

# Ganga e-way to open before Maha Kumbh

## Project On Track Despite Rain | Main Corridor To Be Ready Before Dec 31 Deadline

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

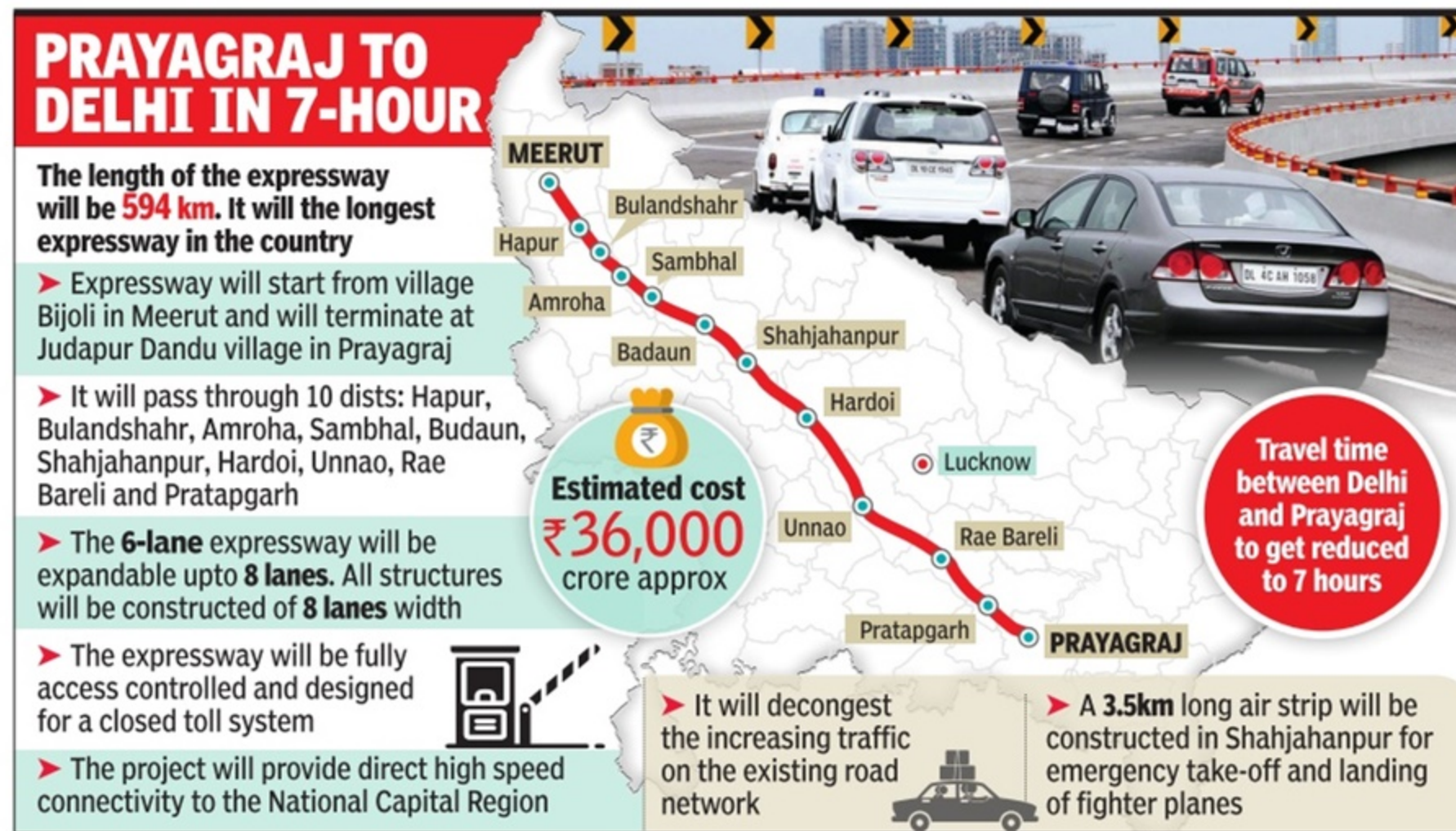
**Lucknow:** With work progressing according to the timeline even during the monsoon, the 594-km Ganga Expressway is set to be opened to the public by Dec 31.

The ambitious project of the Yogi Adityanath government will connect the Bijauli locality in Meerut with Judapur Dandu in Prayagraj. The addition of the Delhi-Meerut Expressway will thus provide a seamless drive between Delhi and Prayagraj in approximately seven hours.

The state government has asked the agencies executing the project to expedite the construction of the two major bridges — a 960-metre-long bridge between Meerut and Badaun (over the Ganga) and a 720-metre-long bridge between Badaun and Hardoi (over the Ram-ganga).

The entire stretch of the six-lane expressway will comprise 14 major bridges, 7 railway over-bridges, 32 flyovers, and a 3.5-km-long airstrip for the emergency landing of fighter planes in the Jalalabad area of Shahjahanpur district.

The Expressways Industrial Authority (UPEIDA) has asked officials to ensure that all the essential structures and the high-speed corridor are ready before the deadline (Dec 31) so that it can help facilitate the movement of motor vehicles to Prayagraj during the Maha Kumbh



in January next year. Being constructed with a budget of Rs 36,230 crore, the Ganga Expressway will provide accessibility and connectivity to 12 districts.

A total of 7,453 hectares of land spanning over 518 villages has been aggregated for the project.

Having a right-of-way width of 120 meters, the expressway will have six lanes with a scope to add two more lanes in the future as per future need.

While the speed limit will be fixed once the stretch is ready, UPEIDA officials said that the agencies executing the work have been asked to design the ex-

pressway to facilitate the commute of vehicle owners at the speed of 120 km per hour.

Divided into four segments, the Meerut-Badaun section (129.70 km) is being built by IRB Infrastructure Developers Limited, while the remaining three segments Badaun-Hardoi (151.70 km), Hardoi-Unnao (155.70 km), and Unnao-Prayagraj (156.85 km) are being constructed by Adani Infrastructure.

Sharing more details, a senior officer from the authority said that 82% of the earthwork has been done on the main carriageway. Similarly, the sub-base on 58% of the carriageway is

complete, while bituminous macadam has been rolled out over 50% of the 596-km-long stretch. Out of the 1,481 structures, the two construction agencies have already commissioned 1,215 structures.

While two main toll plazas will be constructed over the carriageway in Meerut and Prayagraj, 15 more plazas will come up on the entry and exit ramps. Nine facilities will also be set up on the route to cater to the commuters.

“The expressway will bring down the commute time between west and east Uttar Pradesh,” said the officer.