

'Expressways to drive Uttar Pradesh's growth to trillion-dollar economy'

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LUCKNOW: Outlining his government's aim to turn Uttar Pradesh first into Uttam Pradesh and then to Sarvottam Pradesh through infrastructure development, industrial development minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' said that with the recent inauguration of the Bundelkhand Expressway, UP now has 37.7% of the total expressways in country.

"We are working towards making UP a USD 1 trillion economy and are fully aware that infrastructure plays an important role in it," the minister said while addressing TOI's 'Expressway to Trillion Dollar Economy' Conclave on Friday adding that CM Yogi Adityanath's hard work over the past five years has given UP the identity of 'Expressway Pradesh'.

CEO UP Expressways and Industrial Development Authority, Awanish Awasthi said expressways were not just the means to connect a place with the rest of the state but in UP, they are also being developed as the sites of industrial growth.

ACS, MSME and export promotion, Navneet Sehgal, spoke about how the network of roads was adding to the efficiency of people and boosting small businesses while principal secretary, tourism, Mukesh Meshram, said that good roads were like arteries and veins of the state which aid to the tourism economy.

Alok Kumar, secretary, planning and nodal officer for trillion dollar economy plan of the state, shared the state's vision and how roads would serve as the backbone of growth. Joint secretary, Union ministry of road transport and highways, Amit Ghosh, traced UP's progress in the field. Academics from IIT Kanpur and IIM Lucknow also shared the role of research in the development of the state.