

Manufacturing clusters to be set up along 5 e-ways

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Conceived as the industrial development authority for the high-speed corridors, UPEIDA has started its homework to develop integrated manufacturing and logistics clusters (IMLCs) along the five expressways in the state.

A land bank spread over 5,500 hectare has been identified to set up the IMLCs which are going to be similar to large economic clusters developed in the country and provide direct connectivity through rail, road and air. Ut-

tar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority is going to take up five projects to develop the specialised clusters along the Agra-Lucknow, Bundelkhand, Purvanchal, Ganga and Gorakhpur Link expressway.

Shri Raj, chief engineer, UPEIDA, said that the plan is to induce industrial activity across 26 districts in the state through the network of expressways in UP.

"Etawah, Mahoba, Jalaun, Auraiya, Amroha, Sambhal, Hardoi, Pratapgarh, Mahoba, Firozabad, Barabanki, Amethi, Ambed-



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kar Nagar, Ghazipur and Sultanpur are among the districts which would stand to benefit," he said.

Bundelkhand region would get the highest amount of

economic activity as 1,840 hectare of land would be developed into IMLC while the largest corridor Ganga Expressway would have 1,394 hectare of such industrial land. Purvanchal Expressway will be home to 1,471 hectare while Gorakhpur Link expressway would have 248 hectare.

The authority has already floated its requirement and started the process of selecting the project management consultant to provide its assistance in planning and designing of the IMLCs. The clusters have been envi-

saged as self-sustainable nodes which would offer world class infrastructure, road and freight connectivity from nearest dry ports as well as air cargo hubs. Officials said that it will take three years to 25 years for the IMLCs to take off and become viable.

"The biggest land bank for IMLC has been identified in Jalaun (679 hectare) followed by Banda (577 hectare). But demand assessment is yet to be carried out. Depending on the demand in the area the clusters would be expanded in a phased manner," said a senior officer.