



ON FAST LANE: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Ganga Expressway from Hardoi district on April 29



594-km Ganga Expressway set to go full throttle, toll formula unchanged

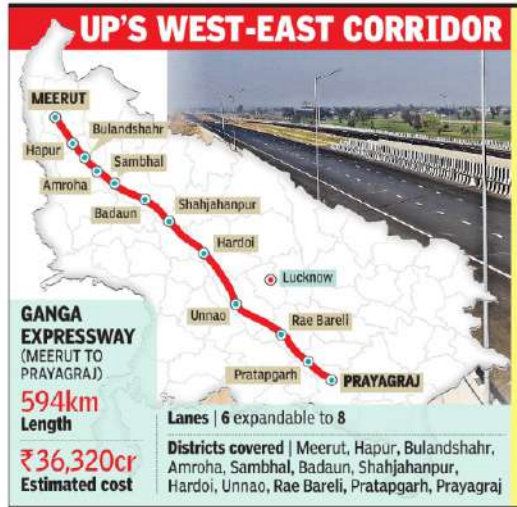
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Gearing up for the inauguration ceremony of the state's largest expressway, Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Authority Development (UPEIDA) officials said that the user fee will be imposed soon after the expressway is thrown open for vehicular use.

Being developed under the public-private partnership model, the toll plazas will be operated by the concessionaires (Adani Enterprises Ltd and IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd), who have been given the rights to collect the toll for the next 30 years from the expressway users.

The toll charges are going to be at par with the user fee that is levied over the other operational expressways under the authority, a senior officer said.

Also, on the lines of Agra-Lucknow, Purvanchal, Bundelkhand and Gorakhpur Link expressways, two-wheelers and three-wheelers, tractors, four-wheelers as well as other commercial and heavy vehicles will be allowed to operate on Ganga Expressway.



KEY LINKAGES

Starting point | Bijauli locality in Meerut next to NH 334 (Meerut-Hapur road)

End point | Soraon in Prayagraj next to NH 330 A (Prayagraj Bypass)

- Commuters from Dehi and NCR can take Delhi-Meerut expressway, get off the way to reach Bijauli and enter Ganga Eway (4km through NH 334)
- Commuters from Prayagraj will cross Phaphamau Ganga bridge to reach Soraon and enter Ganga Eway
- Commuters from Lucknow will have to cover almost 50km over Agra-Lucknow expressway to interchange to Ganga Eway



ed for, hence, we see variation in user charges for different expressways. However, the base rate is same for all the expressways. The concessionaires will follow the same formula while calculating the user charges for Ganga Expressway and should take our approval. We will not allow a lot of variation in the charges," he added.

The per-kilometre construction cost (along with land) for the four expressways also varies and ranges between Rs 45 crore and Rs 80 crore.

To improve the catchment area and attract increased traffic, interchanges allowing transfer of traffic to national highways and other important roads en route would be possible at 21 locations soon after the carriageway is opened up.

The interchanges have been provided at Meerut, Hapur, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareilly, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj, out of which people staying in Badaun and Hardoi would benefit the most as three important roads in both the districts would merge with the Ganga expressway.

Expressway.

Officials said the stretch could be thrown open for vehicular use after Prime Minister Narendra Modi flags off the first motor vehicle on the stretch on April 29.

UPEIDA officials clarified that though the expressway will be operated under the direct supervision of the construction companies, toll charges will be calculated in accordance with the Uttar Pradesh Expressway (Levy of Tolls and Fixing of Fees and Realisation Thereof) Rules, framed to collect toll on Agra-Lucknow expressway, the

first high-speed corridor developed by UPEIDA.

For a four-wheeler, the authority presently charges in the range of Rs 2.05 to Rs 3.12 for every kilometre. And for a two-wheeler, the per-kilometre rates are in the range of Rs 1.02 to Rs 1.53.

"The final cost for Ganga Expressway, which will be 594-km long, is yet to be worked out. It will be announced around the time of its opening. The toll charges are decided according to the final construction cost of the project," an officer said.

"Several factors are account-