

Budget shows intent to turn UPGIS proposals into reality via allocations

► Continued from P 1

Similarly, the budget also pushes for modernisation of the agriculture sector, which could be seen as the UP government's vision to put a check on the exodus of youths from villages to urban areas. To encourage youths in this sector, a budgetary provision of Rs 20 crore has been made for the 'AgriTech Startup Scheme' in four agricultural universities of the state. Similarly, a budgetary provision of Rs 3,000 crore has been made for setting up of new industrial cities, which would aim to generate employment and check exodus.

Along with this, the government has also decided to set up a couple of more agricultural universities. A provision of Rs 50 crore has been made for the establishment of Mahatma Buddha Agricultural and Technological University in Kushinagar.

For making village children adapt to the new era of digitalisation, the government has made a new provision of Rs 300 crore each for the establishment of digital libraries at gram panchayat and ward level in basic, secondary and higher education sectors.

While the state government has been showcasing its success in signing MoUs worth Rs 33.5 lakh crore in the recently held Global Investors Summit (GIS), the budget showed its firm intent to turn these into reality through generous allocation for infrastructure development. The total proposed expenditure on roads, ex-



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with finance minister Suresh Khanna before the state budget, in Lucknow on Wednesday

pressways, Metros and other modes is approximately Rs 42,000 crore. It includes budget for RRTS linking Delhi and Meerut, and three crucial link expressways connecting Purvanchal and Bundelkhand expressways. Similarly, a provision of Rs 60 crore has been made for Uttar Pradesh Information Technology and Startups Policy. There is also a provision to set up industrial manufacturing complexes at six places adjacent to Purvanchal and Bundelkhand expressways.

Ever since Yogi took charge as the CM, the focus had been on strengthening religious tourism and proper care of cattle. So, Rs 2,500 crore has been earmarked for the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj in 2025. Similarly, Rs 150 crore has been set aside for

ropeway in Varanasi, Rs 50 crore for integrated tourism development of Shakti Peeth Maa Shakumbhari Devi Temple, Rs 10 crore for Shukratirth Dham, and Rs 2.5 crore for Naimisharanya Dham Teerth Vikas Parishad.

Other than religious tourism, focus has been on upkeep of the stray cow—a provision of Rs 750 crore has been made for the maintenance of cattle, Rs 120 crore for establishment of large cow protection centres and Rs 100 crore for the construction of Kanha Gaushala under Kanha Animal Shelter Scheme.

Financial analysts feel that though the budget covers all major sectors, the government also must address the actual expenditure part by various departments, which has been below the target.