

PM Narendra Modi to launch Purvanchal Expressway, open doors for east UP's development

TNN | Nov 16, 2021, 04.50 AM IST



LUCKNOW: The 341-km long Purvanchal Expressway, connecting Lucknow with Ghazipur, will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, just months ahead of crucial UP assembly elections. It would be the longest operational expressway of India, overtaking Agra-Lucknow Expressway, which is 301-km long.

PM Modi is scheduled to arrive in a C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft that will land on the 3.2 km long airstrip constructed on the Kurebhar stretch of the Access Controlled Greenfield expressway in Sultanpur and will dedicate the project to the people almost three years after laying its foundation on July 14, 2018, in Azamgarh.

The Purvanchal Expressway project was launched to spur development in the remote east UP region that has lagged in infrastructure and industrialisation.

Experts said the expressway could give BJP an advantage over its political rivals in the eastern UP region that also comprises PM Modi's parliamentary constituency of Varanasi and CM Yogi's political backyard Gorakhpur.

Starting from village Chand Sarai on Lucknow-Sultanpur Road (NH-731) in Lucknow, the expressway passes through seven districts — Barabanki, Amethi, Sultanpur, Ayodhya, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh and Mau — before ending at village Haidariya on National Highway No.19 in Ghazipur, just 18 km away from UP-Bihar border.

"The expressway has been the dream project of the state government and CM Yogi Adityanath. The project was completed in record time despite severe restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic," said UP Expressway and Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) CEO Awanish Awasthi on the eve of the inauguration.

All the preparations for the inauguration by the Prime Minister have been completed, he added. CM Yogi on Monday had an inspection of the site of the inauguration ceremony.

The inauguration will also witness the landing of fighter aircraft on the 3.2 km long and 34 mt wide emergency air strip at Sultanpur.

Constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 22,496 crore (including the land cost), the expressway has eight packages. UPEIDA officials said the tenders received were around 5.19% less than the estimated cost, resulting in a profit of around Rs 614 crore to the authority.

The six-lane expressway (expandable up to eight lanes) has 18 flyovers, seven railway over-bridges (ROBs) and 271 underpasses. According to a UPEIDA document, the work of setting up eight toilet blocks and four petrol pumps is in progress. In the event of an accident, a total of 16 ambulances (two each in every package) will be available for quick assistance and speedy transport of the injured to the nearest hospital.

The expressway will provide the much needed connectivity from the east UP region to the state capital and then to Delhi through Lucknow-Agra Expressway and Yamuna Expressway.

The state government also plans to set up 21 industrial points in the hinterland of the expressway in an area of 9,171 hectares. The state government has identified handloom industry, food processing units, storage plants, mandi and milk-based industries for the purpose. Opportunities will also be available for establishment of Industrial Training Institute, educational and training institutes, medical institutes along the expressway.