

Kanpur-Unnao leather cluster to come up soon

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LUCKNOW: With the state government signing as many as 11 memorandums of understandings (MoUs) worth Rs 506 crore for investment in leather industry, the proposed Kanpur-Unnao leather cluster is set to get a boost even before its inception.

Around 450 acres of land near Sonpurab Para village at Hamirpur Road, Kanpur, has been earmarked for the new leather cluster.

It will generate employment for around 3,500 people.

"The Centre is going to have offices to the leather cluster in Kanpur region. As soon as the Uttar Pradesh government sends proposal regarding it the work will start," said CR Chaudhary, union minister of small commerce and industry.

Chaudhary was speaking at the session on 'Investment opportunities in Leather and footwear sector of UP' on the second day of the Investors' Summit here on Thursday.

Accruing all help to leather industries in Kanpur-Unnao region, Chaudhary said: "In the last financial year (2016-17), the centre got Rs21,777 crore in foreign exchange from the leather industry."

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Satyadev Pachauri, minister of MSME and export promotion, Union Pradesh government, also assured all help to leather industries of Kanpur and Agra.

"Without flouting environmental norms, the state government will extend all support to the leather industry. It is one sector that generates maximum employment," said Pachauri.

Ranvir Prasad, managing director, UPSIDC, said: "There have been lot rumours about leather industries of Kanpur being closed and being shifted to any other location. I assure you that leather units of Kanpur are not going anywhere."

Anil Agarwal, joint secretary, department of industrial policy and promotion, also gave a presentation on Centre's proposals for the leather industry of the state.