

Master plan of top cities to be revised for future needs

Move To Help State Achieve \$1 Trillion Goal

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Lucknow: To promote balanced urban growth and achieve the trillion dollar economy goal, the Uttar Pradesh government is planning to revise the master plan of key cities.

As per the plan, the development authorities of Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Agra, Prayagraj and Ghaziabad will make efforts to broaden the scope of their respective master plans.

For rapid expansion and acceleration of capital expenditure, the government has shortlisted those cities which have a population of at least 5 lakh. The development authorities of 18 cities have been asked to amend their original master plan so that they could avail the benefits of the centre-sponso-

GETTING FUTURE READY

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red scheme for capital investment.

In the revised plan, the city maps will include mobility plan, transportation network and hubs, major junctions, and inter- and intra-city connectivity nodes.

The vice-chairmen and urban planners of the authorities concerned have been asked to prepare an estimate of future growth till 2050 and amend the master plan accordingly.

New roads required for future development having a right of way of 18 metre or more will also be specified in the plan.

Similarly, green and blue

infrastructure that includes rejuvenated waterbodies, flood-prone areas, lake-fronts, riverfronts, canal fronts, urban forest, and green spaces will also be laid down. The authorities will also focus on economic planning and zoning of upcoming commercial business districts and their integration with transportation hubs.

Additional chief secretary, housing, Nitin Ramesh Gokarn said the cities that fulfil the parameters in an efficient manner would be eligible to draw benefits worth Rs 50 crore. "Integration of essential planning

elements in the master plan is important for proper future planning of urban centres. The central government will provide special assistance for the implementation of urban planning reforms. It will also be easier to attract increased capital investments within the key cities if the master plan provides all the details clearly," the ACS said.

Meanwhile, a senior officer from the town planning department said that revising the master plans of Lucknow and Kanpur was essential as the two cities would act as the core area for the development of the state capital region (SCR).

"In a few decades, the zoning rules will have to be re-defined only to promote vertical development instead of horizontal development within the commercial business districts (CBDs). For that we need to identify the CBDs to offer flexible floor area ratio and provide a proper transportation network," the officer said.