

EMERGENCY LANDING FACILITY (ELF) ACTIVATION AT SULTANPUR ON PURVANCHAL EXPRESSWAY

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The Indian Air Force activated 'Emergency Landing Facility' (ELF) on the Purvanchal Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur District on 22 Apr 26, both by day and night, showcasing its operational capability to bolster its defence readiness. UP State Minister for Panchayati Raj and Minority Welfare Shri Om Prakash Rajbhar, Air Mshl B Manikantan, AOC-in-C, CAC, and other officials were present to witness the IAF aircraft undertake ELF operations.

The operational versatility of the Indian Air Force was demonstrated through the operations by diverse fleet of aircraft, including Jaguar, Mirage-2000, Sukhoi-30 MKI, C-295 and AN-32, alongside Mi-17 V5 helicopter and Garud Commando team. IAF along with UPEIDA and the local civil administration, validated their Standard Operating Procedures for emergency activation of these ELFs, in the shortest possible time frame both by day and by night.

This operation has majorly boosted IAF's capability to undertake unhindered operations even during non-availability of standard runways, showcasing its operational resilience. It has demonstrated the professional flying skills of its aircrew and the capability of its ground crew in activating such expressway airstrips at a short notice. These strategically developed airstrips on national expressways substantially augment operational flexibility and serve as critical force multiplier during emergencies, reinforcing national security and disaster response capabilities.

The collaborative framework between the IAF's operational requirements with UPEIDA's civil infrastructure management and support of the local civil administration, optimizes the operational viability of such highway airstrips. The synergy displayed between the three organisations in the ELF activation, not only strengthens the overall strategic posture of the nation but also enhance the HADR capabilities in the region.







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