

PM LIKELY TO INAUGURATE THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT NEXT MONTH

Ganga Expressway is almost ready. What govt hopes it will do for UP

Completed in four years at a cost of Rs 36,230 cr, the expressway is set to reduce the travel time from Meerut to Prayagraj, from 12 hours to 6-8 hours



Maulshree Seth
Lucknow, January 15

THE 594-KM long, 6-lane, access-controlled Ganga Expressway from Meerut to Prayagraj, one of the longest expressways in the country built in one state, is almost complete and ready for inauguration next month, most likely by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In Uttar Pradesh, where elections are due next year and where the expressway will impact over 60 Assembly constituencies directly and indirectly, it is being seen as more than an infrastructure project. The Indian Express looks at all the aspects of the project, which is set to reduce the travel time from Meerut to Prayagraj from about 12 hours to 6-8 hours.

The project

Completed in four years at a cost of Rs 36,230 crore, the Ganga Expressway provides east-to-west connectivity, starting from Bijauli in the Meerut district and ending at Judapur Dandu in Prayagraj district, passing through Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj. It covers a total of 518 villages across 7,463 hectares of land.

"While the construction is complete, some minor works and trial runs remain, which are being conducted right now. We expect the project to be inaugurated anytime after February 15, whenever we get the time from the dignitaries," a senior officer of the Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority, the nodal agency for the project, said.

IN NUMBERS

593.947 kilometres

Total length of the project

₹36,230 cr

Total cost: ₹36,230 crore.

**FOUNDATION
STONE LAID ON:**
December 18, 2021

The project has been designed to accommodate vehicle speeds of up to 120 kilometers per hour.

Its construction

The project has been built in four separate stretches, three by Adani Infrastructure and one by IRB Infrastructure.

The construction includes 14 long bridges, including a 900-metre bridge on the Ganga in Hapur district, and a 720-metre bridge on the Ram Ganga in Badaun. Other structures include seven railway overbridges, 32 flyovers, and 453 underpasses.

A 3.5-kilometre airstrip has also been built in the Jalalabad tehsil of Shahjahanpur district along the expressway, which can be used for emergency landing and takeoff operations. The Air Force had conducted its first test run here on May 2, 2025.

Political & economic significance

A similar project was conceptualised in 2007 by the government of Mayawati, who even laid the foundation stone



(Above) The Ganga Expressway criss-crossing the rivers along its way: (left) a plinth that was laid by the then chief minister Mayawati in 2007 in Ballia as part of a similar expressway project.

gan "UP+Yogi-bahut hai UP-YOGI (UP and its CM Yogi Adityanath are very useful)."

Now, it is set to be inaugurated ahead of the next state elections.

The expressway is expected to give "fresh momentum to the state's economic development" and "political mileage" to the BJP, officials said. Since it connects Prayagraj, the government is also hoping to boost religious tourism, considering that a huge number of pilgrims had travelled to Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh via road.

Out of the 12 Lok Sabha constituencies the project covers, five were won by the INDI al-

liance — three by SP and two by Congress, including Rahul Gandhi's Rae Bareilly — while the rest are with the BJP.

This would be the fifth major expressway project in Uttar Pradesh, with the first one being the Yamuna Expressway, developed under Mayawati, and the second being the Lucknow-Agra Expressway developed during the Akhilesh Yadav-led SP regime. The Purvanchal and Bundelkhand expressways were developed in Yogi Adityanath's previous tenure. The Ganga Expressway is a longer and more ambitious project than these.

