

# UP reclaims over 300 acres in 4 NCR dists

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Lucknow: Unauthorised encroachment on over 12.45 lakh square metres of land was removed by the state government through the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) in four districts, including Bulandshahr, Aligarh, Mathura and Gautam Buddh Nagar.

The facts came to fore at a presentation made by YEIDA before Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held last week. The move is part of Yogi government's drive to clear Uttar Pradesh of illegal encroachments.

As part of the campaign, teams from YEIDA demolished encroachments on 12,45,820 square metres between April 1 and August 30. Though the chunks of land reclaimed are scattered across nine villages, if they were a single unit, the area freed from squatters was big enough to start an entire industrial township.

"The total land freed from encroachers is about 307.8 acres which is comparable to the size of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The combined area is big enough to house at least 18 new Parliament buildings," explained Arunvir Singh, chief executive officer, YEIDA. He added that the financial worth of the land comes to Rs 12,45.82 crore (or 12.4 billion) when calculated as per the estimated market price of Rs 10,000 per square metre. The YEIDA authorities also said that notices were served to as many as 1,250 persons in 415 cases. They said that demolition orders and its subsequent implementation were carried out in 219 cases. The authority also registered FIRs against 79 individuals .

Citing CM Yogi Adityanath, an official statement said: "The larger purpose of the drive is to create a pool of land that can be used to accelerate development ."

Minister for industries and infrastructure development, Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, said: "Availability of land is extremely crucial in the journey towards turning UP into a one trillion-dollar economy. As of now, UP has a bank of about 8,000 acres while the CM has instructed to increase it to 12,000 acres."