

'7 petrol pumps have already been made operational on this stretch'

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Being commissioned with a budget of about Rs 36,200 crore, the foundation stone of the project was also laid by the PM in December 2021 in Shahjahanpur. However, this time the flag-off of the first car that would hit the carriageway is expected to take place in Hardoi.

The expressway, developed by UPEIDA is going to connect Meerut to Prayagraj, traversing through 10 more districts on the way. UP's excise minister Nitin Agarwal said, "As the largest portion of the expressway passes through Hardoi, I requested the chief minister to hold the inauguration ceremony. People from central UP are also going to gain once the ex-

pressway is ready for vehicular use." Agarwal is a four-time MLA from Hardoi.

The six-lane expressway would have a right of way of 120 metres along with service roads spanning 3.75 metres in places where important towns and villages are situated along its alignment.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson of the Adani Enterprises Limited, which is constructing 464 kilometers (around 80%) of the stretch from Badaun to Prayagraj, said that at least seven petrol pumps have already been made operational on this stretch. "All these fuel stations will be operated by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited under the COCO (Company Owned Company Operated) model, ensuring quality and re-

liability," he added. "Keeping traveler convenience in mind, facilities have been developed at an average interval of every 60 kilometers. Food courts and roadside eateries (dhabas) have also been constructed, with two already operational in Shahjahanpur and Unnao districts," he added.

"The expressway is designed to be expandable up to eight lanes in the future. Built under the DBFOT (Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Transfer) model, it stands among the largest expressway projects in India," he said.

Connecting Meerut to Prayagraj, the expressway will further integrate with the Purvanchal Expressway and Yamuna Expressway, significantly strengthening connectivity between Delhi-NCR and eastern UP. One of its biggest advantages is the reduction in travel time between Meerut and Prayagraj—from approximately 11 hours to just around 6 hours.