



Night Landing Airstrip in UP

Why in News?

The 3.5 kilometre stretch of the [Ganga Expressway](#) in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh will be the first expressway in the country where [Indian Air Force](#) fighter planes will be able to land at night.

Key Points

- **About Ganga Expressway :**
 - **Ganga Expressway** is the **second longest expressway** in the country after Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway.
 - It is an ambitious initiative with an estimated **length of 594 kilometres**.
 - Connecting the state from east to west, **this expressway** will pass through 518 villages in 12 districts, **significantly reducing the travel time between Meerut and Prayagraj**.
- **Strategic Approach:**
 - Uttar Pradesh now has three such expressways where **landing facility for fighter jets is available** - **Lucknow-Agra Expressway** , **Purvanchal Expressway** and **Ganga Expressway**.
 - This is the first time that state-of-the-art fighter aircraft like [Rafale](#), [Mirage](#) and **Jaguar will land** at night on an **expressway** in India .
 - This airstrip **will serve as** an alternate runway for the Indian Air Force **in case of war or disaster**.

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Rafale

- Rafale is a French **twin-engine and multirole fighter aircraft**, designed by Dassault **Aviation of France**.
- State-of-the-art technology has been used in this fighter plane and it is a **4.5 Generation fighter plane**.
- The Meteor Missile, **SCALP Cruise Missile and MICA Missile System** present in the Rafale fighter aircraft make it very important from the security point of view.
- Rafale can fly at a speed of 2,222.6 kilometres per hour and an altitude of 50,000 feet.

- This fighter aircraft is approximately 15.27 metres long and can carry 9,500 kilograms of bombs and ammunition at a time.

Jaguar

- The Jaguar is a **versatile aircraft used for ground attack, air defense, and reconnaissance missions.**
- It is a **Fifth-generation (5G) fighter aircraft** capable of operating in heavily contested **combat zones**, characterised by the **presence of the most advanced air and ground threats**, both current and anticipated.
- 5G fighter jets have **stealth capabilities** and can cruise at **supersonic speeds** without engaging afterburners.
- It **stands out from fourth-generation (4G)** peers due to its multi-spectral **low-observable design, self-protection, radar jamming capabilities, and integrated avionics.**
- The squadrons of **MiG-21s, MiG-29s, Jaguars, and Mirage 2000s** are scheduled to be phased out by the middle of the next decade.

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