Uttar Pradesh: Bundelkhand expressway to get functional by June

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LUCKNOW: Pledging to make the Bundelkhand Expressway functional by the end of June, cabinet minister for infrastructure and industrial development Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi said that expressways were the arteries that nourish development.

Speaking to TOI on Friday, he said: "Completion of the Bundelkhand Expressway holds prime importance under chief minister Yogi Adityanath's 100-day goals for us. More than 91% work of the project has been completed and whatever is left is being completed speedily. We look forward to achieving it soon."

Officials at UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) said that as per an assessment undertaken on April 4, cent percent work has been completed in some heads (earthwork and clearing and grubbing

operations) of the expressway while it is in final stages in others like granular sub base layering (98%), wet mix macadam layering (97%) and dense bituminous macadam layering (95%). They also said that 863 of the 881 structures of the bridge have been completed.

Connecting Chitrakoot and Etawah, Bundelkhand Expressway was proposed to develop the parched and backward districts of the Bundelkhand region which have lagged because of agrarian crisis, absence of industry and migration.

Passing through Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Etawah, the expressway will link the Bundelkhand area from the national capital Delhi through the Agra-Lucknow Expressway and Yamuna Expressway.

The 296-km expressway begins near Bharatkoop at Jhansi Prayagraj National Highway number 35 in Chitrakoot and ends near Kudrail village in Etawah along the Agra Lucknow Expressway.

Nandi said that the expressway would accelerate the progress of the defence corridor, adding that the work on Ganga Expressway, Ballia Link Expressway and Gorakhpur Link Expressway would also be prioritized.

He also said that the state was working hard to boost exports for which a plan to build export promotion centers across all districts of UP was being worked upon. He said that UP was open to new ideas, technologies and work cultures.