

UP's 'lifeline' to open up big biz: Sehgal

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Expressways are not just roads but the lifeline and growth line of any state, as it opens up bigger trade opportunities, boosts tourism and has several other benefits, said additional chief secretary, MSME and export promotion, Navneet Sehgal during the Times of India's conclave on expressways on Friday.

During a discussion on 'Good roads and its multiplier effect on business' Sehgal said, "Be it quality green peas of Jalaun or vegetable and milk of Ghazipur, it could earlier reach the only nearby market but now with expressways coming up, Ghazipur milk can reach Delhi in just eight hours," Sehgal said.

"Expressways opened opportunities for farmers in bigger trade markets. Since there are less stoppages and seamless connectivity, goods don't get damaged during



Additional chief secretary, MSME & export promotion, Navneet Sehgal speaks during a session on Friday

transportation," he added.

Sharing a personal experience, Sehgal said: "I went to England for the admission of my son and covered 1000 kilometres by road in a day without facing any difficulty. We had lunch and dinner on time. This is what good road connectivity is all about. In the absence of an expressway,

it would have taken at least 2-3 days to cover 1000km." Speaking on how expressways give boost to tourism, principal secretary, culture and tourism, Mukesh Meshram said, "Tourism plays an important role in the economy of any state. In Kerala, tourism sector contributes 27% to the state's economy. Expressways in

UP will give a great push to the tourism sector."

"Bundelkhand Expressway will give a major boost to tourism as the region has huge potential to attract tourists. The Bundelkhand region has 40 forts include those in Jhansi, Kalinjar and Chunar," he said. OSD (operations), Amul, SB Singh, emphasized

how expressways have helped the dairy industry. "Good roads have a major role in successful transportation of dairy goods. Expressways play a major role as milk can be easily transported to far-flung places."

Deputy managing director, SIDBI (Lucknow), VSV Rao said: "Earlier, only airports and railways provided good connectivity but now expressways and highways are also playing a major role in connecting ends. Good connectivity gives push to business." "In 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced defence corridors of which one was given to Uttar Pradesh, UP defence corridor has six nodes – Kanpur, Lucknow, Agra, Aligarh, Jhansi and Chitrakoot.

All these are covered by expressways which will open up good opportunities for the state for defence manufacturing," said president, FICCI UP Chapter, Manoj Gupta.