



## New Airports Under RCS-UDAN

[Source: PIB](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister inaugurated three airports under the [Regional Connectivity Scheme \(RCS-UDAN\)](#) in **Rewa (Madhya Pradesh)**, **Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh)**, and **Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh)**.

- These airports aim to enhance air travel accessibility and will soon commence flights, furthering the mission of improving infrastructure in underserved regions.

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# 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.



## What is the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN)?

- **About:** [Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik \(UDAN\)](#) was launched as a **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** under the [Ministry of Civil Aviation](#) in 2016.
  - The scheme connects remote areas, promoting tourism and economic growth, and has facilitated over 144 lakh passenger travels in its seven years.
    - **It supports last-mile connectivity** and addresses unserved air routes.
  - The **first RCS-UDAN flight** was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in 2017, **connecting Shimla to Delhi**.
- **Versions of UDAN:**
  - **UDAN 1.0:** Awarded 128 flight routes to connect 70 airports (36 newly operational).
  - **UDAN 2.0:** Inclusion of **helipads for the first time**.
  - **UDAN 3.0:** Introduce seaplanes for water aerodromes, enhancing connectivity in the North-East Region.
  - **UDAN 4.0:** Focused on North-Eastern regions, hilly states, and islands, facilitating operations for helicopters and seaplanes.
  - **UDAN 5.0:** Prioritises Category-2 and Category-3 aircraft.
    - **UDAN 5.1:** Boosts **helicopter routes by increasing funding**, lowering airfare caps, and requiring one destination to be a priority area.
    - **UDAN 5.2:** Enhances last-mile connectivity with small aircraft, boosting tourism in remote areas.
    - **UDAN 5.3 and 5.4:** To operationalize previously discontinued routes, further enhancing point-to-point air connectivity.

## Other Major Initiatives for Aviation Sector

- **National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP):** The [NCAP](#) seeks to make flying affordable and accessible, foster civil aviation growth, promote tourism and employment, enhance regional connectivity through fiscal support and infrastructure, and improve business ease via deregulation and e-governance.
- **Open Sky Agreement:** The bilateral agreements between **two countries negotiating to provide rights for airlines** to offer international passenger and cargo services.
- **Digi Yatra for Seamless Travel:** This digital platform facilitates a contactless experience for air travellers, with features like facial recognition and paperless check-in.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims

**Q1. With reference to 'National Investment and Infrastructure Fund', which of the following statements is/are correct? (2017)**

1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.
2. It has a corpus of `4,00,000 crore at present.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (d)**

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