UDAN – Next Phase (Viksit UDAN)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Polity*

Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister launched the next phase of UDAN – Viksit UDAN and inaugurated the New Terminal Building at Jodhpur Airport.

UDAN Scheme

- **UDAN –** Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik.
- **Launched in –** October 2016 under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS).
- **Type –** Central Sector Scheme.
- **Ministry –** Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- **Implementing Agency –** Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- **Objective –** Affordable air travel, connect Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Viksit UDAN (2026-2036)

- **Infrastructure Development –** 100 aerodromes from unserved airstrips, 200 modern helipads and operations maintenance support for regional airports

  Aerodrome – Any location on land or water used for aircraft takeoffs, landings, and surface movements, all airports are aerodromes but all aerodromes are not airports.

- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** – Airlines will now receive financial support stretched over 5 years instead of 3.
- Funding gradually tapering off from the 3rd year to ease routes into independent.

Reference

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