

# Leather park to get Rs 5.8k cr investment

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Lucknow: The greenfield leather park in Kanpur's Ramaipur, which got clearance from the Centre on December 16, will receive investments of about Rs 5,850 crore and generate employment for almost 2 lakh people, according to MSME minister Sidharth Nath Singh.

The minister said the cluster would lead to a turnover of about Rs 13,000 crore every year.

"The state government will contribute Rs 236 crore for the establishment of leather park on an area of 250 acres while the Centre will give Rs 125 crore for infrastructure development. Once the park is ready, it will provide international level facilities to domestic leather sector to promote export, investments and better quality production," Singh said.

Construction of roads, water supply, sewers, drains, horticulture, boundary wall, street lights, internal water supply, storm water drains, IT and telecommunication, administrative buildings, design labs, testing labs, value additional centres and hostels will be carried out as part of the project.

In addition to this, an effluent treatment plant having a capacity of 20 million litres per day will also be constructed to check pollution in the Ganga.

"There are 2,125 units related to leather work which employ about 1.2 lakh people. These units produce 75,000 pairs of footwear each day with an annual turnover of Rs 10,000 crore. Exports from the sector are to the tune of Rs 6,500 crore," Singh said. While Kanpur is known for leather work, the industry has been suffering due to lack of infrastructural development, pollution. In 2018, several tanneries were closed down ahead of Prayagraj Kumbh, as they were allegedly polluting the Ganga. Shut for around five months, the industry suffered massive losses and has been demanding better facilities like modern sewage and effluent treatment plants.

The project, along with another leather park in Hardoi's Sandila, was first proposed by the Samajwadi Party government in 2012. The project was supposed to be completed in four years but failed to take off.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is expected to lay its foundation in the coming days.