TRADE & INDUSTRY SERIES

Industrial Competitiveness in Uttar Pradesh

District-Level Assessment, the Corridor Network, and Sector-Wise Specialisation

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Preface and Scope

This paper assesses industrial competitiveness across Uttar Pradesh. It ranks districts on a composite index, maps the industrial corridor network, and sets out the sector-wise specialisation of the state's districts, with the aim of informing investment promotion, cluster development, and industrial policy.

The analysis draws on infrastructure-authority and investment-promotion data, the district-product programme, and the firm's framework analysis. The District Industrial Competitiveness Index and the six-parameter framework are the firm's composite analyses, indicative in character. The paper is intended for institutional readers. It does not constitute investment or policy advice.

A note on method. The district index combines published indicators with the firm's judgement. It is an analytical tool for comparison and prioritisation, not a measurement.

Contents

1. Summary

1.1 Industrial competitiveness in Uttar Pradesh is concentrated and place-specific. It is highest in the western districts, anchored by electronics manufacturing, and it is being extended south and east by the developing corridor network. This paper assesses that distribution and its implications for policy and investment.

1.2 Three observations follow. First, competitiveness is an ecosystem property: it is determined by the strength of the industrial environment around a firm rather than by the firm alone. Second, the corridor network — expressways and the defence-industrial corridor — is the principal instrument extending competitiveness beyond the established western hubs. Third, the state's districts are strongly specialised, and policy is most effective when it builds on that specialisation.

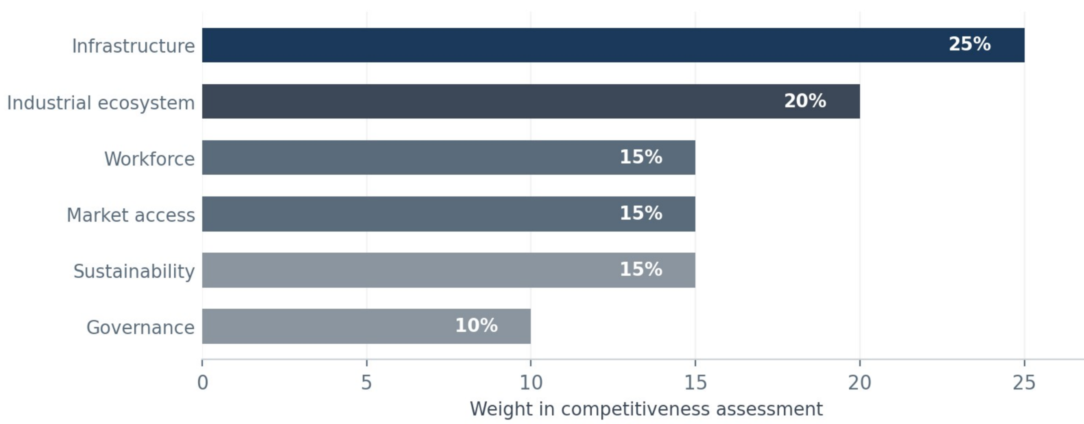
2. Competitiveness as an Ecosystem Property

2.1 A manufacturing firm does not compete in isolation. Its competitiveness depends on the suppliers, infrastructure, workforce, and institutions within reach — the industrial ecosystem. A strong ecosystem raises the competitiveness of every firm within it; a weak one constrains even capable firms. In a state as large and varied as Uttar Pradesh, this ecosystem differs markedly from district to district, and competitiveness must accordingly be assessed locally.

3. The Assessment Framework

3.1 The firm assesses competitiveness across six weighted parameters. Figure 1 sets out the weighting, which reflects the firm's assessment of relative importance and is applied consistently across districts.

