

Yeida says freed 1.63mn sqm along e-way from land mafia since 2021

Vinod Rajput

vinod.rajput@htlive.com

GREATER NOIDA: The Yamuna Expressway industrial development authority (Yeida) has freed at least 1.63 million square metres of land valued at ₹1,900 crore along the Yamuna expressway from the land mafia between April 2021 and March 2024, Yeida officials aware of the matter said on Sunday.

In that time, Yeida issued notices to 1,740 owners of the illegally seized land, demolished unauthorised constructions on the land of 347 owners, and had 138 first information reports registered against people developing illegal projects. Action will

be taken against 1,393 owners after they reply to the notices, officials said, adding that no penalties have been levied so far.

According to Yeida, villages around the under-construction Noida International Airport in Jewar have emerged as the hotbed of unauthorised development.

They are Jhajhar and Inayatpur in Bulandshahr, which are closest to the airport, Dorpiri in Aligarh and Dankaur, and Jewar and Jahangirpuri in Gautam Budh Nagar. To be sure, the sale and purchase of land around the airport is banned as it is a notified area and no housing projects can be developed there without Yeida's approval.

"Our drive against unauthorised structures in the notified area along Yamuna expressway continues. When our staff discover or get a complaint about an illegal project, then the authority's land department along with the team including earthmovers, tractors, dumpers and police personnel demolishes the structures and also files an FIR against those behind the illegal activity," said a Yeida official, who was not authorised to speak to the media due to the model code of conduct.

According to Section 10 of the Uttar Pradesh Industrial Development Act, 1976, Yeida issues a show cause notice before demolishing an illegal structure. If the

accused fails to submit a satisfactory reply to the show cause notice then the authority files FIRs and also imposes a penalty depending on the scale of violations, said officials.

Yeida has issued public notices and advertisements to warn the public against buying illegal plots in a bid to check the development of unauthorised neighbourhoods near the Jewar airport site.

"We are appealing to the general public that they should be cautious about buying plots in these unauthorised projects being developed in notified areas," said Abhay Singh, sub-divisional magistrate in charge of the airport project.