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## Zurich AG starts survey of Jewar site

### Private Agency Roped In By The Swiss Company For Study Launches Drones

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Greater Noida:** Keen on starting work at the earliest, Zurich Airport International AG has initiated a topographical and geographical survey of the land acquired for the Jewar airport project even before the signing of the concessionaire agreement.

As part of the four-day survey, a private agency roped in by the Swiss company on Sunday launched drones to capture the images of about 1,400 hectares of land along the Yamuna Expressway. The team also picked up soil samples from the site, officials said.

Selected as the bidder, Zurich AG had obtained security clearance from the Union home ministry, the last hurdle, on May 19. However, the signing of the concession agreement between UP government's Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) and Yamuna International Airport Private Limited, the special purpose vehicle constitu-

### SURVEY TO CONTINUE FOR 4 DAYS

Photo: Prem Bisht

**1,334** hectares to be surveyed

**3 teams** deputed

**20 security guards** deployed

► Private agency hired to collect data and send report on vegetation, urban planning and infrastructure, along with elevation of the area and aerial photographs



#### Work done so far

► Soil samples have been collected from different areas (10 to 12 m from the surface) and marked

#### Next step

► Drones would be used and the area will be mapped to provide coordinates

ted by Zurich AG, is yet to take place as the signatories on behalf of the Swiss company have not been able to come to India till date due to the government's ban on international air travel.

NIAL officials said that Zurich AG is in constant touch with them and are keen on beginning work. So, before starting the construction and development work, the company

has hired a private agency, which will collect data and send a report covering vegetation, urban planning and infrastructure (covering rail, road, canal, pipeline, power line among other features), along with elevation and aerial photographs to the company.

The agency has already collected soil samples from multiple sites and kept them in separate trays marked with

geographical coordinates of the particular site.

Officials said that aerial photogrammetry will be used by the company to figure out the constraints that would come up during construction work and begin work to get them resolved. "Soil testing report, elevation, aerial photogrammetry will come handy in finalising the preliminary design of the airport site in

advance," said a senior NIAL official.

NIAL has deputed 20 security guards with the survey team to ensure the entire exercise gets conducted in a seamless manner. "Management of crowd becomes important in rural areas whenever any exercise with drones is launched. A lot of people have a tendency of getting too close to drone operators to find out how the machines operate and how the live feed is generated. Hence providing security for the exercise was deemed important," he said.

The latest deadline issued to Zurich AG to sign the concession agreement is expiring on August 17. "However, since international flight operations remain suspended in the country, the directors of the company based out of Kuala Lumpur and Switzerland haven't been able to come to Greater Noida yet to sign the agreement and complete other formalities," said Shailendra Bhatia, NIAL's nodal officer.