

Govt. tweaks norms to boost UDAN

All 13 passenger seats will be considered for subsidy.

The Civil Aviation Ministry on Thursday announced increasing viability gap funding for helicopter operators, diluting exclusivity clause and relaxed other norms to facilitate more participation in its regional connectivity scheme, UDAN. The government announced that all 13 passenger seats for helicopters will be considered for subsidy under the scheme.

States including, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, North Eastern region, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands have been designated as priority areas. Airline operators flying from these priority areas will be allowed to operate 14 weekly departures as against the limit for seven weekly flights for other routes.

The Ministry also abolished the 150-km minimum distance required between two airports to be qualified for operations under the scheme. It said airline operators may issue no-objection certificates to other airlines willing to operate on the same route.

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