

Jewar airport fetches Yeida ₹10,000 crore investment

RAKING IT IN Estimated budget for project is ₹15,000-₹20,000 crore; airport expected to be operational by 2022-23

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GREATER NOIDA: The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida) on Friday said it has been able to get more than ₹10,000 crore investment after work on the Noida international greenfield airport project in Jewar, along the 165-km Yamuna Expressway, was expedited.

The estimated budget for the Jewar airport is ₹15,000-₹20,000 crore. The airport is expected to be operational by 2022-23. On the whole, it also requires 5,000 hectares of land. However, in first phase, it will acquire 1,239.14 hectares.

The ministry of civil aviation on June 24, 2017, had given its approval to start work on the techno-economic feasibility report (TEFR) for the international airport. The Yeida, in December 2017, had hired PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to prepare the TEFR.

Now, the Uttar Pradesh government is likely to approve bidding documents to make way for the selection of a private developer for the airport project. Work on this project is expected to start by the end of 2018. "We have allotted 200 acres for textiles firms, 200 acres for mobile phone makers and 200 acres is soon to be allotted for handicrafts businesses. This demand got generated after work on airport project got expedited," Shailendra Bhatia, officer on special duty, Yeida, who is also the nodal officer for investment cell which takes care of all investment-related proposals, said.

"China-based mobile phone maker VIVO is investing ₹4,200 crore as it has bought 170 acres in Sector 24 along the Expressway. Textile firms are investing around ₹ 4,000 crore and firms dealing with handicraft businesses have planned to invest more than ₹2,000 crore. The airport project has helped us convince investors. Queries for investment have gone up after



Work for the airport project is expected to start by end of this year, said officials.

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work on the airport picked up pace," Bhatia said.

Yeida is also developing a film city along 165km Yamuna Expressway which connects Greater Noida with Agra.

"Several filmmakers, including Boney Kapoor and Bhojpuri star Ravi Kishan, among others, have approached us for investment. We hope because of airport project, we will attract more investors," Bhatia added.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ENVIRONMENT ISSUES ON NOVEMBER 27

The district magistrate of Gautam Budh Nagar held a review meeting on Friday to discuss the public hearing which will take place on November 27 to discuss environmental issues related to Jewar airport with local villagers.

The public hearing is a compulsory procedure to get environmental clearance. The hearing will take place in a primary

school at Jewar's Kishorpur village. All government officials concerned will be present during the hearing.

A consultant will give a presentation, with the help of a projector, on environmental issues and measures which have been taken to ensure the well-being of locals.

It was a preparatory meeting on the proposed public hearing. The hearing is for issues related to around 1,335 hectares of land to be acquired for the project from six villages. The presentation was made by Green C Ltd, who is the environmental consultant on behalf of the PwC.

Some of the issues discussed in the meeting were impact on air quality, noise, water requirements and overall impact on flora and fauna of the area during the construction as well as the operation phase of the airport. "Public hearing on environmental issues is a compulsory procedure as per the Environment Protection Act, 1986. A

detailed presentation will be given to villagers to ensure that they are satisfied with the measures taken to protect the environment. Suggestions of farmers and locals will be noted down during the hearing," BN Singh, district magistrate, said.

Some environmentalists have raised concerns that the ambitious project can negatively affect the population and breeding pattern of the Sarus crane, the state bird of Uttar Pradesh. Dhanauri, Parasaul and Surajpur in Greater Noida are natural habitats of the cranes, according to environmentalists.

The administration has said there is no danger to the bird as its habitat is over 35km away from the project location. "According to environment norms, the habitat of cranes does not fall within 10km diameter of the project. It is almost 35km away from the airport. There is absolutely no danger to the Sarus cranes because of the airport project," Abhay Kumar,

subdivisional magistrate, said.

The district administration has also set up help centres in Jewar constituency for farmers whose land is to be acquired for the Jewar airport project.

The centres will be running till November 30 to help out farmers with issues related to their land.

Ultra Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath has asked officials to speed up completing work on formalities related to the airport.

The chief minister has directed the administration to procure agricultural land through a mutual agreement with farmers and also by implementing the 2013 Act.

The UP government in the first phase will acquire land from six villages, including Rohi, Parohi, Banwari Bas, Ramner, Dayanatpur and Ranhera.

The administration has already secured consent of more than 70% farmers for the airport project.