

An Alchemy For Atmanirbhar UP

GSDP Growth Rate 16.8%, says Khanna, Targets 19% Next

Rajiv.Srivastava1
@timesgroup.com

Lucknow: 'An inclusive growth to self-reliant Uttar Pradesh' being its theme, finance minister Suresh Khanna on Wednesday presented the state's biggest-ever budget, with special focus on welfare of farmers, youths and women, and infrastructure development. Chief minister Yogi Adityanath described the bud-

fore the next Lok Sabha elections, the Yogi government announced 100% waiver on power bills of private tubewell consumers. Earlier, such consumers were getting 50% waiver. Besides, to spruce up its power distribution system, the government has made a provision of Rs 6,500 crore.

The budget has earmarked Rs 32,721 crore for new schemes across sectors. In terms of emphasis, infras-

FULL COVERAGE: P 2, 4-6, 17

tructure, medical & health, education and tourism, especially religious and cultural tourism, are the major thrust areas, apart from farmers, women and youth welfare.

The fiscal deficit is estimated to be around Rs 84,883 crore, which is 3.48% of the estimated GSDP.

According to economics professor Yashveer Tyagi, UP's economy is in much better condition as compared to several other states and the fiscal deficit is at a satisfactory level.

The theme of this year's budget indicates an attempt to formalise, modernise and digitalise the economy that would generate employment opportunities for a skilled labour force. It has provision of Rs 200 crore for the establishment of Unity Mall for marketing ODOP and handicraft products.

►GIS proposals, P 6



Finance minister Suresh Khanna offers prayers at his residence before presenting the budget

get as a manifestation of the spirit of self-reliant UP.

At Rs 6.9 lakh crore, it is almost Rs 40,000 crore bigger than the previous budget. Khanna said that the state's GSDP grew at 16.8% in 2021-22, which was much higher than the national average. "In 2023-24, we target a growth rate of 19%," he said, indicating that it was a good sign for the state aiming to reach the \$1-trillion goal by 2027.

In a major initiative to reach out to farmers a year be-

KHANNA DISHES OUT PLEASE-ALL PLATTER



Photo: V Sunil

GROWTH-ORIENTED: Chief minister Yogi Adityanath and finance minister Suresh Khanna arrive to present the state budget on Wednesday

VITAL STATS

(All numbers in ₹ cr)



KEY TAKEAWAYS

GROWTH STORY | UP's GSDP grew at 16.8% in 2021-22 against national average of 8.7%. Targets 19% next fiscal

NEW SCHEMES | ₹32,721 cr for launching new schemes across sectors

FARMERS FIRST | 100% waiver on power bill of pvt tubewell consumers, benefitting lakhs of farmers

SANKALP KEPT | ₹64,000 cr for promises made in 2022 UP polls **Sankalp Patra**; 110 out of 130 promises addressed

INFRA PUSH | From roads to expressways; RRTS to Metros, all get a major push. **Total expenditure: Approx 42,000 cr**

RELIGIOUS TOURISM | ₹2,500 cr for 2025 Kumbh

EMPOWERING WOMEN | ₹1,050 for Kanya Sumangala Yojana; ₹600 cr for mass marriage scheme

YOUTH WELFARE | ₹3,600 cr for tablets and smart phones among youths. ₹100 cr as seed funds for incubators

100% waiver on power bill of pvt tubewells

In a major relief to state farmers, the UP government has announced 100% waiver on power bill of private tubewell consumers. The step announced in the state budget and coming a year before the Lok Sabha elections, will require an expenditure of Rs 1,950 crore. The budget provisioned doubling of the subsidy on the use of electricity for tubewells. The move attains significance in the wake of the fast approaching summers when the farmers would need more water. **P 4**

₹20.2K cr for Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

The UP government has made a provision of Rs 20,255 crore for Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan in the 2023-24 state Budget. Among different heads, the government has given a substantial thrust to basic, secondary and higher education besides enhancing the skills under technical education. A provision of Rs 1,000 crore has been made under Operation Kayakalp to revamp infrastructure in primary and upper primary schools run by Basic Education Council. **P 4**

Booster shot for health sector

Giving a thrust on the quality of medical care, the Yogi government has sanctioned over Rs 20,000 crore for health sector. While working to functionalize 14 new medical colleges, the government has also pumped in money for nursing and paramedical education. Also, for the first time, the government has set aside Rs 20 crore for the establishment of UP Institute of Pharmaceutical Research and Development. **P 4**

₹2.7cr allocated for swachh Lucknow

LMC's plan to make the city spic and span is expected to get a boost under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0. With the budgetary allocation of Rs 2,707 crore under the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, the LMC is all set to improve the solid waste management in the city. Besides, the wastewater treatment facility will also be strengthened. Environment engineer, LMC, Sanjeev Pradhan said, "Last year around Rs 33 crore was allotted to Lucknow under the Swachh Bharat Mission. **P 2**