

Noida airport soars, gets 50% of budget for civil aviation

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Lucknow: Giving prominence to the Noida International Airport, govt has allocated nearly 50% of the civil aviation budget for land acquisition in Jewar.

Govt has sanctioned Rs 1,550 crore out of Rs 3,152 crore budget for civil aviation for land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) in Jewar for the Noida airport where commercial operations will begin from April this year.

Official sources said 2,053 hectares of land will be acquired in third and fourth phases, comprising 1,889 hectares of private farmland and the remainder being govt-owned property.

A total 1,365 hectares has been acquired for the second phase of Noida airport. The first phase, featuring a 3,900 metres long runway, ATC, aircraft bay, cargo holding area, and terminal building capable of handling 1.2 crore passengers annually, nears completion.

Budget has allocated Rs 1100 crore for the expansion of Varanasi, Aligarh and Shravasti airports, Gorakhpur airport's new terminal building, establishing civil facilities at Agra airport and conversion of Lalitpur's airstrip into airport.

Varanasi's LBS International Airport will get an elevated runway, beneath which NH-31 linking Lucknow to Varanasi will pass through a tunnel, making it the country's first such infrastructure.

The current 2,700 metres long Varanasi runway will be extended to 4,075 metres alongside a new apron accommodating 20 aircraft.

Aligarh airport will be expanded from 78 to 300 acres and runway from 1,488 metres to 3,000 metres, enabling night operations and all-weather facilities for larger aircraft. Shravasti airport's runway will be extended from 1,351 metres to 2,000 metres in second phase of development.

Budget has allocated Rs 7 crore for R&R and land acquisition for Ayodhya airport.