



# UDAN Scheme

## Why in News

Ahead of [UDAN Day](#) (21<sup>st</sup> October), the Ministry of Civil Aviation flagged off 6 routes, expanding the aerial connectivity of **North-East India**, under the [UDAN Scheme](#).

- The Government of India has acknowledged the contribution of the scheme and has identified 21<sup>st</sup> October as UDAN Day, the day on which the scheme document was first released.

## Key Points

### ▪ Launch:

- Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) was **launched as a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** under the Ministry of Civil Aviation **in 2016**.

### ▪ Objectives:

- To develop the **regional aviation market**.
- To provide **affordable, economically viable and profitable air travel** on regional routes to the **common man** even in small towns.

### ▪ Features:

- The scheme envisages **providing connectivity to un-served and underserved airports of the country** through the revival of existing air-strips and airports. The scheme is **operational for a period of 10 years**.
  - Under-served airports are those which do not have more than one flight a day, while unserved airports are those where there are no operations.
- **Financial incentives from the Centre, state governments and airport operators are extended to selected airlines** to encourage operations from unserved and under-served airports, and keep airfares affordable.

### ▪ Achievements So Far:

- Till date, **387 routes and 60 airports have been operationalised** out of which 100 routes are awarded in the North East alone.
- Under the [KRISHI UDAN Scheme](#), 16 airports have been identified to enhance the export opportunities of the North East region establishing dual benefits of enhancement of cargo movements and exports.

## UDAN 1.0

- Under this phase, **5 airlines companies were awarded 128 flight routes** to 70 airports (including 36 newly made operational airports).

## UDAN 2.0

- In 2018, the Ministry of Civil Aviation **announced 73 underserved and unserved airports**.

- For the first time, **helipads were also connected** under phase 2 of the UDAN scheme.

### UDAN 3.0

- **Inclusion of Tourism Routes** under UDAN 3 in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism.
- **Inclusion of Seaplanes** for connecting Water Aerodromes.
- Bringing in **a number of routes in the North-East Region** under the ambit of UDAN.

### UDAN 4.0

- In 2020, **78 new routes were approved under the 4<sup>th</sup> round** of RCS-UDAN to further enhance the connectivity to remote & regional areas of the country.
- Kavaratti, Agatti, and Minicoy islands of Lakshadweep will be connected by the new routes of UDAN 4.0.

### UDAN 4.1

- The UDAN 4.1 **focuses on connecting smaller airports, along with special helicopter and seaplane routes.**
- Some new routes have been proposed under the [Sagarmala Seaplane services](#).
  - Sagarmala Seaplane Services is an ambitious project under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways with potential airline operators.

### KRISHI UDAN

- It was launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in August 2020, on international and national routes **to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products** so that it improves their value realisation.

### International UDAN

- Under International UDAN, the plan is to **connect India's smaller cities directly to some key foreign destinations** in the neighbourhood.

### Way Forward

- Airlines have leveraged the scheme strategically towards gaining additional slots at congested tier-1 airports, monopoly status on routes and lower operational costs. Thus, stakeholders should work towards making the UDAN scheme sustainable on its own and improve its efficiency.
- Airlines should undertake marketing initiatives so that more and more people can take advantage of the UDAN scheme.
- More infrastructure is required for the successful implementation of the scheme across the country.

**[Source: PIB](#)**