

NATIONAL TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Uttar Pradesh suggests 'Inter-State Regional Transport Authorities' to improve the sector

- **Effective deterrent law needed to prevent encroachment of roads**
- **Maintenance of existing transport infrastructure should be a priority**
- **Minimum Intra-state inter-airport distance should be 75 kms**
- **More railway stations required in big cities | Creation of transportation districts**

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In response to National Transport Development Policy Committee's invitation to suggest ways to evolve an integrated and sustainable transport system, State government's working group on improving transportation has taken the view that '**Inter-state Regional Transport Authorities**' should be constituted for futuristic planning in the interest of state and smooth transportation. It has also suggested an **Appellate Authority** at national level along with a **State Level Commission** with powers to oversee the transportation districts, tasked to implement different transportation projects involving laying of new railway tracks, new highway or a new vehicle routes.

The State working group on transportation met here today under the chairmanship of **Infrastructure & Industrial Development Commissioner (IIDC), Anil Kumar Gupta** to finalise State government's recommendations to National Transport Development Policy Committee. The committee has been formed by Government of India to formulate a **National Transport Development Policy**.

Stressing on the need to develop transport infrastructure across states, **IIDC Anil K Gupta said**, **"Inter-state regional transport authorities are required for better coordination and integrated development of transport facilities amongst the adjoining states based on specific needs."** **"Moreover, there should be an appellate authority at centre to resolve any issue of contention between two states in this process."** **he added.**

Expressing concern over lack of proper maintenance of highways and problem of encroachment, **IIDC recommended** the **need for an efficient mechanism for upkeep of existing roads**; he suggested that public private partnership (**PPP**) **route might be adopted in case of fund paucity** for this purpose. **IIDC also asked** the working group to include the suggestion for a **stringent law to prevent encroachment on national highways for enabling smooth flow of traffic.**

Minimum 75 kms has been suggested by the working group as the inter-airport distance within a state. Need for **more number of railway stations in big cities** and state's plan to align the **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) pipeline** along the existing industrial hubs would be conveyed to the National Transport Development Policy Committee. **IIDC informed** that plans are afoot to bring CNG to Uttar Pradesh from eastern side benefitting industries in eastern U.P.

Head of the sub-group to assist State working group, **Transport Commissioner, Alok Kumar informed** that **creation of transportation districts** different from geographical districts is being recommended as the transportation administration needs are distinct from general administration. Proposed State Highways Development Programme (**SHDP**) will also be included in the recommendations of State.

Departments concerned and experts from IIT-Kanpur were consulted in preparing recommendations of Uttar Pradesh. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Transport, B S Bhullar, Transport Commissioner, Alok Kumar and senior officials from departments of Public Works, Civil Aviation, NHAI, etc.