

Noida gets Rs 6,000 crore for infrastructure upgrade

Vandana Keelar,TNN | Jul 4, 2014, 03:48 AM IST

NOIDA: These are good times to be in Noida. Yes, there may be power cuts and potholes, but the outlook isn't grim. That is most evident in the urgency with which infrastructure projects, the bulwark of growth for a modern city, are being planned, revived or launched.

The Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway authorities are actively drawing up the blueprint for the city of the future. It includes a bevy of new roads, elevated roads, bridges, underpasses and road redesign projects that will take Noida closer to the world city tag it aspires for. An estimated Rs 6,000 crore has been budgeted in this financial year for this infrastructure upgrade.

This new wind in the sails of the city can be attributed to a combination of factors.

Politically, both BJP, which holds the Lok Sabha seats in Gautam Budh Nagar and neighbouring Ghaziabad, and SP, which faces the prospect of a blowout in UP, have their focus on development before the state heads for assembly elections. Industrially, big companies like Infosys have signed up to be a part of Noida's future. And socially and culturally, the cosmopolitan character of Noida and Greater Noida continues to be strengthened by the large-scale emigration of white-collar professionals to the city.

Rama Raman, who heads the three authorities, said, "Our efforts are to provide the three cities with futuristic infrastructure that will cater to the rate of growth being witnessed."

The projects have as consultants agencies like IIT-Delhi and Roorkee, Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI) and Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES).

"While for some of the projects, technical consultants have been appointed, several projects are awaiting finalization of the detailed project reports," Raman added.

Noida's chief project engineer AK Goel said the focus is on decongesting the most clogged-up roads of the city. Surveys have revealed that Master Plan roads-I, II, III and the DSC road see heavy traffic through the day. Due to lack of space on either side of these roads, they cannot be widened. Hence, the need for elevated corridors ?four-lane roads with left turns or exits. "Besides underpasses, widening of bridges on the Shahdara drain and a bridge parallel to Okhla barrage at Kalindi Kunj will definitely ease traffic movement. Work will start within two months on the widening, while the parallel bridge is awaiting a nod from the NCR Planning Board," Goel added.

The construction of two elevated roads on the lines of the Barapullah road in Delhi are also likely to commence by July. "A no-objection certificate is to be sought from the NCRPB on a 5.8km elevated road (Chilla regulator in Delhi to the Kalindi Kunj-Noida border). For the 4.8km flyover between Sector 28 and 61, the tender process is complete. A private agency has yet to be selected," Goel said.

The elevated stretch over the Shahdara drain is proposed to be linked to the Barapullah road in Delhi. This will provide seamless ride between AIIMS and Saria Kale Khan in South Delhi to Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Greater Noida. The other elevated stretch will provide signal-free travel skipping seven traffic signals, on one of the city's busiest routes and will benefit scores of commuters especially during peak hours.

The much-awaited FNG (Faridabad-Noida-Ghaziabad) expressway is on track, too. Among plans to boost connectivity between Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad are two new bridges across the Hindon. In addition, a 130-metre-wide expressway from Noida's Sector 32 to Greater Noida is under construction.