

‘Govt support gave boost to def units’

Team TOI

A panel of defence experts, industry veterans, and tech entrepreneurs underlined how infrastructure development, policy support and industrial participation have aligned to accelerate India's defence growth in the session ‘UP's Strategic Defence Corridor: From Manufacturing to Modernisation’. MKU Ltd chairman Manoj Gupta said

defence corridor's infrastructure support—such as uninterrupted power, road connectivity and single-window clearances—has helped boost manufacturing.

Sudhir Mishra, former CEO & MD of BrahMos Aerospace credited govt's quick response in 2021 for enabling BrahMos to select Lucknow as new base. Milind Raj, po-

pularly known as the Drone Man of India, spoke on MSME sector and new-age innovators. Defence expert Maj Gen (retd) Ajay Chaturvedi underscored the need for capacity building.

“UP's story is not just about infrastructure,” said Col

Sanjay Singh, CGM, UPDIC. In a session on investments, panellists discussed strengths and weaknesses of UP. The panel comprised director of Skill

Development Mission, Pulkit Khare, founder-chairman of Aavishkaar Group, Vineet Rai, ACEO of Invest UP, Shashank Chaudhary, director, Foundation for Economic Development, Rahul Ahluwalia, and ex-IAS officer Amit Mohan Prasad. Meanwhile, ACEO, UPEIDA, Hari Pratap Shahi said govt was determined to expand network of expressways.



Infrastructure Chapter