

NCR's 2nd int'l airport opens to fanfare

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GREATER NOIDA: Coloured displays, huge cut-outs of the Prime Minister and cultural performances dotted the Noida International Airport on Saturday to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the inauguration of the airport's first phase.

Coch blowers from Kanpur, drummers and dancers from Mahoba, and trumpet players from various parts of Uttar Pradesh added to the celebratory mood at the venue. Many people, of a crowd estimated at around 150,000, were seen arriving carrying the national flag, while some also held Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) flags.

The theme of the events, according to Jewar MLA Dharendra Singh Thakur, was "Brij", citing Jewar as a part of the region with distinct traits linked to the Hindu deity Lord Krishna. Devotional singer Hemant Brijwasi kept the audience entertained with soulful renditions for around two hours, until the speakers arrived.

Dharendra Singh said, "There were farmers, businessmen, leaders and others in audience from Mathura, Aligarh, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Bulandshahr, where Brij music is part of every celebration. To keep them entertained and busy, we decided to invite Brij singers and musicians and we are happy that everyone enjoyed it."

A large number of buses started lining up at the airport from morning hours, ferrying workers and farmers from across western Uttar Pradesh.

"There was huge excitement among people about the historic event. We asked our Mandal Adhyaksh, village heads, block heads and district chiefs to connect with people from all walks of life. We are happy that around two lakh people came to listen to the Prime Minister and chief minister," said Satender Singh Shishodia, president of the western UP unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Women from remote areas of Dadri, Hapur and villages of Bulandshahr were a major presence at the event.

"I came to this event because I wanted to see how a flight takes off and how an airport works. I am happy to have seen an airport for the first time in my life. Coming here with my friends is like a dream with such a huge

new building for airport. I enjoyed the music too," said Durga Devi, 52, who came from Dadri, 50km from the venue.

Charan Singh, a visitor from Bulandshahr, however, was downcast as there was no aircraft in sight. "We saw leaders giving big speeches. But we came to witness how flight takes off and lands at the airport. We wanted to see a flight because we never travelled in aircraft. We thought Modi ji will come in flight to inaugurate," said Singh, of Nagla Alampur village in Bulandshahr.

Songs praising chief minister Yogi Adityanath also resonated through the airport with "Yogi Ji Laayo Jewar Mein Airport", sung in Brij language, greeted with much cheer.

Meanwhile, officials of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida) and the district administration sought to inform the public about the benefits of the project.

"The airport is set to bring in more trade, investment, industrial development and tourism. Built along the Yamuna Expressway, this airport will not only serve as the second international airport for Delhi-NCR but will also bring global prominence to tourist destinations, such as Agra, Mathura-Vrindavan, Fatehpur Sikri and even Dadiwa National Park in Lakhimpur Kheri," said Shailendra Bhatia, additional chief executive officer of Yeida.

Visitors from all walks of life were excited to witness the event.

Ramesh Singh, 65, a farmer from Bhagwatpur in Jewar, said, "We are very happy and grateful to Narendra Modi for giving us the Jewar airport."

Sanjeev Yadav, 36, a private firm employee from Faridabad, said the airport would create job opportunities for locals.

Satish, a taxi driver, said the new airport would increase ride opportunities. "When we go to the Delhi airport, it takes a lot of time due to traffic jams, but here, it will take only 30-40 minutes."

Former Noida district magistrate BN Singh, under whom the land acquisition for the project started, was elated. "I must congratulate everyone associated with this project since the beginning," he said, recalling the efforts involved in acquiring land from farmers.

(with agency inputs)



A display of digital service at the airport, PTI

Take-off gets closer

DELAYS

- Dec 1, 2024: Initial commencement date
- April 2025: Commencement deadline revised
- September 1, 2025: Opening planned due to delays
- Early 2026: Final opening

AIRPORT CAPACITY

	Passengers (million per annum)
PHASE I	12 (Capped by PM)
PHASE II	30
PHASE III	50
PHASE IV	70

FIRST FLIGHT OUT: Uttar Pradesh governor Anandiben Patel and CM Yogi Adityanath took the first flight from the airport to Lucknow, marking the beginning of operations



