

UTTAR PRADESH THE GROWTH MANTRA



BIG INFRASTRUCTURE PUSH TO BE GAMECHANGER FOR THE STATE

Major thrust on highways, ports and airports to boost connectivity and improve logistics

Madhvi Solly

Uttar Pradesh aims to become a one-trillion-dollar economy by 2027. In line with India's goal of achieving a five-trillion-dollar economy, the state government has committed to implementing policies and initiatives to achieve this ambitious target.

Since his first term in early 2017, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has focused on creating a business-friendly environment, driving economic growth, and generating more job opportunities. In recent years, the government has focused on developing transportation infrastructure, including roads, railways, and airports, while the Ganga river has served as an ancient trade route connecting Uttar Pradesh to other regions. In modern times, a 370 km long waterway connects the ancient city Prayagraj with the industrial hub Haldia in West Bengal via several critical commercial centres in the state.

In recent years, Uttar Pradesh's untapped potential has been unleashed by improved logistics, attracting the attention of investors and catapulting it to newfound success. Improved access to services, livelihood opportunities, and reliable transportation of goods also limit rural-to-urban migration.

INFRASTRUCTURE PUSH

Positioned strategically at the intersection of the Western dedicated freight corridor and Eastern dedicated freight corridor, Uttar Pradesh aims to leverage its logistical advantage, further supported by the development of multi-modal logistics and transport hubs in the Dadri region. "Substantial investments have been made to develop an extensive expressway network of 1800 km in the state of Uttar Pradesh. This comprehensive infrastructure network not only accelerates trade but also positions the state as a key player, fostering overall socio-economic development," says Vishal Gupta, Executive Director (Infrastructure) at Deloitte India.

The ambitious plan to develop nine major airports underscores Uttar Pradesh's commitment to global connectivity and economic growth. According to Gupta, Jewar Airport, which is set to handle 50 million passengers annually, exemplifies the state's substantial



exporters," he adds.

Uttar Pradesh has earned the nickname "Expressway State" due to its well-developed National Highway network comprising 13 expressways. The state has six completed and seven under-construction expressways that seamlessly connect manufacturing hubs to remote areas.

"This strategic planning has attracted investments from multinational corporations and various other companies. Several companies, including AB Maari, Britannia, ITC, Berger Paints, JK Cements, MP Birla Cement, and Hindustan Unilever, have invested heavily or expanded operations in the state," says Akash Goenka, President, CH, UP Chapter about the government's proactive approach in initiating expressway and infrastructure projects for robust connectivity networks.

Goenka believes that the influx of these significant players highlights the attractiveness of Uttar Pradesh as a burgeoning business destination, driven by its forward-thinking infrastructure initiative.

Dr. Chandan Sharma, a professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Management Lucknow, believes that the development of infrastructure and logistics can help overcome the challenges faced by a landlocked state.

The state has made significant progress in recent years, particularly in improving road connectivity. This has not only reduced transportation costs for companies but also ensured timely delivery of goods for both domestic and international customers.

Dr. Sharma expects a significant

increase in investment in industries such as food processing, textile, leather, logistics, warehousing, industrial parks, electronics, IT hardware, chemicals, automobiles, tourism, and real estate in the next 2-3 years. "Less expensive labour and land, along with good connectivity, will help attract a large investment in years to come," he adds.

The improved road connectivity and the Delhi-Meerut regional rapid rail transit system have already attracted people in Delhi to invest in Western Uttar Pradesh, says Vinayak Chatterjee, Founder & Managing Trustee of The InfraVision Foundation.

"The Uttar Pradesh government has accomplished impressive infrastructure growth across the rail, road, and aviation sectors. The projects are well-conceived, and their implementation is commendable in terms of speed and efficiency, from land acquisition to the tendering process. Such initiatives are expected to invigorate the state's economy and GDP while also providing excellent domestic and international connectivity," says Chatterjee.

The 2023 Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit received investment proposals worth over Rs 40 lakh crore and resulted in the signing of over 20,652 MoUs, generating more than one crore employment opportunities.

Former US President John F Kennedy had famously said, "It is not wealth that built our roads but roads that built our wealth." Uttar Pradesh is building not just roads but also railways and runways to touch the 1 trillion dollar mark by all possible means.

RAPID RAIL : NOVEL TRANSIT SYSTEM

Uttar Pradesh has the distinction of being the first state where India will witness the completion of the rapid rail transit system (RRTS). The project, which was recently renamed as Namo Bharat train service, is a semi-high speed corridor connecting Delhi with Ghaziabad and Meerut and aims to be completed by June 2025. In October 2023, PM Modi had inaugurated the first phase of the 82 km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor. Post completion, the RRTS will cut down travel time from 3 hours by road to just 55 minutes.



EXPRESSWAY TO ECONOMIC GROWTH

'Expressway Capital of India', Uttar Pradesh boasts of many expressways. They offer seamless connectivity to producing centres with consuming geographies and mainstreaming the remotest regions.

OPERATIONAL EXPRESSWAY

- Yamuna Expressway
- Noida - Greater Noida Expressway
- Agra - Lucknow Expressway
- Delhi - Meerut Expressway
- Purvanchal Expressway
- Bundelkhand Expressway

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Gorakhpur Link Expressway
- Ganga Expressway
- Lucknow - Kanpur Expressway
- Ghaziabad - Kanpur Expressway
- Gorakhpur Sitapur Expressway
- Delhi - Saharanpur - Dehradun Expressway
- Ghazipur - Ballia - Mughal Ghat Expressway
- Varanasi - Kolkata Expressway
- Chitrakoot Link Expressway
- Firozabad Link Expressway
- Ballia Link Expressway



RAIL & WATERWAYS

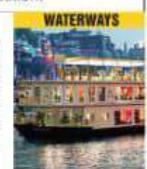
URBAN CONNECTIVITY

Metro services are operational in Lucknow, Kanpur, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida and Greater Noida) districts. Agra metro project is under construction.



WATERWAYS

Part of India's first waterway, Uttar Pradesh the Prayagraj-Haldia NW1 has Ghazipur to Chunar/Prayagraj route of the Ganga stretch equipped with multi-modal port logistics at Varanasi.



From 4 airports in 2017 to 10 airports today, Uttar Pradesh is adding 11 more fly high with 21 airports in the future - including five international and 16 domestic airports.

OPERATIONAL AIRPORTS

- Agra, Mahatma Vasthi International Airport (Ayodhya), Bareilly, Gorakhpur, Hindon (Ghaziabad), Kanpur, Kushinagar, Lucknow, Prayagraj and Varanasi

UNDER DEVELOPMENT

- Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Moradabad, Noida, Shravasti, Sonbhadra, Meerut, Saharanpur

**FLYING
HIGH**

21

Uttar Pradesh has offered 21 airports and airstrips for private sector investments for aviation training institutes, aero sports centres, and aviation MROs (maintenance, repair and overhaul)