

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 19

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th July 2026

**LAUNCH OF REGIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY SCHEME, VIKSIT
UDAN**

19. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE

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

- (a) whether Government has launched the next phase of the Regional Air Connectivity Scheme Viksit UDAN to give fillip to air travel in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and remote regions and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken to provide world-class facilities to strengthen connectivity in the North Karnataka region, especially at Hubballi and Belagavi airports, while opening new avenues for tourism, trade, and economic growth across Karnataka;
- (c) the specific measures being taken to bring the dream of affordable air travel closer to millions and connecting the aspirations of a rising India?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The next phase of the UDAN Scheme was launched on 04.07.2026. The Scheme aims to enhance air connectivity in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and remote regions across the country, including the State of Karnataka, targeting 120 new destinations and 4 crore passengers over the next 10 years. Belagavi Airport and Hubballi Airport were identified and operationalised under the UDAN Scheme.

(c): The UDAN Scheme promotes affordable air travel by providing financial incentives to Selected Airline Operators (SAOs) through concessions by the Central Government, State Governments, Union Territories, and airport operators to reduce operational costs, and Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to support RCS routes. Further, airlines are required to offer around 50% of seats as RCS seats, with an airfare cap applicable on seats supported through VGF.
