

WWII airstrip to be turned into new airport at Lalitpur

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Lucknow: Lending a boost to air connectivity in the economically poor Bundelkhand region, chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday gave his nod to development of Lalitpur airport and make it fit for landing of ATR aircraft.

This would be the fourth airport in Bundelkhand region, after the ones in Jhansi, Chitrakoot and Sonbhadra, for which the state government has given a green signal.

Situated on the border of UP and Madhya Pradesh, Lalitpur airport has an airstrip which was constructed during World War II. The airstrip, however, remained unused and non-functional. A government spokesperson said that attempts to develop the Lalitpur airstrip for commercial use were made in the previous government's rule but did not fructify.

The government is also planning to set up a bulk drug park in Lalitpur. At the same time, the ambitious Defence Corridor is being set up in Bundelkhand. "The coming of an airport in the district would push development not only in UP but also in Madhya Pradesh," the spokesperson said. The government is in the process of developing 14 airports in the state, including Jewar airport in Greater Noida. The development of airports in Bareilly and Kushinagar have been completed, while the one in Aligarh, Azamgarh, Meerut, Moradabad and Chitrakoot would be completed in the next two months.