

Uttar Pradesh marks over 300km of Ganga Expressway route

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LUCKNOW: Racing against time to start work on the Ganga Expressway, the state's expressway development agency has completed more than 56% of the cleaning and grubbing work. Planned between Meerut and Prayagraj, the expressway will span over a distance of 594 km.

Officials of the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) want to get the high speed corridor ready by the end of 2024 in order to provide direct connectivity between Delhi-NCR and Prayagraj before 2025 Mahakumbh.

Before starting construction work on the greenfield expressway, the first stage is to demarcate the site and get the alignment of the route cleared of vegetation and encroachment.

UPEIDA's chief executive officer, Awanish Kumar Awasthi said, "Land acquisition work has reached the final stages in all the 12 districts through which the expressway will pass. In another significant development on Monday, we have managed to demarcate a 327 km long route of the expressway. The cleaning and grubbing work has been done over 55% of the alignment and on a daily basis we are clearing 5 km of the route. The task to finish the expressway before the Mahakumbh is difficult, but we are confident of achieving the deadline."

Officials added that more than 95% of the land acquisition work has been completed. The project is estimated to cost more than Rs 36,000 crore. Recently, the expressway development authority also secured environmental clearance from the ministry of environment and forest which was the last regulatory hurdle to be cleared.

At present, a motorist takes at least 12 hours to reach Sangam in Prayagraj from Connaught Place in Delhi. The expressway will bring down the travel time to 8 hours, said officials.

The six-lane expressway will connect Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raibareli, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj.

A banking executive from Civil Lines, Prayagraj who stays in Gaur City, Greater Noida, Rishabh Srivastava said, "I am following the news related to the Ganga expressway closely. It takes a lot of time to cover the total distance at present and at times we have to stay overnight in Kanpur or Lucknow. It is going to be a straight drive once the expressway gets ready."