

## **Biz in fast drive: Govt mulls industrial hubs along e-ways**

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Lucknow: In a few years from now, Banda district, close to Bundelkhand Expressway, could be the hub of natural health products industry while weavers in Barabanki's Haidergarh town could be the part of a textile manufacturing hub along the Purvanchal Expressway. The vision is a possibility being explored by the UP government in a systematic manner.

The state government had engaged professional consultants to study the feasibility of development of industrial corridors along the Purvanchal and Bundelkhand expressways. The idea is to make the most of the opportunity created in the form of improved connectivity through expressways.

Chief executive officer, UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority, Awanish Awasthi said, "Expressways will be the instruments of industrial development which will create mass employment that will improve the overall quality of life of people. The state also aspires to create a new model of development. Based on the findings of the consultants engaged, the work for land acquisition will be launched. Sector-specific industry consultations and briefs will also be organized to translate the vision into action."

The state infrastructure and industries development department had floated a tender for this in August 2021 and the consultant was appointed in December. The experts have now submitted their report to the state government saying that "the idea is feasible and integrated manufacturing corridors could be developed on both sides of the expressways to fuel economic development of the state".

Banda and Jalaun have been the points of study for the Bundelkhand Expressway which passes through Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Etawah. Likewise, Barabanki, Jaunpur, Gorakhpur and Ghazipur have been the points of assessment for the Purvanchal Expressway that connects the state capital with Ghazipur via Barabanki, Amethi, Sultanpur, Ayodhya, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh and Mau.

The districts have been assessed for potential in at least eight sectors like electrical and electronics, automobiles and heavy engineering, nutrition and nutraceuticals, food-agriculture, agricultural processing and food processing, meat processing and packaging, textiles and apparel manufacturing, medical supplies, logistics and warehousing besides others.