

New expressways & airports have put UP on path to rapid eco growth in 8 yrs

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Lucknow: The state, once associated with pothole-ridden roads, crumbling infrastructure and sluggish development, continues to rise as one of the fastest-growing states in the country. Before 2017, the state suffered from a lack of political will and strategic planning.

However, a transformative shift began in 2017 under the leadership of chief minister Yogi Adityanath. With strong coordination between the centre and the state, the groundwork for an infrastructure revolution was laid. Before 2017, UP's image was marred by broken roads and stalled projects. The Lucknow-Agra expressway was incomplete, while ambitious projects like the Purvanchal, Bundelkhand and Ganga expressways were on the backburner. Villages and small towns were poorly connected to major urban centres, hin-



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Currently, seven expressways are operational across the state, while 15 more are either under construction or proposed.

Upon completion of the Ganga expressway, UP alone will account for six out of every 10km of expressway network in the country. The roads are also linking previously neglected regions such as Bundelkhand, Purvanchal and Terai. Moreover, industrial clusters, MSME parks and agro-based industries are being developed along the expressway corridors, crea-

ting jobs and fuelling economic growth.

Also, UP now has 16 operational airports, including four international airports — Lucknow, Varanasi, Kishanganj and Ayodhya. The Noida International Airport, currently under construction in Jewar, is set to become the largest in the country and is expected to be operational by the end of 2025. The network of Metro rail services has also expanded and spans across the state. From just Lucknow, two more cities, Kanpur and Agra, can now boast of Metro rail services.

The first rapid rail corridor has also been launched between Delhi and Meerut. Additionally, groundwork is underway for Metro networks in several other cities such as Prayagraj, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Jhansi and Bareilly. Simultaneously, development is progressing on inland waterways, including the Varanasi-Haldia.

In the Greater Noida-Jewar region alone, investments worth Rs 27,521 crore have flowed in, generating over 16,400 jobs between 2023 and 2025. Other major projects under development include the PM Mitra Mega Textile Park in Lucknow, Mega Food Park in Bareilly, Trans Ganga City in Unnao, Plastic Park in Gorakhpur, and the country's first freight village in Varanasi.

While 17 municipal corporations have been developed as smart cities, 757 projects have been either executed or are underway with a budget of Rs 10,300 crore under the Smart City Mission. In terms of road infrastructure, the last eight years have witnessed unprecedented progress.

On average, 11km of new roads and 9km of road widening have been accomplished every day. Over 32,000km of rural roads have been built, and more than 25,000km have been upgraded.