

State cabinet nod to rejig of UP tourism dept after 50 yrs

Bid To Create Over 100 New Positions

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

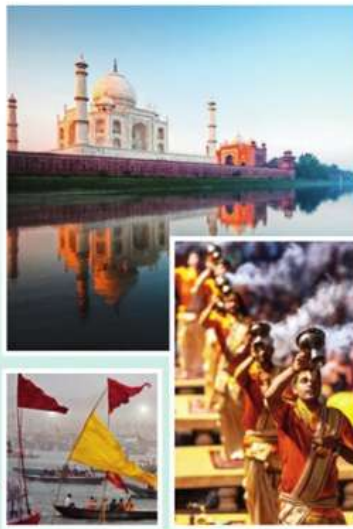
Lucknow: The UP cabinet cleared a proposal to re-organise the state tourism department here on Tuesday. Through the proposal, the department intends to create over 100 new positions at the headquarters and district level.

Calling the reorganization a need of the hour, tourism minister **Thakur Jaiveer Singh** said, "The scale of activities undertaken by the tourism department has grown immensely and to catch up with the current needs, augmenting the work force was needed."

When contacted, principal secretary Mukesh Meshram said, "The department was formed in 1972, and since then, its functioning was never reviewed. Reorganization was also needed to keep up with the goals for the one trillion-dollar economy endeavor of the state government." Meshram said the growth of UP's tourism sector and economy may be gauged from the footfall in destinations in the state. In 2023 alone, over 48 crore tourists visited various places

FRESH IMPETUS

- State cabinet has reorganized tourism dept to deal with rising work responsibilities and goals of achieving trillion dollar economy target
- 100 new posts created, 36 obsolete ones scrapped
- Step aims to strengthen tourism dept at district level so that ongoing schemes and plans can be implemented effectively
- After cabinet approval, new appointments would begin



in the state. He attributed the surge in the number of tourists to concerted efforts undertaken by the state government to enhance tourist experience by increasing amenities in popular destinations besides creating and curating new places across districts in different areas such as rural tourism, pro-poor tourism, eco-tourism, MICE tourism and so on.

The official said that the state had also rolled out the district-level tourism plan to accelerate tourism within the districts as well. In addition to this, fresh impetus had been given to the circuit development programme. Not to forget the constitution of various boards to manage important destinations and properties like the ecotourism board, Namisharanya tourism board, Devipatan Dham pilgrimage development board etc. To ma-

nage the rising needs of the department, the state cabinet approved creation of 100 positions across state and district levels. The list includes director, tourism, on which a special secretary rank officer (PCS or IAS) would be appointed. He would be supported by director, eco-tourism, on which an Indian Forest Services level officer would be appointed. The tourism department primary cadre official would be promoted to take charge of additional director. The cabinet also cleared appointment of 59 district tourism officers and 38 additional district tourism officers to roll out tourism department schemes and oversee the activities in the districts. The re-organisation also led to the scrapping of 36 obsolete posts. The list includes positions such as photographer, documentation assistant and so on.