

Budget funds to boost infra & connectivity

Focus On Roads And Transport

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: In a push to infrastructure development in Uttar Pradesh, the state budget of 2023-24 has focused heavily on construction and expansion of roads, highways and modes of transport.

Among the major projects for which funds have been allocated are Rs 150 crore for the ropeway service in Varanasi, Rs 585 crore for the Kanpur Metro Rail Project, Rs 465 crore for Agra Metro Rail Project and Rs 1,306 crore for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Corridor Regional Rapid Transit System project, a government spokesperson said. Another Rs 100 crore has been allocated for the Metro Rail in Varanasi, Gorakhpur and other cities.

Factoring in the continuous development around major cities and expansion of settlements, the government has proposed Rs 3,000 crore for new cities and expansion of old ones. For the coming financial year, Rs 9,000 crore has been allocated for the construction of 12,39,877 houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural) this year.

Besides, Rs 1,203 crore has been set aside under the Chief Minister's Housing Scheme (Rural). To provide better road connectivity in rural areas, Rs 5,966 crore has been allocated under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. To connect rural areas with existing expressways, Rs 235 crore has been allocated for the initial phases of projects like Jhansi and Chitrakoot Link Expressways.

Another Rs 550 crore has been allocated for Bundelkhand Expressway and Defence Corridor Project. For develop-

ment of an industrial corridor on both sides of the Gorakhpur Link Expressway, Rs 200 crore has been allocated.

The government has also proposed to build six industrial manufacturing complexes, four along the Purvanchal Expressway and two along the Bundelkhand Expressway. Another Rs 25 crore has been earmarked for the establishment and development of Pharma Parks.

A government spokesperson said that budgetary provision of Rs 21,159.62 crore has

been made for construction of roads and Rs 6,209.5 crore for maintenance. A provision of Rs 1,700 crore has been made for roads overbridges (ROBs) and Rs 1,850 crore for other bridges. Similarly, the government is going to spend Rs 2,588.80 crore on widening of state highways and Rs 2,538.80 crore for widening of district-level roads. The government will spend Rs 1,000 crore on development of religious routes and Rs 50 crore on construction of four-lane roads in industrial and logistics parks.