

PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate Bundelkhand Expressway on July 16

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LUCKNOW: Home to the two longest expressways in India, the Purvanchal and Agra Lucknow e-ways, Uttar Pradesh will be getting its sixth in the form of Bundelkhand Expressway now.

To be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 16, the expressway will connect the parched and backward region of the state with the national capital.

Data from the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways shows that UP has the country's largest network of expressways, also called superhighways. Haryana follows next to UP with five expressways.

In fact, in a few years, UP will be home to 13 expressway projects. Officials said that the total length of these expressways is 3,200km.

Officials said that of the 13 projects in UP, five are under use, one is scheduled for launch while seven others are in different stages of development.

The ones in use include Yamuna Expressway, Noida-Greater Noida Expressway, Agra-Lucknow Expressway, Delhi-Meerut Expressway and Purvanchal Expressway.

The list of upcoming expressways include Gorakhpur Link Expressway, Ganga Expressway, Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway, Ghaziabad-Kanpur Expressway, Gorakhpur-Siliguri Expressway, Delhi-Saharanpur-Dehradun Expressway and Ghazipur-Ballia-Manjhihat Expressway.

An official spokesperson said that the Yogi government has been providing the necessary double engine push to road infrastructure in UP.

"Aware of the fact that quality infrastructure is the growth engine that drives the economy and roads are the mirror of progress, the double engine BJP government has worked extensively for the rejuvenation of the roads in a campaign mode," they said.

They also said that the government was working on a 360-degree development plan along the expressways.

"Industrial corridors are also being built along highways and expressways. These corridors will give impetus to rapid, balanced and inclusive growth as well as immense employment potential. The process to earmark land for the same is underway," they said.

Officials also said that besides serving people in general, the expressways can also serve as airstrips which can be used in case of national security and disaster relief needs.

Talking about the 296-kilometre Bundelkhand Expressway connecting Chitrakoot with Etawah, officials said that it begins near Bharatkoop at Jhansi-Prayagraj National Highway number 35 in Chitrakoot and ends near Kudrail village in Etawah along the Agra-Lucknow Expressway.

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

They stated that the expressway was envisioned to develop the parched and backward districts of the Bundelkhand region which have lagged because of agrarian crisis, absence of industry and migration.

Speaking to TOI, cabinet minister for industrial development Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi said: "Completion of the Bundelkhand Expressway was part of the 100-day goals set by our department and we are happy to list it as our achievement now."