

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 29

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th July 2026

**NEW AIR ROUTES UNDER REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY SCHEME,
UDAN**

29. SHRI MADAN RATHORE

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

- (a) whether Government has prepared any action plan for new air routes and development of airports under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN) for the year 2026-27;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the number of new air routes started during the last three years and the number of operational air routes among them at present;
- (d) the details of the works recently carried out at Jodhpur as well as other airports in the State of Rajasthan; and
- (e) the steps being taken by Government to restart non-functional or closed air routes?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Government has recently launched the modified UDAN Scheme on 04.07.2026, to further enhance regional air connectivity across the country. The modified scheme envisages connecting 120 new unserved and underserved destinations and facilitating travel for 4 crore passengers over the next 10 years. The scheme will also support development of helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational and North Eastern Region districts.

(c): During the last three financial years (April, 2023 to till date), a total of 204 RCS routes have been operationalised under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) across the country, out of which, 150 routes are currently operational. The remaining routes have been temporarily discontinued due to factors such as poor visibility conditions, daytime runway restrictions at Visual Flight Rules (VFR)-only airports, shortage of aircraft, leasing-related issues, novation of routes and low passenger load factors.

(d): Modernisation and development of airport infrastructure is a continuous process undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) depending upon passenger demand, operational safety, airline interest, land availability and financial viability.

The New Terminal Building at Jodhpur Airport has been inaugurated on 04.07.2026. Spread over an area of 23,342 square metres, it is designed to handle up to 2,000 passengers during peak hours and 20 lakh passengers annually. The newly developed apron can accommodate

11 Airbus A321 aircraft and one ATR-72 aircraft simultaneously. The terminal has been designed with a strong focus on sustainability, incorporating energy-efficient systems, water conservation measures and green building practices. These features are aimed at achieving a 5-Star GRIHA rating, reflecting the airport's commitment to environmentally responsible infrastructure development.

(e): The Ministry, in coordination with the Implementing Agency, State Governments and airline operators, is making sustained efforts to restore connectivity on discontinued RCS routes. Routes discontinued in earlier bidding rounds are periodically reviewed and, wherever feasible, are re-bid and awarded in subsequent rounds of the RCS-UDAN. Airlines are also free to operate commercial flights on these routes based on their own assessment of passenger demand and commercial viability.
