



Madhya Pradesh to Boost Regional Connectivity with Two New Airports

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** has announced plans to develop Guna and Shivpuri airports in Madhya Pradesh under the [UDAN \(Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik\) scheme](#).

Key Points

- This initiative aims to improve **regional air connectivity** and make air travel more accessible for residents in these areas.
- **Guna Airport**, owned by the state government, was identified for development under the **UDAN 5.2 scheme**. MoCA has **allocated ₹45 crore** for its development.
- **Shivpuri Airport**, located in the Shivpuri district and also owned by the state government, will be developed under UDAN 5.2. This airport is designated for operation with **9-seater aircraft**.
 - **Spirit Air, a new startup airline**, has placed bids for the Shivpuri-Bhopal route.
- The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** will play a crucial role, providing Communication, Navigation, Surveillance (CNS)/Air Traffic Management (ATM), and Aeronautical Information Services (AIS). It will manage the operation and maintenance (O&M) of both the airports.

UDAN Scheme

- **Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)** was launched as a **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.
- It was formulated based on the review of **the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)-2016** and it was planned to remain in force for a period of 10 years.
- Under this Scheme, **Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF)** was created, which funds the **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** requirements of the scheme through a levy on certain domestic flights.
- VGF means a grant one-time or deferred, provided to support infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of financial viability.
- Phases of the Scheme:
 - **Phase 1** was launched in **2017**, with the objective of connecting underserved and unserved airports in the country.
 - **Phase 2** was launched in **2018**, with the aim of expanding air connectivity to more remote and inaccessible parts of the country.
 - **Phase 3** was launched in **November 2018**, with the focus on enhancing air connectivity to hilly and remote regions of the country.
 - **Phase 4** of the UDAN scheme was launched in **December 2019**, with a focus on connecting islands and other remote areas of the country.
 - **Phase 5** of the UDAN scheme was launched in **2023**, with the focus on increased air connectivity, reduced airfares, creating more jobs, boosting tourism, trade and economic development, and achieving last-mile connectivity.
 - **UDAN 5.2** focuses on achieving last-mile connectivity through small aircraft such as Category 1A (<9 seats) and Category 1 (<20 seats).

UDAN SCHEME

Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik



FEATURES:

- Connecting Small and Medium cities with big cities through air service
- Providing affordable, economically viable, and profitable air travel
- Extending financial incentives to selected airlines to encourage operations from unserved and under-served airports.

ABOUT:

- A Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)
- Launched in October 2016 and operational for a period of 10 years
- Formulated in Pursuance of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)-2016
- Udan 5.0 is the latest project.

BENEFITS:

- Democratisation of the Aviation Sector
- Employment Generation
- Boost to Tourism Sector
- Connecting smaller airports, special helicopters and sea plane routes.

• Lifeline UDAN:

Air transport of medical cargo and essential supplies across India at the time of the Covid-19.

• Krishi UDAN:

To assist farmers in transporting agricultural products

• International UDAN:

To connect India's smaller cities directly to some key foreign destinations.



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