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NOIDA & GHAZIABAD

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Admin resumes process to acquire land for airport project at Jewar

HURDLES CLEARED Distribution of land compensation of ₹2,850 crore will begin from Monday, a week after HC dismissed the farmers' petitions

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GREATERNOIDA: Nearly a week after the Allahabad High Court dismissed a bunch of petitions by farmers seeking higher compensation for their land, the Gautam Budh Nagar administration has decided to resume the acquisition process for the proposed Noida International Greenfield Airport at Jewar from Monday.

The administration will start distribution of ₹2,850 crore funds to the farmers, whose land has to be acquired for the ambitious project along the 165km Yamuna Expressway.

The high court on April 8 dismissed the pleas of eight farmers, who protested against the land acquisition for the airport project demanding higher compensation. These farmers had halted the land acquisition process.

Even after all legal hurdles were cleared on April 8, the district administration could not start the exercise of land acquisition immediately as the staff were

Even after all legal hurdles were cleared on April 8, the district administration could not start the exercise of land acquisition immediately as the staff were busy in parliamentary elections. As the Gautam Budh Nagar Lok Sabha constituency saw polling on April 11, the staff are now free from poll duties, said officials.

"Now, we are free from election duties. We will have a meeting with our staff on Monday to plan our future action with regard to the land acquisition and distribution of land compensation among farmers, whose land will be acquired for the airport project," Balram Singh, addi-

tional district magistrate (ADM), Gautam Budh Nagar, said.

The state government had on October 30, 2018 notified acquisition of 1,239.14 hectares of land for the development of the airport under Section 11 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. Later, the administration also started seeking objections from land owners under Section 19 of the Act.

On February 23, 2019, eight farmers — Yogesh Kumar, Mukesh Kumar, Dev Dutt, Chander Pal and Kunwarpal Singh, among others, from Kishorpur village — had filed a plea in the high court to strike down the notification. But the court dismissed the pleas of the eight farmers, paving the way for further progress on the project that has potential to create jobs and boost local economy.

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"We have set up a dedicated office at Greater Noida authority's old office in Sector Gamma-I to deal with land acquisition process. All our staff dealing with land compensation will sit in this office," the ADM said.

The estimated budget for the Jewar airport project is between ₹15,000 crore and ₹20,000 crore. The project is expected to be operational by 2022-2023. The entire project needs around 5,000 hectares of land.

Jewar airport project back on track

The administration has set up a dedicated office at Greater Noida authority's old office in Sector Gamma-I to look after the land acquisition process

₹15,000-₹20,000 crore
estimated budget for the Jewar airport project.

₹2,850 crore
funds administration needs to distribute as land compensation

5,000 hectares
of land required for the project

1,239.14
hectares of six villages to be acquired under phase one

VILLAGES ARE

- Rohi ■ Parohi ■ Banwari Bas
- Ramner ■ Dayanapur
- Ranhera

3,000
total number of farmers eligible for land compensation

■ The state government has fixed a rate of **₹2,300 to ₹2,500** per square metre of agricultural land

2022-2023
deadline for the project

■ If the farmers accept the rate of **₹2,300** per square metre, then the government will provide them a 50 metre residential plot and **₹5 lakh** for construction purposes for house. If the farmers do not want plot and **₹5 lakh** perk, then they can accept **₹2,500** per square metre



■ Farmers say they will be able to give possession of their land only after harvesting their crops.

SUNIL GHOSH/HT

TIMELINE

2001: Then chief minister Rajnath Singh proposes Greenfield Taj International Airport and Aviation Hub in Jewar

2010: Then chief minister Mayawati supports the aviation project at Jewar

2012: Then UPA government at

the Centre states that an airport cannot be set up within 150km of the IGI Airport in Delhi

2013: UP government shifts the project to a site in Agra, located 200km from the IGI Airport

2017

MARCH: BJP forms the

government in the state, pledges to revive the project

OCT 13: UP government appoints YEIDA as nodal agency

DEC: YEIDA hires PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) for preparing the techno-economic feasibility report (TEFR)

2019

FEB 23: Farmers move high court disrupting the work

APR 8: The high court cancels the farmers' petitions

APR 14: Administration decides to start distribution of compensation among farmers

➤ We will have a meeting on Monday to plan our future action with regard to the land acquisition and distribution of compensation among farmers.

BALRAM SINGH, additional district magistrate, Gautam Budh Nagar