

Groundbreaking for Aligarh node of defence corridor in August

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The announcement was made at the inaugural session where UP CM Yogi Adityanath was the chief guest. (File Photo)

LUCKNOW: Ahead of the 2022 assembly polls, the government is planning to kick off key infrastructure projects, starting with the all-important [defence](#) corridor. Ground breaking for three defence corridor nodes will take place within the next six months, starting with [Aligarh](#) in August, Kanpur by October and Jhansi by January.

The announcement was made at the inaugural session of the four-day long indigenization on defence and aerospace seminar, where chief minister [Yogi Adityanath](#) was the chief guest. The CM said that Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#), who is likely to perform the groundbreaking for the Aligarh node, and defence minister [Rajnath Singh](#) were monitoring the work on the defence corridor.

The seminar has been organised by the Society of Indian Defence Manufactures in collaboration with CII and the UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority.

“The UP defence corridor is a greenfield project and even those MSMEs and start-ups which are not directly related with defence and aerospace can benefit immensely by it. UP has the highest number of MSMEs with more than three crore people involved in them,” he said.

The CM spoke about the defence and aerospace policy implemented by the government which is providing crucial subsidies and benefits to investors. The government has already acquired 1,500 hectare land for the six nodes and the CM has directed officials to acquire more in nodes where demand is high. “We acquired 74 hectare land in Aligarh which has been fully distributed to 19 units. An investment of Rs 1,500 crore is possible through these. During Defence Expo in 2020, 23 investors signed MoUs worth Rs 50,000 crore,” the CM said.

The UP government has signed an MoU with the [Navy](#) through the UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority for establishing a centre for excellence at [BHU](#) and [IIT Kanpur](#). It has also worked with the defence ministry to establish labs under common facility centres for defence testing and infrastructure .

Jayant Patil, president of SIDM, spoke about reforms in the defence sector which, he said, are focused on building capacity. Talking about the importance of the sector and the opportunities it was offering, he said: “This is evident through the 15% increase in defence budget allocation. Two-thirds of the budget is dedicated for purchases from Indian industries, of which 20% has been reserved for MSMEs. Other than this, 208 items have been moved to the positive list which means that these items cannot be imported.”

Highlighting the work done by his government to create an investment conducive environment in the state, the CM spoke about the 20 sector specific policies to promote investment in various sectors.