

# MMRDA-like body planned for SCR

## Law To Boost Regional Devt Planned In UP

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**Lucknow:** The UP government is planning to introduce an act to boost regional development in six divisions. An overriding planning body on the lines of Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) can be set up to give shape to the state capital region (SCR) wherein divisional commissioners could be given more powers for urbanisation.

During the two-day long conclave focused on regional planning, senior officials of the housing and urban development departments revealed that the state government is planning to bring in a new law to focus on the framework required for rapid urbanisation.

While an exclusive authority to be headed by a principal secretary or a senior officer will preside over the SCR, Agra, Varanasi, Jhansi, Faizabad, Gorakhpur, Meerut and Bareilly divisions are also expected to be



Regional planning conclave day 2 concludes. Group photo of the participants

covered under the new framework.

“Comprising 75 districts, UP is governed through 18 divisional headquarters headed by divisional commissioners. Apart from the state capital region, at least seven to eight other regional urban directorates will be defined under the new framework. Officers heading them will have the authority to act as the umbrella body to ensure regional growth through close coordination between local administration, police, public works department, municipal corporation, development authority, irrigation department and other key agencies,” sa-

id a senior officer from the housing department who participated in the conclave.

The SCR which comprises eight districts adjoining Lucknow and Kanpur and is spread over 34,002 sqkm will be earmarked as a special zone. “An agency like MMRDA will be created for the SCR. The agency will figure out what needs to be done to promote growth and mobility by planning network of highways, bridges, flyovers, land development, industrialisation, metro rail services, heliports, jetties and logistics hub among others and direct other government agencies to do the needful,” he added.