

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 805
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27th July 2026

OPERATIONAL AIRPORTS UNDER UDAN SCHEME IN TAMIL NADU

805. SHRI R. DHARMAR

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

- (a) the total number of operational airports in Tamil Nadu, including those developed under the UDAN Scheme;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilized for airport development and regional air connectivity during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) the number of new routes operationalized under the UDAN Scheme, along with the number of passengers benefited and routes that have become non-operational, indicating the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government has taken steps to improve air connectivity to remote, hilly, border, island and aspirational districts and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) measures being taken to strengthen aviation infrastructure, enhance passenger safety, improve airport capacity?

ANSWER

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

- (a): In the state of Tamil Nadu, a total of 10 airports are operational. This includes Salem, developed under UDAN.
- (b): The details of funds utilized for airport development under UDAN in the state of Tamil Nadu during the last three years: (In Rs.Cr.)

FY(23-24)	FY(24-25)	FY (25-26)
1.11 Cr.	3.53 Cr	8.62 Cr

- (c): In the state of Tamil Nadu, a total of 26 routes have been operationalised under RCS-UDAN, out of which 18 routes are currently operational.

Discontinuation of operation of any flight between cities in the country is primarily a commercial decision of the airlines, based on the economic and operational viability of the route and other associated factors. In addition, factors such as completion of the three-year Viability Gap Funding (VGF) period, 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 have also contributed to discontinuation of certain routes.

(d) & (e): The Government has launched the next phase of the UDAN Scheme on 04.07.2026 to further enhance regional air connectivity across the country, connect 120 new destinations, and serve 4 crore passengers over the next 10 years. The scheme will also support helipads and small airports in hilly, aspirational and North East region districts.

The UDAN Scheme promotes affordable air travel by providing financial incentives to selected airline operators (SAOs) through concessions extended by the Central Government, State Governments, Union Territories, and airport operators to reduce operational costs, along with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for the operation of RCS routes. Further, selected airline operators are required to provide around 50% of the seats as RCS seats, with the applicable airfare capped for seats supported through VGF.
