

Expressways To Propel Overall Growth

E-ways also sites of UP's industrial devt: Awasthi

Neha.Lalchandani
@timesgroup.com

Expressways are 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, said UPEIDA CEO Awanish Awasthi at The Times of India's 'Expressway to Trillion Dollar Economy Con-



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AWANISH AWASTHI
UPEIDA CEO

clave' on Friday.

Discussing how the major expressways in the state have actually been conceived within the industry department, Awasthi said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked for four industrial estates to be established along the Purvanchal Expressway and two along the Bundelkhand Expressway.

"Although we are in the business of making expressways as road, the essential idea is to build industrial areas along expressways and that is the challenge before us. Now that the Purvanchal and Bundelkhand Expressways have been completed, the second phase of the challenge is to develop industrial areas along them," he said.

Awasthi said that the Bundelkhand Expressway would also serve the crucial role of connecting the rest of the state with the upcoming defence corridor via Jalaun-Jharohta link at Jhansi.

"Infrastructure like expressways, defence corridors, industrial and logistics areas lead to growth of the economy, in fact 20% growth. On Thursday, the Niti Aayog CEO and other members met the CM and together they have undertaken the task of achieving the goal of making UP a USD 1 trillion economy," he said.

Awasthi spoke about the global investors' summit planned for January 2023 and said that infrastructure, especially roads and expressways, would have an important role to play in helping the state realise its goal of getting Rs 10 lakh crore as investment.

Calling expressways the "spirit of national integration", Awasthi explained that a road connects any place to the rest of the state, leading to its integration with the country. "The distance between Lucknow and Azamgarh, which would earlier take 5-6 hours by road, can now be covered in 2.5 hours due to the Purvanchal Expressway," he said.

"Similarly, the Bundelkhand Expressway has brought Bundelkhand closer to the rest of the state. The Ganga Expressway will connect Meerut with Prayagraj and bring east and west UP closer. UP is the largest state and requires connectivity that brings areas closer. Roads play a critical role in nation and state building," he said, adding that with other expressways coming up in the state, including those being built by the National Highways Authority of India, UP was looking at a very positive future.



Industrial development minister Nand Gopal 'Nandi' addresses the TOI Expressway to Trillion Dollar Economy Conclave on Friday