



State government approved the first Uttarakhand helipad and heliport policy

Why in News?

On December 4, 2023, the Uttarakhand State Government approved the first Uttarakhand Helipad and Heliport Policy to increase air connectivity in the state. This will boost tourism as well as ease emergency medical care and rescue & relief operations during disasters.

Key Points:

- There are many places across the state where helipads or heliports can be developed, but government land is not available here. For this, the government has approved the policy of building helipads and heliports on private land.
- In the policy, two options have been given to the land owner for giving land for helipad and heliport -
 - First, the landowner can lease the land to Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA) for 15 years, wherein UCADA will develop the helipad under DGCA norms. For this, the exchanged land owner will be given a rent of Rs 100 per square meter per year. Apart from this, 50 percent of the revenue received from operation and management will be paid.
 - Secondly, the land owner himself can develop a helipad and heliport. For this, after taking license from DGCA, a fee will be charged from those using the helipad. The government will provide 50 percent subsidy on the total capital expenditure.
- The policy mandates a minimum of 1,000 square metres of land for a helipad and 4,000 square metres of land for a heliport. It is estimated that Rs 10 to 20 lakh will be spent on the construction of the helipad and Rs 2 to 3 crore will be spent on the construction of the heliport. If the landowner himself builds a helipad and heliport, the government will give subsidy on it, which will be paid in two installments.

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