

ACCENT REGION

UTTAR PRADESH

UP to expand ambit of defence corridor

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With the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC) gaining traction from investors, the state government is looking to expand the ambit of the mega project.

While UPDIC currently spans six nodes namely Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Aligarh, Agra and Chitrakoot, the state will now acquire land in the adjoining districts to cater the demand.

According to a senior official, the nodal agency UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) will actively scout for land parcels in other districts if congruous land is not available in the six nodes. "Moreover, if the investors demand land in other districts for a viable defence manufacturing project, then the government could also consider clubbing such projects in the UPDIC ambit," he added.

For example, although Amethi district is not a node of the UPDIC, a joint-venture Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited has already started manufacturing Kalashnikov series' AK-203 assault rifles in the industrial town of Korwa. Similarly, Unnao district, which lies between Lucknow and Kanpur, is practically part of the overarching theme of the ambitious Corridor.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the hike in the defence sector allocation in the Union Budget 2026-27 would bolster the UPDIC and its bouquet of projects. "A large number of defence projects have either been completed or currently underway in Uttar Pradesh including Adani Group, PTC and Bharat Dynamics," he said.

So far, UPEIDA has signed nearly 200 memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with leading defence and aerospace companies for setting up production units in the UPDIC.