

Firozabad set to get industrial facelift

- **Japanese manufacturing investors invited to invest in planned industrial area in 400 acres barren & unutilized land outside Taj Trapezium Zone in Firozabad**
- **IT zone proposed near proposed alignment of Agra-Lucknow Expressway**
- **Need to enhance glass brand 'Firozabad' by upgrading technology and skill: Principal Secretary, Industrial Development**

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Firozabad is set to get an industrial facelift akin to Greater Noida. Principal Secretary, Infrastructure & Industrial Development Department (IIDD), Dr Surya Pratap met around 50 CEOs of Japan in Delhi and invited them to invest in the planned industrial area on 400 acres of barren land in Firozabad.

Dr Surya Pratap Singh stated, ***"Given the upcoming rapid transport infrastructure, Firozabad is a natural extension to Greater Noida due to its proximity to Yamuna Expressway and proposed Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor which will be passing through it."*** ***"Logistics hubs have been envisaged in 3 Km radius around six railway stations proposed on EDFC,"*** **he added.**

Principal Secretary, IIDD informed that he met the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan in Delhi to facilitate technology transfer to make Vodka, for which Rs800 crores industrial investment proposal of an Indian industrialist was already under consideration for setting up the unit in Kannauj.

Uttar Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC) has agreed to purchase the land for new industrial area in Firozabad and District Magistrate of Firozabad, Sandhya Tiwari has assured to arrange the land at the earliest.

Responding to entrepreneurs' demand for industrial plots in Firozabad, Dr Surya Pratap Singh stated, ***"We can transform the industrial scenario of Firozabad and for that 400 acres land would be identified outside Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) to be developed as industrial area."*** Underlining the importance of Amritsar-Delhi-Kolkata Industrial Corridor on the proposed Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC), **he said** that ***Firozabad lies on the alignment of EDFC and that opens enormous scope of developing it as an Industrial hub with large industrial investment.***

"To further encourage the industries and employment in the Firozabad region, an IT zone is envisaged on 100 acres within TTZ as it is a non-polluting sector," **Dr Singh added.**

Principal Secretary, Infrastructure & Industrial Development Department (IIDD), Dr Surya Pratap Singh today urged the officers of Industrial development department and district administration in Firozabad to facilitate the glassware industry along with other sectors in Firozabad district.

Dr Singh directed the officials to regularly meet entrepreneurs of pressing problems of existing industries. Dr Singh also held an interactive dialogue session with around 40 entrepreneurs from Firozabad and adjoining areas. Along with Centre for the Development of Glass Industry, **he visited** a few glass factories to have a first-hand experience of the manufacturing process of glass articles which make their way to consumers within and outside India.

Addressing the industrialist, **Principal Secretary, IIDD said,** ***"Uttar Pradesh holds the centre-stage in exports of handicrafts and artifacts and glassware of Firozabad is one of the most important components contributing to earn foreign exchange."*** ***"We need to enhance the brand equity of Firozabad glassware by upgrading technology and skill and by adding value to the finished products. Government of U.P. is focused on enabling industrial development leading to inclusive socio-economic development,"*** **he added.**

Firozabad, named after Firoz Shah, a Mansabdar in the Mughal period, and presently a district town of the state of Uttar Pradesh, the district is famous for its glass industries world over. At present, there are around 92 industrial units in production in the five industrial areas of Firozabad, Shikohabad, Usaini, Tundla and Jalesar road in the district. There is around 92 hectares of developed land and allotted to industries. Apart from industrial areas, out of 7874 industrial units registered in the district only ten are in large and medium category, rest are small scale industries employing over 50,000 people with investment of around Rs 383 crores.

Problems raised by entrepreneurs included obtaining pollution clearance from pollution board and regulatory procedures and VAT issues. It was decided that all such issues should be brought up through Udyog Bandhu for policy decision to promote industries.

Satish Kaushal of Ernst & Young, the knowledge partner of State government, requested the entrepreneurs to give their inputs for establishing a technology centre in Firozabad under a Government of India scheme.

Among others, **President of All India Glass Manufacturers Association, S C Bansal expressed** gratitude and satisfaction on the changing face of State government towards industries in general and glass industry in particular.

Government officials who attended the meeting included District Magistrate of Firozabad, Sandhya Tiwari, CEO of GAIL, J S Vasan, Regional Manager of U.P. State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC), U.P. Pollution Control Board, etc.

It was informed that after the availability of natural gas to the Firozabad glass industries, the production and quality of the products has improved many folds apart from cost benefit and environment protection. It may be noted that Hon'ble Supreme Court had banned coal based units due to pollution issues. Since then, only gas operated units are functional. There are nearly 180 units which are registered with (Gas Authority of India Ltd) GAIL for getting supply of gas for industrial use.

There are 85 export oriented units registered with District Industries Centre Export Promotion Bureau, Lucknow. During the last five years total exports amounted to Rs803.65 crores, whereas exports during the FY 2012-13 were Rs210.55 crores compared to Rs160.2 crores in FY 2009-10 and Rs200.24 crores in FY 2010-11.
