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Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway nears completion, set to open by June 2025

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Synopsis

The Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway, a 62.7 km, six-lane access-controlled highway, aims to enhance connectivity between Lucknow and Kanpur, cutting travel time to 35-45 minutes from the current 1.5-3 hours. Designed for future expansion to eight lanes, it features elevated sections, bridges, underpasses, and flyovers. The INR 4,700 crore project, executed under the EPC model, is 80% complete as of February 2025 and is expected to be operational by June 2025, ahead of schedule. The expressway is set to boost economic activities, industrial logistics, and real estate development, making Kanpur more attractive for residential and commercial investments.



Representative image

The Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway is a significant infrastructure project aimed at enhancing connectivity between Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, and Kanpur, a major industrial city. This expressway is expected to alleviate traffic congestion, improve industrial logistics, and stimulate real estate development in the region.

The necessity for the Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway arose from increasing traffic volumes on the existing National Highway 27 (NH-27), which connects the two

cities over approximately 85 kilometers. Frequent congestion on NH-27 led to travel times extending from 1.5 to 3 hours, hindering efficient transportation and economic activities. To address these challenges, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) proposed the development of a dedicated expressway to provide a faster and more reliable connection.

The Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway is designed as a six-lane, access-controlled expressway, with provisions for future expansion to eight lanes. Spanning approximately 62.7 kilometers, the expressway will commence at Shaheed Path in South Lucknow and terminate near Azad Marg Chauraha, adjacent to the Ganga Bridge in Kanpur. The route will traverse key locations, including Nawabganj, Banthar, Bani, Kantha, Taura, Neverna, and Amarsus Ata.

Notably, the expressway will feature two elevated sections between Amausi and Bani, measuring 3.375 kilometers and 9.14 kilometers, respectively. The infrastructure will encompass three major bridges, 28 minor bridges, 38 underpasses, and six flyovers, ensuring seamless connectivity and minimal disruption to local traffic.

As of February 2025, the construction of the Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway has reached approximately 80% completion. The project has benefited from the adoption of advanced technologies, such as Automated Machine Guidance (AMG), which have expedited construction processes and enhanced precision. The expressway is projected to be operational by June 2025, significantly ahead of its initial December 2025 deadline.

The total estimated investment for the Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway is INR 4,700 crore (approximately USD 630 million). This budget encompasses land acquisition, construction, and the integration of modern technological features. The project is being executed under the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) model, which involves the contractor being responsible for all activities from design to construction, ensuring a single point of accountability.

Upon completion, the Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway is expected to revolutionize transportation between the two cities by reducing travel time to approximately 35-45 minutes. This improvement will not only enhance commuter convenience but also bolster economic activities by facilitating more efficient movement of goods and services.

The enhanced connectivity provided by the expressway is poised to have a transformative effect on Kanpur's housing market. Improved accessibility is likely to attract both residential and commercial real estate investments. Developers anticipate increased demand for housing projects, particularly in areas adjacent to the expressway, as professionals working in Lucknow may consider residing in Kanpur due to the reduced commute time. Additionally, the establishment of a "Highway Village" along the expressway, featuring amenities such as restaurants, hotels, and fuel stations, is expected to further stimulate real estate development in the vicinity.

The Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway is more than just a transportation project; it is a catalyst for regional development. By enhancing connectivity, the expressway is expected to attract industries, boost tourism, and improve the overall socio-economic landscape of the region. The project aligns with the broader vision of infrastructural advancement, positioning Uttar Pradesh as a hub of economic activity in Northern India.

The Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway represents a significant stride towards modernizing infrastructure, reducing congestion, and fostering economic growth. Its completion is eagerly awaited, with expectations of profound positive impacts on transportation efficiency and real estate development in Kanpur and the surrounding regions.

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