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Actors Arbaaz Khan, Sohail Khan and his son Nirvaan Khan have been booked for violating hotel quarantine rules after coming from the UAE, P.10

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Tricity Plan Takes Flight As Airport Shapes Up

Housing societies, hotels, restaurants, convention centres, a grand Film City – the building blocks for Yamuna City have been laid with the Noida international airport at its heart. The third city in Gautam Budh Nagar is taking shape on a 35km stretch either side of the Yamuna Expressway. Its development will continue apace with the airport, which is likely to be launched in 2023-2024

THE MAIN HUBS OF YAMUNA CITY



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From delays in handover of plots to developing basic infrastructure around them, the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has been in the news for all the wrong reasons in the past decade. This year, however, was an exception.

Although the pandemic dried up the coffers many of government agencies, YEIDA managed to swim against the tide. In 2020, the development authority was able to garner one and a half times the profits it earned last year.

Most of YEIDA's success has revolved around the proposed international airport at Jewar, which was named Noida International Airport on December 17. And it is the same project with which YEIDA is hoping to strike gold. The harvest will be in the form of a sprawling Yamuna City, a concept that has been talked about for years by developing land in Greater Noida along the Yamuna Expressway and unlocking a commercial frontier that has so far remained untapped.

Of the three development authorities in Noida – the other two being the Noida Authority and the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority – YEIDA is the youngest. But in terms of land size, it is the biggest. YEIDA boasts a land bank of 2,689 sqkm, large enough to house the entire Lucknow district or two Noidas combined. Within it, the focus currently is on developing a smart city called Yamuna City, which will come up

on an area of 45,383 hectares. Part of the National Capital Region, the land in Greater Noida and Jewar is being projected as Synergy Corridor before investors.

Explaining the rationale behind the move, YEIDA CEO Arun Vir Singh, said that apart from the airport, six large clusters that have the potential of emerging as export-oriented hubs are being developed along the Yamuna Expressway. These are related to toy manufacturing, film production, garments, electronic equipment, handicraft as well as medical devices.

All this development has been taking place along a 35km stretch of the 165km long high-speed Yamuna Expressway, which was developed to connect Delhi and Agra and was thrown open in August 2012. Divided into 35 sectors, YEIDA has launched residential schemes comprising plots in sectors 17, 18 and 22D in the past.

Of the 4,752 hectares reserved for developing the airport till 2040, 2,000 hectares are earmarked for Yamuna City. Apart from hotels, restaurants and convention centres, a commercial business district has also been planned here along with retail space next to the airport compound. Work on the city side development plan will begin once the master plan for the first phase, which has been submitted by Zurich AG, the concessionaire for building the airport, is approved.

Singh said the master plan would be evaluated over the next four to six weeks. "But it only concerns the development of the airport and allied activities. The city side development will happen once the civil aviation directorate of Uttar Pradesh goes through the plan submitted by the concessionaire," Singh added.

The Golden Quadrilateral project, Eastern Peripheral Expressway, a dedicated freight corridor (both eastern and western legs), and the Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor are likely to catapult the Yamuna City region on the national scale. These are apart from the development of a logistics hub and dry port in Dabri.

GRAPHIC: ARPIT SHARMA
Map not to scale

NOIDA AIRPORT, JEWAR