

# Tourism MoUs worth Rs 1,249 cr for Bundelkhand to be signed

**HT Correspondent**

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**LUCKNOW:** Bundelkhand's rich cultural heritage and glorious history have made the entire region a hotspot for tourists. This unique identity has helped it secure tourism specific MoUs worth Rs 1,249 crore, which will be rolled out at the groundbreaking ceremony on February 19.

All seven districts of the region - Jhansi, Banda, Chitrakoot, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Lalitpur, and Mahoba - boast their unique identity, culture, and history. There are approximately 34 forts and historical buildings in Bundelkhand.

The tourism department has planned to renovate and beautify them on the lines of Rajasthan and operate them on a PPP mode.

Jhansi, considered the jewel of Bundelkhand and renowned for Rani Laxmi Bai's fort, has secured more than half of the projects. MoUs worth Rs 837 crore will be signed exclusively for the city.

In Chitrakoot, the city where Lord Ram spent 11 years of his exile, MoUs worth Rs 118 crore will be implemented to develop tourist places. Similarly, in Mahoba, Jalaun, and Banda, MoUs of Rs 89 crore, Rs 86.73 crore, and Rs 75 crore respectively will be initiated.

To popularise Bundelkhand among tourists, the Tourism department is organising a 16-day Bundelkhand Gaurav fest from January 23.

The Mahotsav will commence from Jhansi fort and will end at Kalinjar fort in Banda on February 18, with events to be organised in all seven districts of the region.

## From dust to glory, Rashtriya Prerna Sthal to transform Lko's landscape



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**LUCKNOW:** The rhythmic clamour of earthmovers and cranes reverberate tirelessly through Basant Kunj on Hardoi Road in the state capital. Here, amid the energetic bustle, a dedicated workforce toils ceaselessly to realise the vision of the Rashtriya Prerna Sthal before the fast-approaching deadline of February 19.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi's is likely to inaugurate the site during his upcoming visit to the state for the Groundbreaking Ceremony, the pressure is on to ensure every detail is swiftly and meticulously executed. The site is being built at Rs 117 crore.

Spread over a vast 65 acres, the Sthal unfolds as a multi-faceted marvel.

At its heart lies a stage--a grand platform that will play host to various events and ceremonies; adjacent to it an open-air theatre is taking shape that can have 3,000 people.

The construction extends further to encompass a fountain,



Spread over 65 acres, the site will house a museum dedicated to tall personalities, a massive rally ground, and more.

DEEPAK GUPTA

### STHAL'S FEATURES

- Total area: **65** acres
- How much is being spent: **Rs 117** crore
- Rally ground size: **1,20,000** sq. m
- Statue height: **63** feet on a 9x9 m pedestal
- Stage 1: **600** sq. m
- Stage 2: **1,000** sq. m
- Open-air theatre: **3,700** sq. m
- Parking space: **11,000** sq. m
- Museum block ground floor: **3,700** sq. m
- Museum block first floor: **2,300** sq. m
- Yoga center and multipurpose hall: **510** sq. m
- Vipassana meditation center and multipurpose hall: **490** sq. m
- Cafeteria: **695** sq. m

statues, each said to be 63-foot-high, will be elevated on a 9x9 metre pedestal.

A Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) official assured this reporter that the installations would be completed in no time.

Mayor Sushma Kharakwal

### DM INSPECTS ASHOK LEYLAND PLANT SITE

**LUCKNOW:** District magistrate Surya Pal Gangwar visited the land marked for the Ashok Leyland plant in Nadarganj here on Tuesday. The additional district magistrate of Sarojini Nagar, officials of Ashok Leyland along with officials the Lucknow Municipal Corporation and the PWD were also present on the occasion. The DM said primary objective of the visit was to ensure the suitability and readiness of the site. He also saw the designated construction area and visited the helipad site for the groundbreaking ceremony.

The vast premises will feature a stage, bench-style seating, and restrooms to ensure a seamless experience for multitude of attendees.

Adjacent to the rally ground, a cafeteria will be set up. A helipad is strategically built near the rally ground.