

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4016
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30th March 2026

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY UNDER UDAN

4016. SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has undertaken a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN) to enhance air connectivity to tier-II and tier-III cities and remote regions of the country;
- (b) the details of new airports, heliports and water aerodromes that have been operationalised under the scheme during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to improve affordability and passenger amenities at newly developed regional airports; and
- (d) the measures being taken to strengthen aviation infrastructure, safety mechanisms and private sector participation to ensure sustainable growth of the civil aviation sector?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

a): The following evaluation studies have been conducted on the UDAN scheme:

- i. The report "The Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN - Progress and Prospects" by the Indian School of Business (ISB), (2021-22)
- ii. The mid-term appraisal for the Scheme "Evaluation Study of Regional Connectivity Scheme" by DMEO NITI Aayog (2023-24).

(b): The state-wise details of 25 new aerodromes (including 8 heliports) operationalised under the scheme during the last three calendar years is given at Annexure.

(c): To ensure the affordability of regional air travel, the UDAN scheme provides financial incentives to airline operators on regional routes that include Viability Gap Funding and concessions by the Centre/State/UT Government and airport operators to reduce airline operation costs. The airfare for RCS seats is capped at a subsidised rate..

Further, the upgradation of passenger amenities/facilities at airports is a continuous process, undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) or the Airport Operators, depending upon operational requirements, traffic, demand, commercial feasibility etc.

(d): The Government has taken various steps for expansion of the airport infrastructure in the country, which, inter alia, include grant of In-Principle' approval for construction of new Greenfield airports, upgradation and modernisation of existing airports by Airport Operators including Airports Authority of India, development/revival of unserved/underserved airports under RCS - UDAN and promoting private investments in existing and new airports through the Public Private Partnership (PPP).

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) ensures aviation safety through continuous regulatory oversight. This includes audits, ramp inspections, night surveillance, spot checks and special audits under the Annual Surveillance Plan (ASP). Findings are followed up with operators to implement corrective action and, in cases of non-compliance, enforcement actions, including financial penalties, are taken.

Annexure

List of 25 Aerodromes operationalized since 1st January, 2023 till date under RCS - UDAN Scheme

Sr. No.	State	Airports Operationalized	Date of Operationalization
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Hollongi	15-Jan-2023
2.	Bihar	Purnea	15-Sept-2025
3.	Chhattisgarh	Ambikapur	19-Dec-2024
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Reckong Peo Heliport	21-Jan-2026
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla (Sanjoli) Heliport	21-Jan-2026
6.	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur	31-Jan-2023
7.	Karnataka	Shivamogga	21-Nov-2023
8.	Lakshadweep	Agatti	18-April-2024
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Rewa	25-Nov-2024
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Datia	31-May-2025
11.	Maharashtra	Amravati	16-April-2025
12.	Manipur	Jiribam Heliport	13-March-2024
13.	Manipur	Tamenglong Heliport	13-March-2024
14.	Odisha	Rourkela	07-Jan-2023
15.	Odisha	Utkela	31-Aug-2023
16.	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh	11-March-2024
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Azamgarh	11-March-2024
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Chitrakoot	12-March-2024
19.	Uttar Pradesh	Moradabad	10-August-2024
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Shravasti	12-March-2024
21.	Uttarakhand	Champawat – Heliport	22-Feb-2024
22.	Uttarakhand	Munsyari – Heliport	22-Feb-2024
23.	Uttarakhand	Nainital Heliport	12-Mar-2025
24.	Uttarakhand	Bageshwar Heliport	12-Mar-2025
25.	West Bengal	Cooch Behar	21-Feb-2023

