Jhansi, Chitrakoot all set for direct eway connectivity

Two New Links To Plug Last-Mile Gap

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



FAST-TRACK CONNECTIVITY

Lucknow: Commuters travelling from Delhi, NCR, Lucknow, Kanpur and Agra to Jhansi and Chitrakoot are set to get seamless connectivity, with Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) finalising construction agencies for two link expressways that will plug major gaps in Bundelkhand Expressway network.

The projects, comprising the 106.3-km Jhansi Link Expressway and the 15.2-km Chitrakoot Link Expressway, are expected to bring Bundelkhand's economic and religious hubs directly onto Uttar Pradesh's expanding expressway grid.

Once completed, motorists will no longer have to leave access-controlled corridors and negotiate conventional highways, local roads and urban traffic to reach Jhansi or Chitrakoot Dham.

The development is expected to benefit residents, pilgrims, traders, manufacturers and businesses across Bundelkhand. UPEIDA is preparing to begin construction on both corridors, being developed as extensions of the 296-km Bundelkhand Expressway.

Bundelkhand Expressway already provides high-speed connectivity between Chitrakoot and Etawah, but travellers bound for Chitrakoot Dham have to leave the expressway and use local roads for the final stretch. Proposed Chitrakoot Link Expressway will provide a direct connection to the pilgrimage town, improving access to the ghats of Mandakini River. The link would also improve accessibility within UP for Madhya Pradesh residents, with families in Satna and Rewa districts expected to use Chitrakoot Dham Link Expressway and Bundelkhand Expressway to reach Agra, Lucknow and NCR.

Similarly, Jhansi Link Expressway, being executed in two packages, will directly connect Jhansi with Bundelkhand Expressway near Jalaun. The project is expected to significantly improve regional mobility by integrating one of Bundelkhand's largest urban centres with the state's expressway network.

UPEIDA additional chief executive officer Shrihari Pratap Shahi said Public-Private Partnership Bid Evaluation Committee (PPPBEC), chaired by Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner Alok Kumar, evaluated the financial bids.

UPEIDA is expected to award Chitrakoot Link Expressway contract to MKC Infrastructure Limited. For Jhansi Link Expressway, Package-I is set to be developed by MKC Infrastructure Limited, while Package-II is likely to be executed by LLC Volgodorstrol.

The projects are also expected to strengthen connectivity to UP Defence Industrial Corridor and Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority (BIDA) region.