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Four runways and a flying institute: UP unveils big plans for Jewar airport

'Full-Fledged Aviation Hub Is The Aim'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: The UP government has decided to develop the proposed Jewar international airport as a full-fledged aviation hub. It will have at least four runways and facilities, including a flying and training institute, and cargo and aircraft Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) system.

The announcement was made on the second and concluding day of the Investors' Summit on Thursday.

Director, UP civil aviation department, Surya Pal Gangwar said the plan to develop the Jewar airport as a state-of-the-art aviation hub was being worked out. "We hope to complete the planning and get other formalities completed soon," he said in a session on 'Civil aviation: emerging opportuni-



The airport has been mooted to unclog Delhi's IGI airport

ties' at the summit.

Jewar airport, perceived as one of the key projects to ease air traffic at IGI airport Delhi, will come up on 3,000 acres land on a public-private-partnership model.

Union aviation minister Ashok Gajpathi Raju, who was the key speaker in the session, said the Jewar airport has to be developed within six years.

"Various studies have shown that the IGI airport will get fully congested by 2024. Therefore, Jewar airport project needs to be expedited. It is not only in the interest of Delhi but also UP and other states,"

he said. Raju admitted that the project got delayed due to lack of coordination between the Centre and the UP government in the past.

The project also got stuck following a clause in the previous aviation policy that prohibited setting up of a new airport within 150km from an existing one. It was under this policy that the GMR, which operates the IGI airport also had the right of first refusal for any airport which is being built within 150km radius.

GMR has now evinced interest in developing the Jewar airport as well. GMR director K Narayan Rao confirmed that the company will participate in development of the Jewar airport. Emphasizing on the Centre-state coordination for development of aviation infrastructure, Rao said that a central facility coordination committee should be set up to speed up the process. He also stressed on the need of having Metro rail connectivity before Jewar airport gets fully completed and ready for commercial operations.

'Want to make Noida a second Singapore'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: The Centre aims to develop Noida-Greater Noida into a second Singapore, making it a global hub of electronic manufacturing, education and conferences which will have trickle-down spinoffs for UP. Union electronics and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said.

Speaking at the UP investor summit, Prasad said the twin cities have vast potential for electronic manufacturing. There are convention centres, skilling centres and a new airport coming up in the area.

"We can make Noida and Greater Noida a Singapore-like place where skilling, electronic manufacturing, education, management and global conferences can all take place together. The development of Noida and Greater Noida will percolate to the entire state," Prasad said.

Addressing a session on IT and ITeS in UP, Prasad said Noida was clocking exports worth Rs 17,000 crore through STPI (Software Technology Parks of India). "We will offer support to the state government to develop IT parks and other centres of excellence," he said. STPI is also developing a medical centre of excellence in SGPGI, Lucknow.

Outlining the growth of mobile phone manufacturing in India, the minister said there were mobile manufacturing factories till May 2014. The number has now grown to 118, out of which 54 factories are in Noida.

Prasad reiterated his ministry's goal of making India \$1 trillion digital economy.

The minister said digital was becoming a key tool of good governance. "*Janta ki bhakti ke liye digital ki shakti chahiye* (digital needs to be promoted to serve the people)."