

Maharishi Valmiki International Airport: Effective impact of 'double engine'

The Central and State government spent Rs 1,463 crore to make it happen. The newly inaugurated airport has connected Ayodhya with devotees and spiritual enthusiasts from all over the world

PIC: DIPR, GOVT. OF UTTAR PRADESH

Maharishi Valmiki International Airport in Ayodhya is an outstanding testament to the dynamism of double-engine government, which has transformed a compact airstrip spanning just 178 acres into an expansive international airport covering 821 acres within a period of two years.

With an additional expenditure of Rs 1175.97 crore, supplementing the Rs 287 crore received from the Airport Authority of India, the Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh has showcased remarkable prowess of the second engine.

The Ayodhya International Airport is an outcome of effective coordination between the executive agencies of the Central and State Governments. The work on this international airport started on December 2, 2021, and within two years a huge airport came up in Ayodhya.

The Airport Authority of India spent Rs 191 crore on pavement grading and design and

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THE NEWLY INAUGURATED MAHARISHI VALMIKI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AYODHYA DHAM

build basis in EPC mode and Rs 96 crore on construction of pre-engineered buildings. The most significant challenge was acquiring the land, and the Yogi government successfully set a significant example by acquiring approximately 500 acres of land without any dispute.

The timely completion of all tasks such as arranging proper lighting, establishing a fire station, stormwater drainage, widening the runway from 1,500 meters to 2,200 meters,

re-carpeting, constructing a 310-meter-long taxi track, building aprons for aircraft, isolation bays, taxiway strips, runway turn pads, crash gates, etc., and developing the terminal building in a single stretch on a 6,000-square-meter area with pre-engineered, prefabricated structures, including a common concourse, check-in area, security hold area, baggage collection, electrical works, airport systems, IT systems, and landscaping, was possible only due to the efficient handling by the double-en-

gine government.

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Both the central and state governments are making sincere efforts to augment Ayodhya's glory. The first phase of the airport project has been completed, featuring a terminal spanning 65,000 square feet with a capacity for 2 to 3 flights per hour. The airport boasts a runway of 2,200 meters, accommodating not only small aircraft but also larger ones like Boeing 737, Airbus 319, and Airbus 320. Initially, 8 aprons have been constructed.

In the second phase, the runway will be extended to 3,700 meters, allowing all international aircraft, including Boeing 787 and Boeing 777, to land directly in Ayodhya. The airport's second phase will also include a terminal covering 5 lakh square feet.



PICS: DIPR, GOVT. OF UTTAR PRADESH