

# Tourism and culture development councils set up in all districts of UP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

## Farmers to aid in medicinal plants production

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**Lucknow:** As part of the various activities undertaken by the department of culture and tourism in the Yogi 2.0 government's first 100 days, minister Jaiveer Singh said that district tourism and culture development councils were set up in almost all districts. The committee, to be headed by the district magistrate and with all local MPs, MLAs and MLCs as its members, will work towards identifying tourism spots in the district, implementing central and state programmes.

"Offices of the council will be set up in remaining districts soon. The other major work undertaken by the department include issuing advertisements for developing Rahi Paryatak Awas, which have been lying in neglect for years and running into major losses. It had been decided to renovate these on PPP model and we have already issued advertisements for 30 RPAs," Singh said.

Among other achievements, he said, the department carried out significant work on setting up of the eco-

**Lucknow:** During the Covid months when people turned to home remedies for a cure to the virus, the requirement for medicinal plants grew to about 100 tons in 2021-22. This is a rise from about 5 lakh tons in 2015-14. Medicinal turmeric export rose from a few crores some years back to about Rs 14,500 crore. These details were shared by AYUSH minister Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' on the achievements of his department in past 100 days.

To meet this shortfall of

tourism board, the launch of which was announced by chief minister Yogi Adityanath earlier this week. The cabinet had also cleared a decision to

### 100 DAYS

set up helipads in five areas for better connectivity, which included Mathura, Agra, Prayagraj and Varanasi. The cabinet also cleared a proposal to allow the State Tourism Corporation to carry out

medicinal plants, which were earlier procured largely from forests, the government has decided to source these plants through contract farming. The 2.38 crore farmers' families in the state are now being encouraged to grow medicinal plants as well.

Another task undertaken by the department was to tie up with BHU to carry out an impact study of the 500 wellness centres set up by the government. The department also initiated the process of affiliating 19 state AYUSH colleges and 86 private colleges with

works of up to Rs 10 crore.

Officials of the tourism department were sent to other states to study their tourism sector. Now back, these officials are putting together their inputs for the formulation of a five year plan to development tourism in UP. After a marathon meeting with Union minister Nitin Gadkari and the UP CM, projects worth several hundred crores were cleared for the development of Mathura under Braj Teerth

the Gorakhpur Ayush University.

"We started mobile food laboratories in 15 divisions, food labs in Jhansi and Gonda and provided high end equipment to food labs in Meerut and Varanasi. The department identified 100 schools and institutions and 75 temples where food and prasad are served and carried out inspection of food products. Around 2,000 restaurants and shops were registered based on food testing. We registered over 6 lakh institutions which have a turnover of Rs 12 lakh or more," he said.

Vikas. The government also inaugurated the Bhagirathi tourism house in Uttarakhand and organised several activities under the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.

For Lucknow, Singh said, the department had acquired INS Gomti after it was decommissioned by the Navy. This is being developed as a museum. In Prayagraj, permission has been received from Indian Railways to convert the Curzon Bridge into a Ganga Gallery.