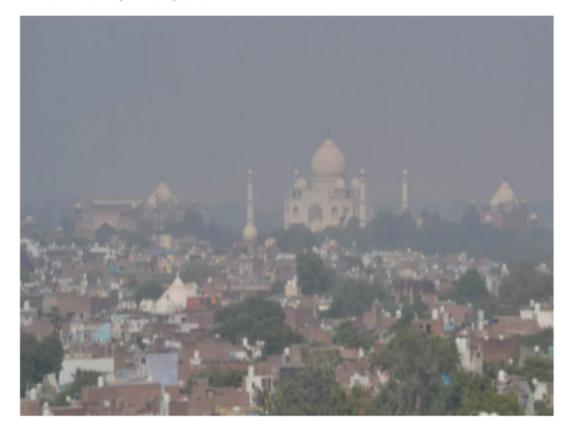
Zero pollution defence players can set up units in Agra node

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LUCKNOW: The land acquisition for the Agra node of the UP Defence Corridor is set to begin from next week. While 42 hectares of land has been identified, the process for allocation of funds required by the district administration is in final stage.

"About Rs 71 crore is needed to acquire the land identified and the state government has approved its allocation. The funds would reach the district administration in a week's time," said OP Pathak, officer on special duty UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), the nodal agency for implementation of the UP Defence Corridor project. Pathak said that the work for Agra node took time because of the sensitivity of the district.

"Agra falls under the Taj Trapezium Zone earmarked by the union

government and Supreme Court for the protection of the Taj Mahal. After clearances from the National Green Tribunal and other authorities concerned, we will now be able to go ahead with the project," he said.

On the kind of industries that would come up in the Agra node, Pathak said defence sector players in the 'white goods' category (zero pollution) may be able to set up their industry.

"There are clear guidelines from the government for the kind of industry in Agra area. Keeping up with the same, the state will allow defence sector players in the white goods category to set up units there," he said.

Planned across six nodes namely - Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Agra, Aligarh and Chitrakoot, the UP Defence corridor spreads across central, east, west region of Uttar Pradesh and also connects with the Golden Quadrilateral connecting the Delhi-Kolkata stretch via networks of expressways.