourism in Lucknow but also strengthen the cultural and economic ties between these two vibrant destinations, providing brilliant prospects for Lucknow's vibrant markets known for their intricate handicrafts and mouthwatering delicacies.

On this occasion, MoS civil aviation Gen (retd) VK Singh joined through video-conferencing from Delhi. Many UP ministers and senior officials of the state were present on the occasion.

Lucknow airport spokesperson said, "With the launch of this flight, Varanasi has become the 25th domestic destination to have air connectivity from Lucknow. In addition, Lucknow airport is connected with nine international destinations."