

State to ensure air connectivity, e-ways in all dists



The upcoming Jewar international airport will be among Asia's largest airports and help in giving UP a new identity as a cargo and transit hub

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: To promote investment and regional development, the state govt is planning to give a massive push to connectivity in the state, having set specific targets to achieve the idea of a 'Viksit UP' by 2047.

By 2030, the govt plans to build a north-south connectivity in the state.

The plans include linking all district headquarters with expressways, developing multipurpose transit hubs on the Nepal border, and constructing world-class ropeways at

'VIKSIT UP' 2047

major tourist destinations.

As part of its long-term plan until 2047, every division in UP will have its own airport.

"The goal is to connect all 75 districts through expressways and air connectivity. Additionally, green smart highways, air cargo hubs, heliports, and a modern aviation ecosystem will establish UP as a global connectivity centre," said a govt spokesperson.

The govt has stated that under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, UP's road length grew from 51,549 km in 2013-14

to 56,846 km by 2016-17. Air connectivity was limited, with passenger numbers rising by only 55 lakh in 17 years between 1999 and 2016. Before 2017, the state had merely three expressways and a few functional airports.

After 2017, road length under PMGSY expanded to 77,425 km by 2024-25. In the aviation sector, 12 domestic and 4 international airports are now operational.

In 2016-17, there were three expressways in the state. By 2025-26, this number rose to 22, including operational and under-construction ones like the Purvanchal Expressway, Bundelkhand Expressway, Yamuna Expressway, Agra-Lucknow Expressway, and Gorakhpur Link Expressway.

In 2004-05, UP's national highway network was 5,599 km, which increased to 12,292 km by 2023-24.

Improvement in air travel included 16 new and five under-construction airports, including 12 domestic and 4 international airports. The upcoming Jewar international airport will be among Asia's largest airports and help in giving UP a new identity as a cargo and transit hub, the spokesperson said.