

New authority to develop waterways in UP: Yogi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday announced that the government would soon set up a new authority which would be responsible for framing policies to make waterways accessible for cheaper transportation of goods.

Stressing on the importance of the country's first National Waterway from Varanasi to Haldia for the state, the CM said that the new authority would work for the development of waterways in UP.

The CM was speaking at

a programme where the government issued the first instalment of Rs 16.90 crore as subsidy to three private industrial parks in Aligarh, Saharanpur and Kanpur Dehat. The funds were issued under the Promoting Leadership and Enterprises

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for Development of Growth Engine (PLEDGE) scheme for the development of private industrial parks.

"We have inherited hundreds of years of heritage. There are 96 lakh MSME units in the state but they are dying due to lack of encouragement, design,

technology, packaging and promotion. Because of this, artisans have been migrating for a long time. We launched the ODOP scheme, followed by the Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana which became part of the Union Budget and is being implemented across the country," the CM said.

He said that that to meet the needs of a population like UP's private investment and traditional enterprise needed to be encouraged. Poor law and order was a hinderance to this but now UP had turned the table. Speaking about the improvement in infrastructure in

the state over the past six years, the CM said that the Ganga Expressway, Gorakhpur Link and Ballia Link Expressway, and the Lucknow and Kanpur Greenfield projects were underway which would give further impetus to industrial growth in UP.

Referring to the February Global Investors Summit where the state received investment proposals of Rs 35 lakh crore, the CM said that MSME will provide the foundation for these industries. "I remember the good work done by the MSME sector during the Covid period, when 40 lakh migrant

labourers came back, and were absorbed by the MSMEs. UP has now become an export hub worth Rs.2.5 lakh crore," he said.

He added that among the districts to which cheques had been issued, Saharanpur was famous for its woodwork and the centre was prepared to help with better designing of its products. Aligarh was famous for hardware and a node of the Defence Corridor. Kanpur is also a defence corridor node, he said, appealing to MSME entrepreneurs to come forward to make private parks in their respective areas.