

# Chopper service facility to take flight in UP

## Cabinet Approves Proposal To Lease Agra, Mathura Heliports

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** UP tourism department is set to start helicopter services in the state, with the cabinet approving the proposal to give on lease of 30 years the heliports in Agra and Mathura to Rajas Aeroports and Adventures Pvt Ltd.

The cabinet meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Principal secretary, tourism, Mukesh Meshram said that the company will be managing and operating chopper services from these heliports to any destination in the country, to be decided by the company keeping in mind the traffic. "This is the first time that the UP tourism department is operating such a service. In the second phase, services will be started in Lucknow, Prayagraj and Kapilvastu and subsequently in Varanasi and Ayodhya. Over the next two to four years, we

will start services from 20-25 cities in UP," he said.

The heliports will be given on lease to Rajas Aeroports and Adventures Pvt Ltd for Rs 25,00,500 per year.

Based on the financial model of the two heliports, department consultancy firm KPMG finalised the floor base price at Rs 13.50 lakh, against which the bid price by the firm is 85.20% higher.

Under the condition for the lease, the selected firm has to pay Rs 2,03,84,000 before the contract is executed. The lease is for 30 years. The developer will be given two years for development work after which the lease will be renewed for 30 years.

The cabinet also cleared a proposal to establish an integrated sugar complex in Chhata, in Mathura district. This will have a 3,000 ton per day capacity sugar mill, which will be expanded to 4,900 tons per day. The sugar mill at Chhata has been shut since 2009. In



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the cabinet meeting

place of that, the government has decided to set up a modern integrated complex. Along with refined sugar, the plant will produce cane juice, C-heavy and B-heavy ethanol. The complex will benefit around 50,000 farmers in a 20 km radius around the plant. The mill area will have canteen, café, general store and a workshop for repair of tractors and trucks.

The government will get an additional revenue of Rs 10 crore per year through this.

It was also decided in the meeting to allow transfer of land free of cost to the Agriculture Education and Research Department for setting up Mahatma Buddha Agriculture and Technology Uni-

## Agri, tech varsity to come up in Kushinagar

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh cabinet on Wednesday approved setting up of Mahatma Buddha Agriculture and Technology University in Kushinagar district.

The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

University in Kushinagar district which includes 58.97 acres of the agriculture seed sector and 145.82 acres of the culture department. The decision to establish the university in Purvanchal was taken not just to benefit local farmers but also to ensure that students from this area would not have to travel far to get education.

In the current financial year, Rs 50 crore has been set aside in the budget. The total cost of the project, which will include an administrative block, hostel, laboratories for research etc will be around Rs 750 crore.

Another project cleared by the cabinet included the In-

Agriculture minister Surya Pratap Shahi said the university will be built on more than 390 acres of land at a cost of Rs 750 crore. It will cover 10 districts.

The foundation stone of the university will be laid next month, and the construction work will be completed by

do-Israel Centre of Excellence for Fruit in Kaushambi district under the Integrated Horticulture Development Mission. Under this, 9 hectare land of the agriculture department in Kokhraj village, tehsil Sitharu will be transferred to the horticulture department free of cost.

The government has approved Rs 6.52 crore for the project. Of this Rs 3.91 crore is the Centre's contribution while the remaining Rs 2.61 crore will be the state government's share.

An official said that Kaushambi has a lot of guava cultivation. Prayagraj is a centre for mango, guava and amla cultivation, along with bana-

2026. He said the cabinet also approved giving free land for the establishment of an Indo-Israel Centre of Excellence for fruits in Kaushambi.

The cabinet also approved renaming of the law university in Prayagraj as Dr Rajendra Prasad National Law University. 67

na cultivation through tissue culture. Fruit saplings will be produced through modern techniques and distributed among farmers in Kaushambi and neighbouring districts. Farmers will also be made aware of the new technologies in the sector. Once it is established, around 50,000 high quality saplings of fruits will be produced which will be made available to farmers at cost price.

Meanwhile, finance minister Suresh Khanna also announced that June 29 will be observed as the Vyapari Kalyan Diwas to mark the birth anniversary of Bhamu Shah, a close aide of Maharana Pratap Singh.