

2 of India's 7 high-speed rail corridors for state

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LUCKNOW : Two high-speed rail corridors passing through Uttar Pradesh promise to transform the state's economic landscape and religious tourism, with Lucknow emerging as a key station on a network that will connect Delhi to Varanasi in under four hours and link holy city to Siliguri in less than three.

High-speed rail refers to trains travelling above 250 km per hour on dedicated tracks with specially designed infrastructure and rolling stock.

Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the details on Sunday in New Delhi, following Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget announcement of seven high-

speed rail corridors. These include Mumbai-Pune, Pune-Hyderabad, Hyderabad-Bengaluru, Hyderabad-Chennai, Chennai-Bengaluru, Delhi-Varanasi and Varanasi-Siliguri. Vaishnaw said work on all seven corridors is expected to begin simultaneously in a few months after preparatory processes are completed. Railway officials said Lucknow will be a major station on the Delhi-Varanasi corridor. Other proposed stations include Delhi, Noida, Jewar Airport, Mathura, Agra, Firozabad, Etawah, Kannauj, Rae Bareilly, Prayagraj, New Bhadohi and Varanasi, connecting

UP's religious and industrial centres. The Varanasi-Siliguri corridor will extend high-speed connectivity to eastern and north-eastern India.

