



Uttar Pradesh Budget: Rs. 1,150 crore Allocated for Noida International Airport

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has **allocated Rs. 1,150 crore** for the upcoming **Noida International Airport at Gautam Buddha Nagar** in the **budget for 2024-25**.

Key Points

- The announcement was made by **UP's Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna** as he tabled the **budget for the fiscal year in the state assembly**.
- Development is underway for **phase one of Noida International Airport**, which is scheduled to open for commercial operations **by the end of 2024**.
- To enhance air connectivity in the state, initiatives are being carried out under **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN) of the Centre** and Civil Aviation Promotion Policy of the state government.
- For air connectivity, selected airports like **Aligarh, Azamgarh, Moradabad, Shravasti and Chitrakoot** have been developed. **Development work** of the airports of **Mayorpur (Sonbhadra) and Sarsawa (Saharanpur) is in progress**.
 - A proposal of Rs. 150 crore has been made for expansion of **Maharishi Valmiki International Airport in Ayodhya**.
 - Rs. 1,100 crore has been proposed for construction, expansion, and strengthening of airstrips as well as land acquisition.

Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)

- It 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.