PMO

FACILITIES

- TOTAL BUILT-UP AREA:** 13,985 sqm
- ENTRY GATES:** 2
- CHECK-IN ISLAND:** 2
- NUMBER OF CHECK-IN COUNTERS:** 48 (20 for self-service baggage drop)
- AUTOMATED TRAY RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS:** 13
- SECURITY CONTROL LANES:** 11 (9 for domestic, 2 for international)
- CHECK-IN POSITIONS:** 48 approx. half staffed, half self-service bag drop
- IMMIGRATION COUNTERS:** 8 Departure / 10 Arrival
- BAGGAGE RECLAIM BELTS:** 4 (1 international, 1 swing and 2 domestic)
- PASSENGER BOARDING BRIDGES:** 10
- BAGGAGE SCREENING CAPACITY:** 1,628 bags/peak hour
- RUNWAY DIMENSIONS:** 3,900m long, 45m wide

COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO BEGIN IN 60 DAYS, SAYS AVIATION MINISTER

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GREATER NOIDA: Commercial operations at the Noida international airport will begin in the next 45 to 60 days, civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said on Saturday.

"The commercial operations at Noida airport will begin 45 to 60 days starting today," Naidu said.

The services can only begin after the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) issues airport security program (ASP), which is a document prepared to outline the security procedures, methods, and response plans required under Transportation Security Regulation 49 CFR 1542. It serves as a comprehensive security blueprint detailing access control, perimeter security, security screening, and emergency contingency plans.

Without ASP, Airport Entry Pass (AEP) which is mandatory for all stakeholders for starting operations at the project, cannot be granted, officials said.

Shailendra Bhatia, nodal officer of the Noida International Airport Limited also confirmed that operations will be started in the next 45 days.

The airport will start with one runway for domestic and cargo flights, officials said.

International flights will be started later.

'Jewar was a crime hub before; it now stands for growth'

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GREATER NOIDA: Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Saturday termed the inauguration of the Noida international airport a "new heartbeat" for the National Capital Region, and hailed the facility's potential to attract jobs and businesses in the state.

He said that while Jewar was previously in the news for the wrong reasons, it has now become synonymous with industrial growth.

"Jewar used to be in news for crime but it is associated with

employment and industrial growth now. Now, people will come to Jewar for jobs and business. Security, cargo, tourism, agri and others will get an opportunity. The NDA government has progressed civil aviation under the PM," he said.

Naidu said that the airport will positively influence the progress of the region by making Noida self-reliant.

"Our big pride, the Noida airport, is ready for international flights now. Jewar has got a unique selling point with an international airport operation. Youth will get highly skilled jobs and become self-

reliant," said Naidu.

Belterating the government's Viksit Bharat vision, Naidu credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the progress.

"For 8,900 days, the PM has worked continuously for the country as he has a vision to serve people. Because he gets joy in serving people. We take inspiration from the PM, who is not confined to any caste or region, because his family is entire Bharat," said Naidu.

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, speaking on the occasion, said that the airport has given Noida its "wings".

"Via Noida international air-

port, UP will get a new 'Udan'. I thank and express gratitude to PM Narendra Modi. In other countries, (prices of) petroleum products are increasing but due to the PM's far-sighted vision and his excellent leadership, availability of petroleum products remains smooth and rates are kept in check," CM Yogi said on Saturday.

The UP CM said that the PM's decisions are all made to benefit the common man.

"To check prices, our PM has reduced excise duty for the benefit of common man. The decision is historic and we express gratitude on behalf of UP's 25

crore people to the PM. In past 12 years, Bharat has marched towards becoming Viksit Bharat under the PM's leadership. The Noida international airport is a part of that series of steps. A new construction of a new era will put Jewar on the global aviation map," he said.

CM Adityanath also attacked the Congress and the Samajwadi Party in his speech.

"Due to their (Congress and SP) negativity, the Opposition used UP as a vote bank. From 2002 to 2017, UP grappled with lawlessness and indiscipline. But under the PM, the state has transformed to craft a new iden-

tity before the world. On November 25, 2021 we laid the foundation stone for the airport and today we are inaugurating it as this double engine government is working," said Yogi.

Thanking farmers and the concessionaire Zurich International, Adityanath said, "Zurich has played a key role in making the airport and also we express gratitude to farmers. This region had a tradition of agitations, but when we connected them with the opportunities, they supported us. We thank farmers who supported us. Viksit Bharat Viksit UP will be a reality with airport."