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'Noida airport to have 5 runways instead of 2'

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Lucknow: One of the country's biggest infrastructure projects, Noida greenfield airport in Gautam Budh Nagar will have five runways instead of earlier proposed two, said UP finance minister Suresh Khanna while presenting the state budget on Wednesday.

Describing the civil aviation sector as 'nectar' for the state, the minister said no one could stop Uttar Pradesh from flying, as it was born to fly. He added the state government's unprecedented work in civil aviation sector has re-

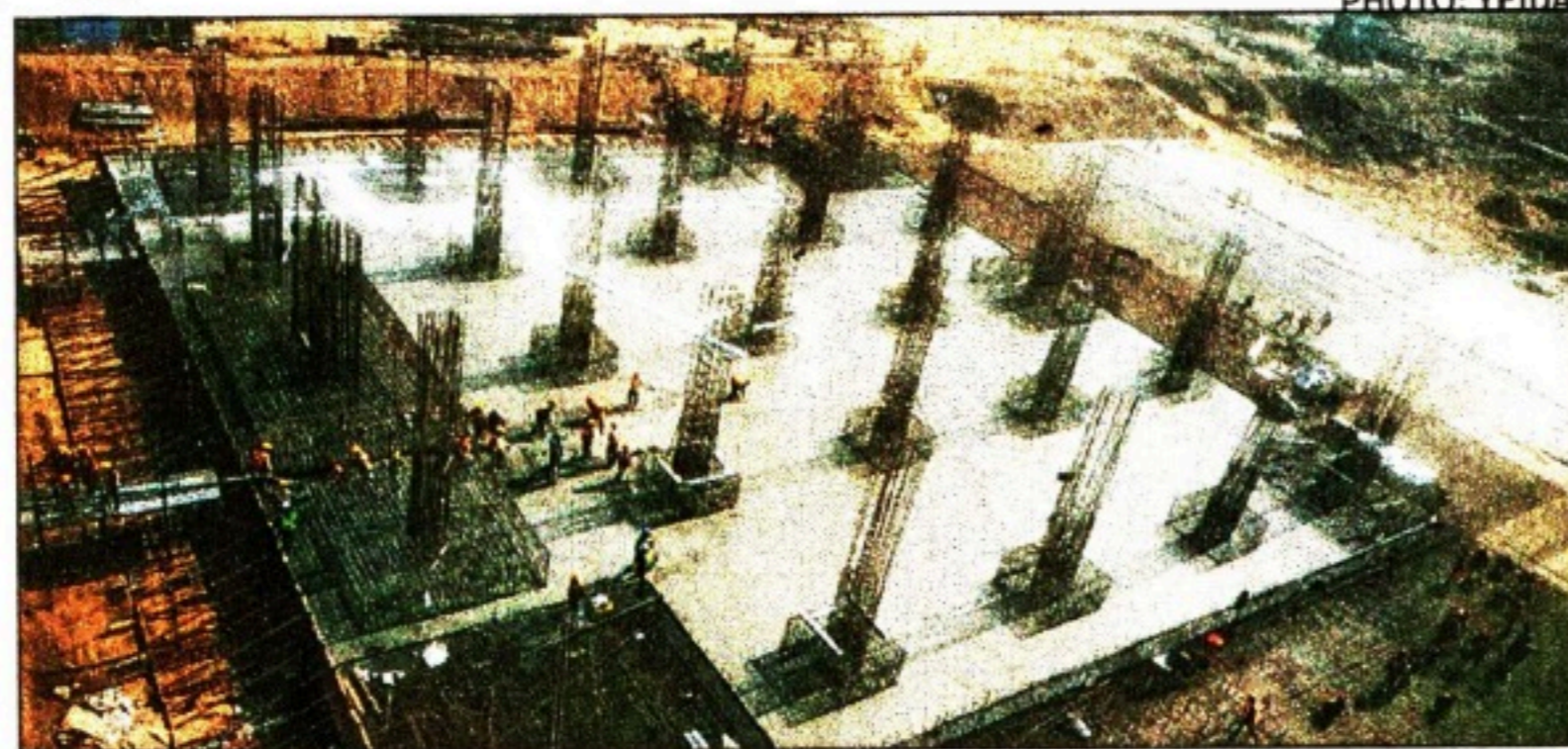


PHOTO: YEIDA

By September 2024, first phase of the project will become operational

sulted in attracting investment proposals worth Rs 33.52 lakh crore through UP-GIS 2023.

"The state has three operational international airports and two are under

construction in Jewar and Ayodhya. The Jewar airport will have five runways instead of two," he said.

According to official sources, soon land acquisition for the third runway will begin.

Close to 1,335 hectares of land will be required for the project. Later, 2,053 hectares will be needed for the fourth and fifth runways.

The airport will be developed in four phases, spread out over the 40-year concession period, with two interconnected terminals and a capacity to handle 70 million passengers annually.

"The first phase will spread over 1,334 hectares with one runway, cargo hub along with a terminal that will cater to domestic and international passengers. By September 2024, the project worth Rs 5,730 crore will become operational. The se-

cond runway construction will begin once the airport reaches 80% of the 12 million passengers per year capacity," said Shailendra Bhatia, nodal officer of Noida International Airport Limited.

He said: "The development of the third, fourth and fifth runways will begin gradually when passenger traffic increases from 12 million to 30 million, 50 million and 70 million." Meanwhile, the Yogi government has claimed that construction of six domestic airports, including Aligarh, Azamgarh, Moradabad, Shravasti, Chitrakoot and Sonbhadra, will be completed soon.