

# 'UP first state with int'l flights from 5 airports'

TNN | Mar 31, 2021, 04:14 AM IST

Gorakhpur: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri flagged off the inaugural Gorakhpur-Lucknow flight from the Mahayogi Gorakshnath Airport on Sunday as Air India's subsidiary, Alliance Air, commenced its daily direct flights.

The CM also laid the foundation of the expansion of the Gorakhpur Airport terminal building.

Now, Gorakhpur has direct flights to Lucknow, New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Prayagraj. Another flight from Gorakhpur to Ahmedabad is all set to be launched on April 12.

Union civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Uttar Pradesh is the first state which has drafted a civil aviation policy and said the Jewar international airport in Noida would be completed on time.

Speaking on the occasion, CM Yogi said, "The air connectivity in the state was not good earlier. Just four years ago, except Lucknow and Varanasi, not many cities had air service, but with the inspiration of PM Narendra Modi, UP is going to become the first state to provide international flights from five airports."

"PM Modi had said that a person wearing 'hawai chappal' should also be able to travel by air, and his dream is coming true. Now, there are flights from Gorakhpur to all major cities like New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Prayagraj. Today daily flight between Gorakhpur and Lucknow has also started," he added.

The flight is part of the Centre's regional connectivity scheme UDAN that aims to make air travel affordable and available to all regions and states.

The expansion of the terminal building would make it possible to handle 200 passengers during peak hours, said Yogi.

“A huge airport would come up in Ayodhya and Asia’s largest international airport is under construction in Jewar. Besides, air service would start from Kushinagar International airport soon. Airports are being constructed in Jhansi, Aligarh, Azamgarh, Meerut, Sonbhadra, Lalitpur,” the CM said.

State civil aviation minister Nand Gopal Gupta ‘Nandi’ said, “UP is making big strides in development under the leadership of CM Yogi. Jewar airport would create numerous employment opportunities in west UP.”

“Four years ago, only 28 cities in Uttar Pradesh air service, but now 88 cities have air connectivity and all the credit for this goes to CM Yogi,” Gupta added.