Figure 1. The six-parameter competitiveness framework, by weight



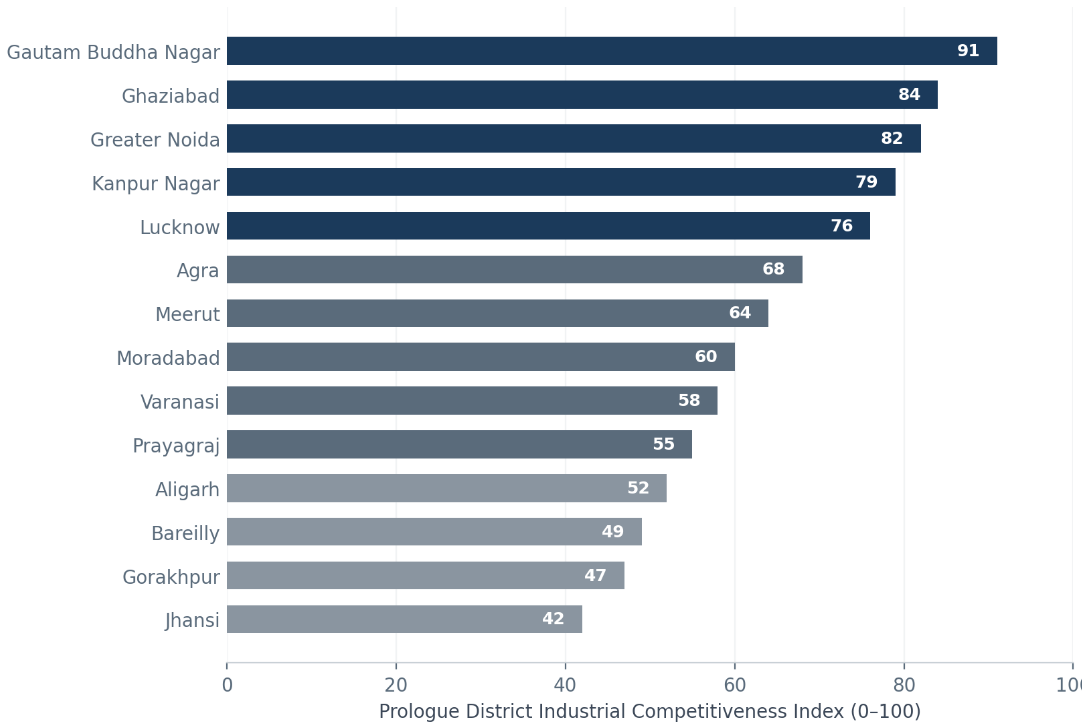
Source: Prologue Research framework.

3.2 Infrastructure carries the greatest weight because it is the binding constraint: without reliable power, water, and transport, ecosystem and workforce strength cannot compensate. This is why the state's corridor and expressway programme bears so directly on its competitiveness trajectory. The industrial ecosystem follows in weight, reflecting the compounding value of supplier density.

4. District Competitiveness Ranking

4.1 Applying the framework across the state produces the ranking in Figure 2. The District Industrial Competitiveness Index scores districts from 0 to 100 across the six parameters.[1]

Figure 2. Prologue District Industrial Competitiveness Index, selected districts



Source: Prologue Research composite index. Indicative.

4.2 Gautam Buddha Nagar leads, on the strength of electronics-manufacturing depth, expressway and airport connectivity, a developed supplier ecosystem, and institutional capacity. Ghaziabad and the Greater Noida authority area follow. Kanpur and Lucknow anchor the central districts, combining established industry, corridor investment, and institutional density. The eastern districts — Varanasi, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur — are rising as the corridor network and new industrial parks extend competitiveness eastward.

Table 1. District competitiveness tiers

[1] Prologue Research composite index, synthesising public indicators across the six framework parameters. Indicative; not an official measurement.

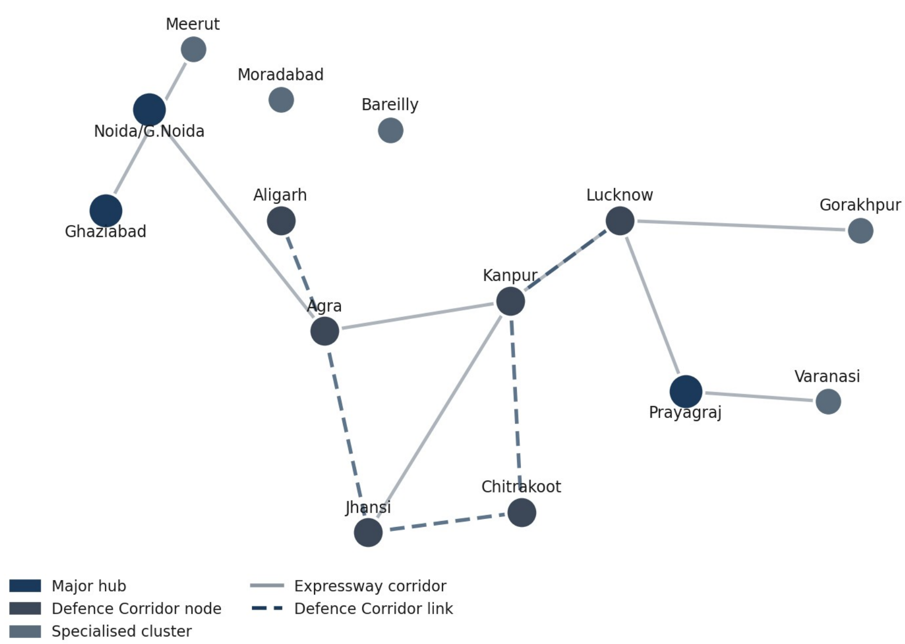
Tier	Districts	Profile
Leading (≥75)	G.B. Nagar, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida, Kanpur, Lucknow	Developed ecosystem; strong connectivity and institutions
Strong (55–74)	Agra, Meerut, Moradabad, Varanasi, Prayagraj	Established clusters; improving infrastructure
Developing (<55)	Aligarh, Bareilly, Gorakhpur, Jhansi	Emerging; corridor development the principal catalyst

