

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2416
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th August 2026

INTERNATIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY IN BIHAR

2416. SHRI SANJAY YADAV

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

(a) whether Government proposes to expand scheduled international connectivity from Patna airport to serve international devotees, tourists and pilgrims across the world, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Bodh Gaya international airport, despite serving the most important Buddhist pilgrimage site, has very limited international connectivity and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) status and timeline of three new greenfield airport for the State of Bihar announced in 2025-26 budget;

(d) whether air connectivity to and within Bihar under the regional connectivity scheme is commensurate with the State's size and tourism potential; and

(e) status of measures being taken to strengthen aviation infrastructure and connectivity in Bihar?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The international operations of airlines are governed by the bilateral Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and the respective country. In accordance with the ASA, Indian designated carriers are free to mount operations to/from any point in India including Patna and Gaya to foreign destinations as per mutually agreed capacity limits. Further, Patna and Gaya are available as one of the 18 tourist destinations available to foreign carriers of ASEAN and SAARC countries except Afghanistan and Pakistan. However, the start of direct international flights from any point in India is purely a commercial decision of scheduled airlines on the basis of passenger demand, availability of slots, economic viability of the route and other associated factors.

(c): The Government of Bihar has submitted proposals for development of Greenfield airports at Rajgir, Sonpur and Sultanganj (Bhagalpur). Pre-feasibility study has been conducted for the proposed airports. Site Clearance has been granted for the proposed airport at Sonpur.

The timeline for completion of Greenfield airport projects depends upon various factors such as land acquisition, availability of mandatory clearances, financial closure etc.

(d) & (e): Air connectivity in Bihar has enhanced under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN. Under the Scheme, 21 routes have been operationalised in the State. Further, Darbhanga and Purnea airports have been operationalised under the Scheme.
