

Def, industrial corridors planned alongside to pave 'eway' for jobs

Surendra.Singh
@timesgroup.com



EXPRESSWAY TO PROGRESS

mirpur, Mahoba, Banda and Chitrakoot — to the arterial road network of the country and serve as a catalyst of growth for the least developed region of the state.

Though the country's only active diamond mine is in Bundelkhand's Panna, the irony is that the region — comprising seven districts of UP and six districts of MP — is one of the most backward areas of the country owing to

political neglect. But the new expressway crisscrossing seven districts of UP will turn into the new lifeline of Bundelkhand as it will spur growth and development.

Earlier known for Chambal dacoits and extreme poverty, Bundelkhand remained untouched from industrial development in other parts of the country. Agriculture being the main source of income, people from this dry region have been going to big cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Surat to find jobs. But in the time to come, the new expressway will lead to big investments in this region, paving the way for business and employment opportunities as the Yogi Adityanath government has planned two nodes of the defence corri-

dor worth Rs 20,000 crore along the Bundelkhand expressway and an industrial corridor in Banda and Jalaun districts.

The expressway will also give a big boost to tourism as Bundelkhand, the land of Chandels, Bundels and warriors like Jhansi ki Rani, is dotted with several historical sites like forts in Kalinjar and Orchha, Khajurao temple, Panna tiger reserve and Lalitpur caves (mini Ellora), and the pilgrimage site of Chitrakoot where it is believed Lord Ram, Sita and Laxman spent 12 of the 14 years of their exile. Even PM Modi, in his speech during the eway inauguration, advised CM Yogi Adityanath to start a tourism circuit along these forts.

Banda (UP): For Bundelkhand, 'Dilli Ab Door Nahi'. The southern and most backward region of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday came closer to Delhi as the distance to the national capital shortened to a mere 6-7-hour swift drive from an arduous 12-hour-long journey earlier with PM Narendra Modi inaugurating the 296km-long four-lane Bundelkhand Expressway. The expressway, constructed at a cost of around Rs 14,850 crore, will link Bundelkhand to Delhi via the Agra-Lucknow and Yamuna expressways.

The e-way will link seven southern UP districts — Etawah, Auraiya, Jalaun, Ha-