

# Shravasti airport gets licence for commercial operations

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**Lucknow:** Shravasti airport on Friday received 2B VFR (visual flight rules) licence from the directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA) to begin commercial operations of 19-seater aircraft.

The airport, which is part of the Buddha circuit, is spread across 57.63 acres of land and has a 1,351 metres-long runway which can handle landing and take-off in day hours with a clear sky. The airport has two bays for parking of aircraft.

"The airport has finally received the licence from DGCA," said Shravasti airport director Kumar Gyanu. Under the 2B VFR licence, the runway must be clear



Shravasti airport is part of the Buddha circuit

and visible from a distance of 550 metres for landing of aircraft.

The airport has been developed under central government's regional connectivity UDAN scheme and will primarily serve tourists since Shravasti is one of the sacred places of Buddhism.

After getting the licence, the airport can run commercial flights to Lucknow, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Go-

rakhpur, Kushinagar, Patna, Darbhanga and other destinations.

"In the second and third phases, the airport area will be expanded up to 725 acre. Under the second phase, the runway will be expanded up to 2,200 metres which will allow landing of 72-seater ATR aircraft. In the third phase, the runway will be expanded up to 3,300 metres and will be able to allow landing/take-offs of 180-seater planes of Boeing and Airbus," said an official of the Airport Authority of India.

DGCA had given the 2B VFR licence to Chitrakoot and Aligarh airports last month. In Nov last year, Moradabad and Azamgarh airports were also given licences to kick-start commercial operations.