

Aerotropolises and Airport Oriented Development: The Case of Uttar Pradesh and its Implications for the State

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Abstract: *Infrastructure development and improvement has a direct influence on economic growth, since it creates the possibility for investment in a region. Government of Uttar Pradesh has taken prospective choices to create various airports in Uttar Pradesh, five of which would be international, making Uttar Pradesh the only state with five international airports. In addition, the goal of having 21 functioning airports in Uttar Pradesh by 2024 has been established. All of these factors would boost regional connectedness, investment opportunities, and exponential economic expansion.*

Keywords: Airport Oriented Development(AOD), Aerotropolis, Airports in Uttar Pradesh, New Airports in India, UDAN Airports, One-trillion economy in UP.

I. INTRODUCTION

Strengthening the Air Transport and its infrastructure is symbolic of an area striving to become more wealthy. Up till 2014, Uttar Pradesh has only two airports, namely Lucknow and Varanasi. For a big state like Uttar Pradesh, having only two airports(2 Airports In UP From 1947-2014: Yogi Adityanath At Launch Of Kushinagar Airport, UP's 9th, n.d.) looked detrimental to the region's rapid expansion and economic progress. In addition, the mechanisms for speedier regional connectivity appeared to be inadequate. Post-2017, the ambitions of the Government of Uttar Pradesh have been on making the state an investment hub with sufficient tourist-based infrastructure, given the state's diverse tourism advantages. All of these factors have paved the way for enhancing Air Connectivity or establishing new airports in the region.

II. NEED FOR THE STUDY

It is extremely needful to analyse the impact, consequences, expected economic and physical development growth in various sectors like trade, commerce and tourism along with better lifestyle and connectivity of Uttar Pradesh. And that's what the Government of Uttar Pradesh is aiming to fulfil the target of one-trillion dollar economy alone of the state. As the Airports are spatially distributed, here in this study efforts would be made to understand Regional impact around the newly proposed Airports. This would certainly converts those town or regions into Aerotropolis which might push them to become future metropolises and megalopolises.

III. FRAMEWORK FOR AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

Multiple times, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has made every effort connected to air transportation. The biggest ones occurred after 2017, and more specifically after 2020. To date, these initiatives can be categorised into three distinct administrative decisions: the June 2021 decision to develop five international(Uttar Pradesh: Uttar Pradesh to Have Five International Airports, Scindia - The Economic Times, n.d.) airports, the August 2022 decision to add five domestic airports in addition to the international airports, and the February 2023 effort to add another five airports. All of this would result in a total of 21 operating airports in Uttar Pradesh, five of which would also provide international service.

The In June 2021, it was reported that the state would have five(Uttar Pradesh to Soon Have 5 International Airports, Will Bolster Foreign Trade and Travel, n.d.) international airports: Jewar, Ayodhya, Varanasi, Kushinagar, and Lucknow. The primary purpose was to increase foreign investment, tourism, commerce, and connection for Uttar Pradesh inhabitants. They are spatially(Map of Uttar Pradesh Air Network, UP's Existing and Proposed Airports, n.d.) dispersed (जल्द शुरू होगा सरसावा से एयरपोर्ट - Airport Will Start Soon From Sarsawa - Saharanpur News, n.d.) so that the majority of the state seems to be interconnected.

3.2 Second Initiative

In continuation with the earlier decision, it was stated in August 2022 that five additional domestic airports will be constructed to improve intraregional connectivity and meet the goals of the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme. This endeavour included Chitrakoot, Muradabad, Aligarh, Azamgarh, and Shravasti, as well as the development of Lucknow and Kanpur Airports. This initiative will make Uttar Pradesh the first state in India(Uttar Pradesh to Soon Become Only States in India to Have 5 International Airports | Aviation News | Zee News, n.d.) to have more than five operational airports.

3.3 Third Initiative

It was declared in February 2023(UP Govt Approves Construction of Airport in Lalitpur District, n.d.) that Jhansi, Lalitpur, Meerut, Saharanpur, and Sonubhadra will also get domestic airports. With this, Uttar Pradesh will soon have 21 airports serving domestic routes, including Bareilly, Prayagraj, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Ghaziabad, and Agra. In order to accommodate this influx of Jumbo Jets, the Airport Authority of India has planned to raise the number of routes in Uttar Pradesh from 63 to 108.

IV. POST DEVELOPMENT IMPACT ANALYSIS

Regional economic growth models such as Losch's Demand Cone, the Harrod-Domar Model, the Growth pole theory, and similar other theories are advocated to comprehend the impact of Airport Oriented Development in Uttar Pradesh. After the establishment of 21 airports(List of Airports in Uttar Pradesh (2023 UPDATED), n.d.) in the state, this would have a significant impact on not just the expansion of the state, but the entire nation. The impact may be broadly grouped into three categories: regional connection impact, economic impact, and infrastructural impact. These effects can be comprehended as follows.

4.1 Regional Impact

Connectivity would expand tremendously both within and outside the state. There are a total of 21 airports across the 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh, and five of them are international, therefore the reliance on other international airports such as Indra Gandhi International Airport and others will be significantly reduced. Buddhist pilgrimages, cargo swaps at Noida, religious and tourist destinations such as Ayodhya for the Ram Mandir, Prayagraj(UP: New Airport Announced in Palia, Lucknow, Prayagraj Airports to Get New Terminals, n.d.) for the Kumbh Mela, and Kushinagar.

4.2 Economic impact

The economic impact directly, on job possibilities, spectacular foreign investment via 'Invest UP, massive flow of products and services, industries formation, improvement in business, local establishments, increase in discretionary income, income from tourism activities, etc.

4.3 Impact on Infrastructure

Airports are itself the part of transport infrastructure and thus contributes (Development of Airport in UP, n.d.) in enhancement in other infrastructure and allied infrastructure.

V. FORMATION OF AEROTROPOLISES

With airport development, every city or town becomes an aerotropolis; the label aerotropolis says volumes about a community's potential and aspirations.

VI. CONCLUSION

Boost to Uttar Pradesh's economy, particularly in Tourism, Trade, and Commerce. Not just economic advantage, but also improved air connectivity between Uttar Pradesh and the rest of India and the world. This would also decrease the airport's load and "only option" status. More work options. Lifestyle development toward a more urban type of living. Better ease of doing business, improved image, and investment hub for the people of Uttar Pradesh. This Airport Oriented Development will greatly contribute to the realization of Uttar Pradesh's aim of a trillion-dollar economy

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