

# 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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**GREATER NOIDA:** 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 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, additional

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, Chandar 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.

The administration needs to acquire 1,239.14 hectares from 3,000 farmers' families in the first phase of the airport project.

"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 projects is between ₹15,000 crore and ₹20,000 crore. The project is expected to be completed 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 GHOSHANI

### TIMELINE

- 2007:** 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 UP 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

## Possession of land likely by May-end

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**GREATER NOIDA:** Farmers from six villages, whose land is to be acquired for the Jewar airport, said on Sunday that they would be able to give possession of their land only after their crop is harvested in the end of May.

Most of the land parcels located in the six villages to be acquired for the project in the first phase have wheat crop and the farmers are busy harvesting it. These six villages are Rohi, Parohi, Banwari Bas, Ramner, Dayanapur and Ranhera,

located along the Jewar-Bulandshahr road.

"All farmers are expected to free their land from wheat crop in the next four or five weeks. Every farmer is busy harvesting. Since we have big threshing machines now, harvesting does not take much time as before 2000, when the threshing period used to start from March and end in the beginning of July," Ravinder Thakur, a farmer from Ranhera village, said.

Like Thakur, all other farmers are open to giving their land for the airport project as soon as possible.

"A majority of the farmers are willing to give their land for the airport project. However, the administration will have to wait to take possession of our land as the wheat crops are still standing in the fields. But I feel that every farmer will free their respective land in the next 30 days and then the officials can easily take possession," Ramkishan Singh, a farmer from Kishorpur, said.

The Gautam Budh Nagar administration has decided to complete the work of land acquisition process for the airport at Jewar by the end of June, 2019.

"We have already finished 80%

of the paperwork related to the airport land acquisition. And the remaining 20% will be completed shortly. The work related with rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced farmers will be done on priority basis. Then we will start the process of taking possession of land from farmers," an administration official, not authorised to speak to media, said.

Around 1,239 hectares are to be acquired from these six villages for the project in the first phase. On the whole, the administration needs to acquire 5,000 hectares of land.

➤ 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