

| **achievement** |

UP turn into North India's fastest growing aviation hub

UP State Bureau
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh's aviation sector is touching new heights, with passenger and cargo traffic recording unprecedented growth. Under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership, the state has not only expanded its network of airports but also emerged as a vital hub for regional connectivity and logistics.

Between April and August 2025, air passenger traffic grew 14.6% year-on-year to reach 60 lakh. Uttar Pradesh's share in India's total air traffic



climbed to 3.52%, up 34 basis points from the previous year. This means one in every 30 air travellers in India now flies from a UP airport.

From just 59.97 lakh passengers in 2016-17, Uttar Pradesh handled 142.28 lakh in 2024-25, including 12.99 lakh inter-

national flyers. The compound annual growth rate of 10.1% reflects consistent expansion in air travel demand. Even after the pandemic slump in FY 2020-21, the state achieved one of the fastest recoveries in India, doubling passenger numbers within two years.

Over 60 lakh passengers travelled from UP airports between April-August 2025

Varanasi, Prayagraj, Ayodhya, and Gorakhpur are leading the state's aviation surge. Prayagraj posted a 76.4% rise in passenger traffic, Varanasi 34.4%, Gorakhpur 27.6%, and Kanpur 13.3%. Ayodhya Airport—named after Maharshi Valmiki—grew from just 2 lakh passengers in

2023-24 to over 11 lakh in 2024-25, becoming one of the fastest-growing terminals in northern India.

On the logistics front, air cargo traffic recorded an impressive 19.1% compound annual growth rate between

FY 2016-17 and FY 2024-25, jumping from 5,890 to 28,360 metric tonnes. Lucknow led with 22,099 tonnes, while Prayagraj registered a 50% increase. During April-August 2025 alone, Kanpur's cargo rose 165% and Agra's by 247%, as industrial clusters integrated into global supply chains.