

GIS mapping in 14 key UP cities to double property tax revenue

No. Of Houses Liable To Pay Tax Jumps To 45.88L

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Lucknow: The latest geographic information system (GIS) mapping in 14 key cities in Uttar Pradesh has resulted in almost doubling the number of establishments liable to pay property taxes to the civic bodies – from 27.16 lakh to 45.88 lakh. This means that the urban development department is expected to generate at least Rs 500 crore of additional revenue every year through property tax here on.

Mathura, Agra, Firozabad and Ghaziabad municipal corporations are going to reap the maximum benefits of the latest mapping in terms of revenue generation. In Mathura-Vrindavan belt, the number of properties within the local municipal corporation have gone up from 87,285 to 2.97 lakh, a 3.4-fold increase. Similarly, in Agra, instead of 1.91

lakh property owners, 4.54 lakh owners will be liable to pay house tax during the 2022-23 fiscal year. The mapping has helped the government identify properties that could not be captured through the physical surveys due to rapid urbanization within the past 10 to 15 years.

Initiated in 2019, the regional centre for urban and environmental studies (RCUES) appointed private agencies which had the technology and tools to carry out the geospatial studies. It took three more years to compile, collate and verify the data after juxtaposing it over the old maps available with the 14 municipal corporations which govern civic affairs in Lucknow, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Ghaziabad, Ayodhya, Mathura, Agra, Firozabad, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Meerut, Saharanpur, Moradabad and Bareilly. Department's principal se-

cretary Amrit Abhijat said that on the basis of the findings of the survey, unique property identity numbers of the assessed properties have been provided. "In Lucknow, black plates have been pasted over the households which have been covered under the survey recently. The complete history of the charges being paid by the household will be available on our system after entering the property ID number," said Abhijat.

Director, RCUES, Nishith Rai said that apart from covering new properties into the system, the GIS survey has also helped in assessing the increased built-up area of the existing properties.

"Existing property owners will also have to pay the actual house, water and sewerage tax and charges in case they are found using more space or area," said Rai.