Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor to herald an industrial revolution in U.P.

- *Estimated investment worth `42,000 crores*

- *Govt of U.P. agrees for 5 per cent equity for development of project*

- *State govt identifies three Integrated Manufacturing Zones*

- *40 new stations proposed on freight corridor*

- *57 per cent, measuring 1049 Km to traverse across 18 districts of U.P.*

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A whopping 42,000 crores of investment is expected in Uttar Pradesh under Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor, which will herald an industrial revolution in the State. In a significant step, the State government has agreed for 5 per cent equity contribution for implementation of this project. Besides, the State government has also identified three Integrated Manufacturing Zones on the alignment of EDFC and informed the Union government.

In view of enormous potential of industrial development along the alignment of EDFC, on the momentous initiative of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mr. Akhilesh Yadav to develop Amritsar-Delhi-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (ADKIC) on Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) on the lines of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor on Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, the State government has already provided a concept paper to Government of India. Subsequently, a World Bank team has identified three Regional growth clusters on EDFC alignment and has agreed to prepare the structure plans of these clusters. Proposed regions are *Auraiya-Kanpur* including Kanpur Dehat, *Allahabad-Varanasi* including Kaushambi and Sant Ravidas Nagar and *Agra-Aligarh* including Mathura, Hathras and Firozabad.

It may be noted that proposed alignment of 1840 Km long EDFC, starting from Punjab, traverses Uttar Pradesh via Khurja, and ends at Dankuni in West Bengal. Uttar Pradesh is the biggest beneficiary of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor project with the share of nearly 57 per cent, measuring 1049 Kms dissecting the
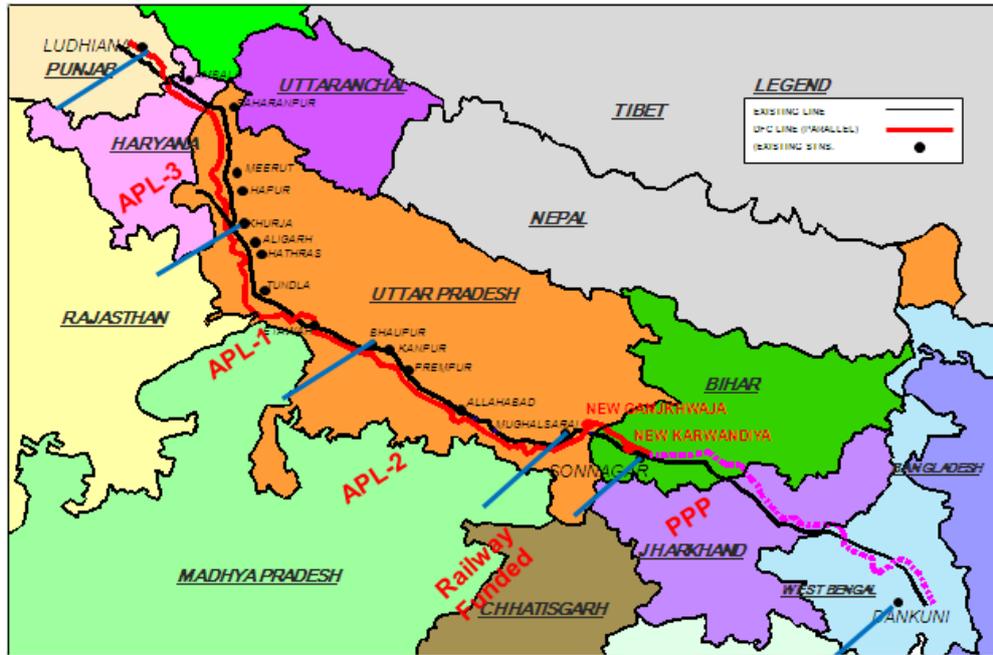
state. Forty new stations are proposed on this freight corridor in the State, which will cross through 18 districts of U.P.

Since a major portion of proposed ADKIC is falling in U.P., the State government has suggested the Union government to consider development of three Integrated Manufacturing Clusters (IMCs) within the identified three Regional development clusters. Additionally, government of U.P. has conveyed that keeping in view the potential and size of State, it would be pertinent to increase the area of IMCs more than currently specified 10 sq Km.

Taking an important step further, the State government is trying to get Early Bird project status for Allahabad manufacturing cluster under Amritsar-Delhi-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (ADKIC) project. An Integrated Industrial Township is also proposed in 1200 acres of area in Allahabad. The process for transfer of land is on for this township, for which conceptual master plan has been already prepared. It is proposed to design the new township on the pattern of *Sangam*-the convergence and unity with ample area demarcated for industries and institutions.

It is pertinent to mention here that heavy axle load capacity rails will be laid under EDFC to reduce unit cost of transportation, resulting in competitive and reasonable pricing of goods for the end consumer. Freight trains measuring 1400 metres will run on this freight corridor instead of present 400 metre-goods trains, thereby leaving existing railway tracks for passenger trains. The State government had proposed six investment industrial zones on EDFC. These include- Etawah-Auraiya Industrial Zone (6000 hectares), Pashchimanchal Industrial Zone (2000 hectares), Braj Industrial Zone (2000 hectares), Kanpur Logistics hub (6000 hectares), Allahabad-Naini-Bara Investment Zone (3000 hectares), Mughalsari-Varansai-Mirjapur Investment Zone (3000 hectares).

State government has nominated Managing Director, U.P. State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC) as the Nodal Officer and UPSIDC as the Nodal agency for this ambitious project.

Alignment of EDFC in U.P.