

# 'GBC will see marked jump in investment'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will perform "bhoomi puja" to bring an investment of Rs 10.11 lakh crore to ground at the groundbreaking ceremony (GBC) being organised in Lucknow from February 19 to 21. This is going to be a quantum leap in terms of investment from Rs 60,000 crore at the first groundbreaking ceremony held here on July 29, 2018 to Rs 10.11 lakh crore now. The organisation of the event, however, has thrown greater challenges to the top bosses of the state government.

Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner (IIDC) Manoj Kumar Singh and his team have worked hard to make the event a success. Umesh Raghuvanshi spoke to the IIDC about the big event and the challenges ahead.

Edited excerpts

## How prepared are you for the groundbreaking ceremony?

We are fully prepared and geared up for the event. Today, we have crossed the target of Rs 10 lakh crore. We will now implement more than 14,000 projects involving investment of Rs 10.11 lakh crore.

## Which are the key invest-



## ment sectors?

Projects with heavier investment come from non-renewable energy. These include solar and pump storage plants. The second big sector is information technology. We have good investment in the automobile sector too. Ashok Leyland is setting up a plant to manufacture electric vehicles at Lucknow. For the first time, the Hindujas are moving from south India to north India. Two to three more automobile companies, including Yamaha, are also there.

## What about charging stations?

We also have electric charging stations. We have awarded setting up of 26 electric charging stations along the expressways to Adanis. A new model has come up for charging with the lowest rates.

## Any other important pro-

## jects?

We are going to have a film city in the national capital region in UP. After nearly three years, we have been able to finalise the project that will be exhibited at the exhibition being put up there. In the first phase, Rs 1,500 crore will be invested in the film city to come up in over 230 acres of land.

## What else is there in the exhibition?

We are also having an exhibit on artificial intelligence in one of the main pavilions. We are getting a team from ETH Zurich University, Switzerland. This is the university where Albert Einstein studied. Their AI centre is considered among the best in the world. We are going to have a MoU with them. Gautam Buddha University Greater Noida will sign the MoU. CM Yogi Adityanath has provided a budget of Rs 50 crore for the purpose of setting up Uttar Pradesh's first AI centre. We will work with four to five companies to set up the centre. These include Samsung, which has recently brought a mobile with the AI. Wadhvani AI and HCL are the other companies. The second exhibit is regarding the textiles sector. A centre of excellence is coming up at Ghaziabad. We have also got very good invest-

ment in warehousing and logistics sector.

## What is the schedule for other two days?

The next day, we have three workshops. One of them focuses on the FDIs and the Fortune-500 companies for which the state government has notified its policy. Union minister Piyush Goyal will preside over this event. Another workshop is on AI.

## Are you getting foreign investment too?

Yes, we are getting foreign investment. We brought out our policy very recently. But some foreign companies were already working in the state. We have issued two letters informing two companies about their eligibility. These include Fuji Silver Tech and Ashok Leyland. Four other applications are pending.

## What about other participants?

We have invited around 4,000 industrialists and investors besides twenty ambassadors. Sixteen officers are expected from government of India.

## Which region has the highest investment?

It's west U.P. We are getting the MoUs implemented from all districts.