

# Going great guns: Swedish co keen to invest in def corridor

## Firm Responds To Request By UP Delegation

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**Lucknow:** Swedish aerospace and defence company Saab known for building the T 7A red hawk aircraft, has expressed the desire to invest in Uttar Pradesh, home to a sprawling defence corridor.

The company's senior officials mentioned that they would explore the opportunity to invest in UP Defence Corridor in response to the request made by delegation from UP.

Led by minister for industries Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi and public works department minister Jitin Prasad the delegation is traveling to several cities of Europe to mobilise investment for UP ahead of the GIS-2023.

Sharing about the company, senior officials informed that Saab was founded in 1937 with the primary aim to provide military aircraft for Sweden. Today, it serves the global market with world-leading products, services and solutions from military defence to civil security. With presence in every continent, Saab continuously develops, adapts and improves new technology to meet customers' changing needs. Experts are of the view that if it comes to UP's defence corridor, it will give a big push to the state's economy.

It may be noted that Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC) is an aspirational project that intends to reduce foreign dependency of Indian aerospace and defence sector. It took off to an encouraging start with the announcement of investments worth over Rs 3700 crore in defence production at the meet organised at Aligarh on 11 August 2018.

It is planned across 6 nodes—Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Agra, Aligarh and Chitrakoot—and spreads across central, east, west region of Uttar Pradesh and along the Golden Quadrilateral connecting Delhi-Kolkata is supported by networks of expressways.

This corridor aims to



**EYES ON THE GOAL:** A delegation led by ministers Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi and Jitin Prasad with weapons made by Saab

bring up the state as one of the largest and advanced defence manufacturing hubs and put it on the world map. Ordnance Factories, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and BrahMos Aerospace have planned investments in the state to further strengthen the defence manufacturing.



Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya in the Netherlands