

# 300-km Bundelkhand e-way to be ready by June, will cut travel time to Delhi by 6 hours: Minister

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BANDA: The upcoming 296 km-long four-lane Bundelkhand Expressway, which is set to become the new lifeline of UP's culturally and historically significant Bundelkhand region, will be ready by the first week of June and PM Narendra Modi will then launch the project, new UP cabinet minister Nand Gopal Gupta said after taking charge of the industrial development department on Thursday.

The minister said the work on the expressway, whose foundation stone was laid by the PM in February 2020, "is now 91% complete". The e-way, on which over Rs 7,700 crore has been spent till now, will connect Kudrail village in Etawah district with Bharatkoop on NH-35 in Chitrakoot district. The Bundelkhand e-way, which will be linked to the Agra-Lucknow e-way

and Yamuna e-way, will not only reduce the travel time to Delhi to just 5-6 hours from current over 12 hours but will also spur growth and economy of UP's most backward region.

Gupta said such a big project usually takes 36 months but 91% of the project has already been finished in just 25 months under the leadership of PM Modi and CM Yogi Adityanath.

The e-way will run through seven districts of UP as it will connect Etawah, Auraiya, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Banda and Chitrakoot. The e-way, built by Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority, has a scope of expansion from 4 to 6 lanes. The project, once ready, is likely to boost tourism in the region as Bundelkhand boasts of several historical sites like Jhansi Fort, pilgrimage site Chitrakoot and Kalinjar Fort of the Chandela dynasty in Banda.

The minister also said that the Ganga Expressway will be built from Meerut to Prayagraj. The cost of the project was earlier estimated to be Rs 50,000 crore but it has now been brought down to Rs 40,000 crore. He also said that a proposal will be made to expand the Ganga Expressway from Prayagraj till Varanasi. The minister said that plans will also be made to link the Delhi-Meerut Expressway to the Ganga Expressway.