



Airports Inaugurated in Madhya Pradesh under UDAN Scheme

Why in News?

The [Prime Minister](#) virtually inaugurated the newly constructed **Satna Airport** and the upgraded **Datia Airport in Madhya Pradesh**, taking a major step towards strengthening **regional connectivity** and advancing **infrastructure development** under the [UDAN scheme](#).

Key Points

- **Satna Airport:**
 - Developed by the [Airports Authority of India \(AAI\)](#) at a cost of Rs 36.96 crore, Satna Airport is set to become a **key regional hub in northeast Madhya Pradesh**.
 - The airport will enhance connectivity to prominent destinations such as Chitrakoot and Maihar, strengthening both cultural and industrial linkages.
 - **Key features** include a recarpeted runway, parking bays for Dornier-228 aircraft, an ATC tower, and a fire station.
 - Sustainable features include **100% LED lighting**, **solar-powered streetlights**, and a treated water reuse system for [horticulture](#).
- **Datia Airport:**
 - The upgraded Datia Airport has been developed at a cost of Rs 60.63 crore, connecting this historic town to the national aviation grid.
 - Datia, known for landmarks like [Peetambara Peeth](#) and the **Datia Palace**, stands to gain from **increased religious and cultural tourism**.
 - The airport is currently suitable for ATR-72 aircraft and is being prepared for future operations of Airbus A-320 aircraft.
 - Infrastructure includes a recarpeted runway, apron bays, an ATC tower, and firefighting services, along with [rainwater harvesting](#) and **energy-efficient lighting systems**.
- **Driving Socio-Economic Transformation:**
 - The operationalisation of both airports will boost economic activity, create employment, and improve access to key services in the **Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand regions**.
 - These projects reflect the Centre's focus on inclusive growth under the UDAN scheme, making affordable air travel a reality for underserved regions.

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UDAN Scheme

▪ About:

- UDAN aims to democratize aviation and enhance regional connectivity, ensuring that even remote regions of the country are accessible by air.
- The scheme was designed under the [National Civil Aviation Policy \(NCAP\) 2016](#), with a focus on connecting **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities** through a market-driven yet financially supported model.
 - The [Airports Authority of India \(AAI\)](#) serves as the nodal agency responsible for its implementation.

▪ Key Features of UDAN Scheme:

- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF):** Financial support to airlines to ensure affordable fares.
 - **Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF)** was created to meet the viability gap funding requirements under the scheme.
- **Airfare Cap** to ensure affordability.
- **Reduced taxes on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)** and other concessions to airlines to make operations viable on regional routes.
- **Collaborative Governance** between the Centre, States, the **AAI**, and private airport operators.

▪ Key Innovations under UDAN:

- **UDAN Yatri Cafes:** Affordable Yatri Cafes have been launched at **Kolkata and Chennai airports**, offering quality food at accessible prices.
- **Krishi UDAN Scheme:** Designed to support farmers and improve value realisation for agri-produce, **Krishi UDAN facilitates** timely and cost-effective air logistics, particularly from Northeast, hilly, and tribal regions.
- **Lifeline Udan** was launched to transport essential medical cargo to remote areas during the [Covid-19](#) pandemic.

UDAN SCHEME

Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik



FEATURES:

- Connecting Small and Medium cities with big cities through air service
- Providing affordable, economically viable, and profitable air travel
- Extending financial incentives to selected airlines to encourage operations from unserved and under-served airports.

ABOUT:

- A Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)
- Launched in October 2016 and operational for a period of 10 years
- Formulated in Pursuance of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)-2016
- Udan 5.0 is the latest project.

BENEFITS:

- Democratisation of the Aviation Sector
- Employment Generation
- Boost to Tourism Sector
- Connecting smaller airports, special helicopters and sea plane routes.

• **Lifeline UDAN:**
Air transport of medical cargo and essential supplies across India at the time of the Covid-19.

• **Krishi UDAN:**
To assist farmers in transporting agricultural products

• **International UDAN:**
To connect India's smaller cities directly to some key foreign destinations.

Airports Authority of India (AAI)

- The AAI is a **statutory body** under the [Directorate General of Civil Aviation](#), Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- It was formed in 1995, by merging the **National Airports Authority and the International Airports Authority of India.**
- It also provides **Air Traffic Management Services** over Indian airspace and adjoining oceanic

areas.

- The functions of AAI include airport development, airspace control, passenger and cargo terminal management, and provision of communication and navigation aids.
- AAI provides air navigation services over **2.8 million square nautical miles of air space**.

Pitambara Peeth

- Pitambara Peeth is a **Hindu temple complex** which also includes an **ashram**, located in **Datia city of Madhya Pradesh**.
- The **Shri Vankhadeshwar Shivalinga** located here is believed to be from **the Mahabharata period**. This temple is one of the major centers of **Shakti Sadhana**.
- The Peetha was **established in 1935 by Swamiji Maharaj** with the cooperation of **Raja Shatrugit Singh Bundela of Datia**.

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