

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1627
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd August 2026

**MODIFIED UDAN SCHEME FOR STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AIR
CONNECTIVITY**

1627. DR. SATISH POONIA

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

- (a) the key features and implementation strategy of the modified UDAN scheme approved by Government;
- (b) the targets under the modified UDAN scheme for development of new airports, aerodromes, helipads and regional air routes across the country;
- (c) the measures taken to improve the financial viability and long-term sustainability of regional air connectivity, particularly in underserved, remote and aspirational areas; and
- (d) the expected impact of the scheme on regional connectivity, tourism, employment generation, investment and balanced regional development under the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The next phase of the UDAN Scheme has been launched on 04.07.2026 to promote regional air connectivity in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and remote regions across the country, targeting 120 new destinations and 4 crore passengers over the next 10 years. The Scheme is being implemented from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 with an outlay of Rs. 28,840 crore, including Rs. 12,159 crore for Aerodrome development and Rs. 3,661 crore for development of 200 heliports in Hilly, North-Eastern and Aspirational (HINER) States/districts.

The Scheme provides a Challenge Mode framework under which State Governments may nominate airstrips for development. Proposals are evaluated based on availability of land, infrastructure readiness, technical and operational feasibility, traffic potential, statutory clearances and support of the State Governments.

To ensure continuity of services under the UDAN Scheme, State Governments have been entrusted with identifying and prioritising high-potential aerodromes, while airlines are required to submit business plans before award of routes.

The next phase of the UDAN scheme strengthens the sustainability of routes through longer-duration VGF support with a tapered mechanism to allow sufficient time for route maturation. Airport sustainability concerns are being addressed by provision of dedicated O&M support for aerodromes.

The UDAN scheme primarily aims at strengthening the unserved and underserved regions by improving connectivity and accessibility, boosting tourism and industry, enhancing access to healthcare, and generating direct and indirect employment.
