

## Aviation Sector: Taking-Off in Uttar Pradesh

The aviation sector in Uttar Pradesh is witnessing a remarkable boost, driven by the state government's strategic focus on optimising existing infrastructure and developing new, world-class facilities. This, coupled with a rising demand for air travel, has transformed Uttar Pradesh into a significant hub in India's aviation industry.

The surge in aviation is not just a reflection of the state's economic potential but is also a key driver for its future growth and improved connectivity.

Under the able leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh government, has prioritized the construction and modernization of airports. The most notable project is the Noida International Airport at Jewar, which, once completed, will be one of the largest airports in the world. The state government is also planning to establish the airport as a major transit hub in the Asia-Pacific region.

Uttar Pradesh is actively working to operationalize 225 routes as part of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS). In addition to the 14 state-owned airstrips earmarked for immediate development, the state will upgrade the airstrips and related infrastructure in phases. Currently, six airstrips - Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Sonbhadra, Shravasti, and Moradabad - are undergoing upgrades to support flights under the RCS.

The state government's airstrip policy has played a key role in boosting the civil aviation sector. The government is also offering lucrative incentives to the private investors for the aero MRO operations.

The aviation sector recorded a surge of 20% in the number of flyers in this fiscal as compared to the last fiscal year, indicating the growing demand of air transport in Uttar Pradesh.

The state government has also proposed a budget of Rs 28,000 crore for developing civil aviation infrastructure, including airports and airstrips across the state, land acquisition and more. Regional connectivity has improved significantly with the UDAN scheme in Uttar Pradesh. New routes connecting smaller cities like Prayagraj, Bareilly and Gorakhpur to major hubs have been introduced, which has significantly reduced travel time, boosting economic activities in these regions.

The increased connectivity is also benefiting the tourism sector. Uttar Pradesh, which is home to several iconic sites, is witnessing a surge in both domestic and international tourists. Improved air connectivity ensures that these sites are more accessible, driving tourism and local economies. It is also attracting investments in industries such as manufacturing, IT and logistics. Better connectivity and infrastructure is making it easier for companies to set up operations in the state. This influx of investments is expected to boost the state's GDP.

The aviation boom in Uttar Pradesh is a harbinger of transformative change for the state. By enhancing connectivity, boosting tourism, attracting investments, and creating jobs, the growth of the aviation sector is set to play a key role in the state's development.