

Cabinet gives major boost to development in Ayodhya and Kashi

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LUCKNOW: The state cabinet on Tuesday provided a major boost for development in Ayodhya and Varanasi. For Ayodhya, where the work on the construction of the Ram Temple has started, the cabinet gave a green signal to a proposal to spend Rs 797.69 crore on construction and widening of a main road in Ayodhya that will provide easy access to devotees and tourists to the Ram Temple.

Under the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir road widening project, a stretch of 12.94 km long road from Sahadatganj Nayaghat as the main spine road will be constructed and widened, for which the cost of land and building acquisition will be Rs 378.77 crore.

A project has also been made for rehabilitation and compensation to shopkeepers and residents.

The project will be executed by the public works department after the work of acquisition of land and buildings is completed.

Ease of doing biz: Cabinet OKs new rules for shops, commercial units

To implement ease of doing business, the Cabinet took a major decision to clear the UP Shops and Commercial Establishments (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2022. Under this, shops and commercial establishments will only have to register once, without the need for renewal of licences, but the registration fee has increased manifold.

As per the changes in the law, the owner of a shop or commercial establishment will be required to pay registration fee just once, and the fee will be levied "on maximum number of employees employed during the financial year".

For instance, for a shop employing one to five persons, the registration fee has gone up from Rs 150 to Rs 2,250. Similarly, for one employing six to 10 persons, the fee is up from Rs 200 to Rs 4,500 and for 11 to 25, from Rs 400 to Rs 7,500. For more than 25 employees, the fee is up from Rs 500 to Rs 15,000.

For commercial establishments, the registration fee for one employing more than 25 persons is now Rs 30,000, up from Rs 2,000. For four- to five-star hotels, the fee has been hiked from Rs 5,000 to Rs 75,000 while for hotels up to three stars, the fee is up from Rs 2,000 to Rs 30,000.

The amended law also says that the registration will take place only once. "The shops and commercial establishments which are run on yearly contract basis shall apply for licence for that year and shall pay one-fifteenth of the prescribed fee. Shops and commercial establishments which are already registered for five years shall be renewed once on deposition of fee prescribed," it says.

The Cabinet also cleared new rules on the safety and security of factory workers, on the lines of a central law. Under these rules, making an employee work for more than 48 hours in a week will require double payment for every additional hour. Women can be employed as long as all rules are followed. Including rest hours, a worker cannot be made to work for more than 12 hours a day. For an employee over the age of 45 years and who is working in a factory where dangerous work takes place, the owner must get his or her health check-up done once a year.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet also approved 11 proposals for expansion of existing local bodies and creation of a new nagar panchayat. Urban development minister AK Sharma said that limits of three nagar panchayats had been expanded, including Khaga in Fatehpur, Nigohi in Shahjahanpur and Sonebhadra in Sonebhadra district. In addition to this, limits of seven nagar palikas was also expanded, including Anupshahr in Bulandshahr, Muradnagar, Loni and Modinagar in Ghaziabad, Shamli in Kairana and Khatauni in Muzaffarnagar. The new nagar panchayat which was formed is Dewra Bazar in Pratapgarh.

In another decision related to the urban development department, the Cabinet has approved a plan for spending of Rs 550 crore on new local bodies, as proposed in the state budget. Under the newly constituted Mukhya Mantri Nagar Srijan Yojna, 90% of the funds will be spent on people and 10% on the area. "A masterplan for spending of funds and various activities to be undertaken will be formed. Once the DPR is prepared, the director concerned will have it cleared from the government," he said.

The Cabinet has allowed setting-up of a regional centre of National Security University, Gandhinagar in Dr Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University, free of cost.