Source: Prologue Research. Indicative.

5. The Industrial Corridor Network

5.1 The state's competitiveness is being reshaped by infrastructure. An extensive expressway network connects the western manufacturing belt through Kanpur and Lucknow to the eastern districts and, via the Bundelkhand Expressway, to the south. Overlaid on this is the Defence Industrial Corridor, with six nodes — Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur, and Lucknow — which had attracted committed investment in the order of INR 28,809 crore by mid-2025.[2] Figure 3 presents the network.

Figure 3. Uttar Pradesh industrial corridors and cluster network



Source: UPEIDA; UPSIDA; Prologue Research. Schematic; not to geographic scale.

[2] Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA); UP Defence Industrial Corridor investment figures as reported, mid-2025.

5.2 The significance of the network is that it converts isolated clusters into a connected industrial system. The defence corridor in particular is routed to carry investment into the central and Bundelkhand districts, extending competitiveness into areas the market alone would have reached slowly. For investors, the corridors are where land, connectivity, and policy support converge; for the state, they are the principal instrument for distributing competitiveness more evenly.

6. Sector-Wise District Specialisation

6.1 The state's industrial geography is defined by deep district specialisation, formalised through the One District One Product programme and frequently reinforced by Geographical Indication status.[3] Table 2 sets out the principal specialisations.

Table 2. Sector-wise district specialisation

District	Specialisation	Note
Gautam Buddha Nagar	Electronics, mobile, IT hardware	~40% of national mobile output
Kanpur Nagar	Leather, chemicals, defence	Legacy base; corridor node
Agra	Footwear, leather	Major cluster; corridor node
Moradabad	Brassware, metalware	GI-tagged; export-oriented
Firozabad	Glassware	National glass centre
Bhadohi	Carpets	GI-tagged; export-oriented
Varanasi	Silk, handicrafts	Banarasi silk; emerging parks
Meerut	Sporting goods	Export cluster
Lucknow	Defence, IT, textiles	Corridor node; capital ecosystem
Aligarh	Locks, hardware, defence	Hardware cluster; corridor node
Bareilly / Gorakhpur	Food processing	New agri-food parks

Source: ODOP; Invest UP; Prologue Research.

6.2 The specialisation comprises three layers: the modern manufacturing hubs, with scale and supplier depth; the established district-product clusters, with global recognition but often fragmented, enterprise-heavy structures; and the emerging specialisations, created deliberately through policy and infrastructure. Each calls for a different developmental intervention — component ecosystems and logistics for the first, design and certification for the second, anchor investment and skilling for the third.

[3] One District One Product (ODOP) programme; Invest UP. District-specialisation and Geographical Indication information.

7. Concluding Observations

7.1 Industrial competitiveness in Uttar Pradesh is an ecosystem property, and a local one. It is concentrated in the western electronics belt, but the corridor network is actively extending it east and south. The districts and clusters that combine infrastructure, ecosystem depth, and specialisation will compound their advantage; those that build on their specialisation deliberately will rise fastest. Policy and investment that read the state as uniform will misjudge both the strengths and the gaps.

Sources

Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA); UPSIDA — corridor and cluster information. Invest UP — investment data. One District One Product (ODOP) programme — district specialisation. The District Industrial Competitiveness Index and the six-parameter framework are Prologue Research composite analyses, indicative and not official measurements.
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