

UPgraded: How Yogi Government Is Heralding An Infrastructure Revolution In Uttar Pradesh

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Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath (File picture)

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Only days ago, when the government in Uttar Pradesh presented its state budget for this fiscal, it allocated more than one-fifth of the government's expenditure to infrastructure. This, while not announcing any new infrastructure projects. The 2.04 lakh crore is going to be spent just on finishing existing projects.

In his motion of thanks to the Governor, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recently said that with the launch of infrastructure projects and public welfare schemes, 'new Uttar Pradesh' is making a breakthrough for new India. "The state government has given momentum to the development of land, water and air infrastructure facilities," he added.

According to Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh will soon become the first state in India to have 21 airports. The state currently has five domestic and three international airports, as per Invest UP, the Government of Uttar Pradesh's online investment platform.

Expressways to connect India's most populous state have been another area of focus for the Uttar Pradesh government. The state has the Yamuna and Agra expressways that connect state capital Lucknow to Delhi. The Bundelkhand and Purvanchal expressways that connect cities to UP's most far-flung ramparts. And works are on for the Ganga Expressway which will connect key export hubs of Uttar Pradesh and help freight movement.

Along with expressways, Uttar Pradesh today has nearly four lakh kilometres of road network and 11,000 kilometres of highway network. UP also has the country's largest railway network covering nearly 9,000 kilometres, the entirety of which is electrified.

Adityanath, in his motion of thanks reply, said, "After the construction of Purvanchal Expressway, Bundelkhand Expressway and Gorakhpur Link Expressway, the Ballia Link Expressway and the Chitrakoot Link Expressway will be built soon." He added that the government is keen on opening the Ganga Expressway before the Prayagraj Mahakumbh that will take place in early 2025.

Senior IAS officer Anil Kumar Sagar, principal secretary of UP's Infrastructure and Industrial Development department, told e-governance journal Elets recently that the government has prioritised infrastructure projects to bolster connectivity within the state and beyond.

According to Sagar, the key developments include the completion of the Purvanchal Expressway and Bundelkhand Expressway. "In the recent budget (2024-25), the government has allocated funds for vital projects: Rs 2,057 crore for the Ganga Expressway, Rs 100 crore for Ayodhya overall development, Rs 150 crore for the expansion of Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, and Rs 1,750 crore for road development to religious sites."

Other areas of focus of the government remain improving law and order to ensure greater investment, electrify villages and push for renewable energy. In his recent speech in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, Yogi Adityanath said, "By the end of this year, our power generation capacity will reach 12,800 megawatt. In 2017, electricity supply had reached 1,28,494 villages. Last year, electricity was supplied to 2,49,818 villages. It clearly shows that 100% hamlets have been electrified."

He added that until 2017, the total installed capacity of solar energy projects in Uttar Pradesh was 288 megawatt, which has now gone up to 2,596 megawatt. "Solar energy based power projects have increased 10 times in the last seven years. While Ayodhya and Kashi are being developed as Solar Cities, Bundelkhand Expressway is being prepared as Solar Expressway," he said.

Talking about his government's focus on law and order, Adityanath said his government has taken many important steps to create an environment of security among common people. "Today Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a role model in the direction of crime eradication in the country," he added.