

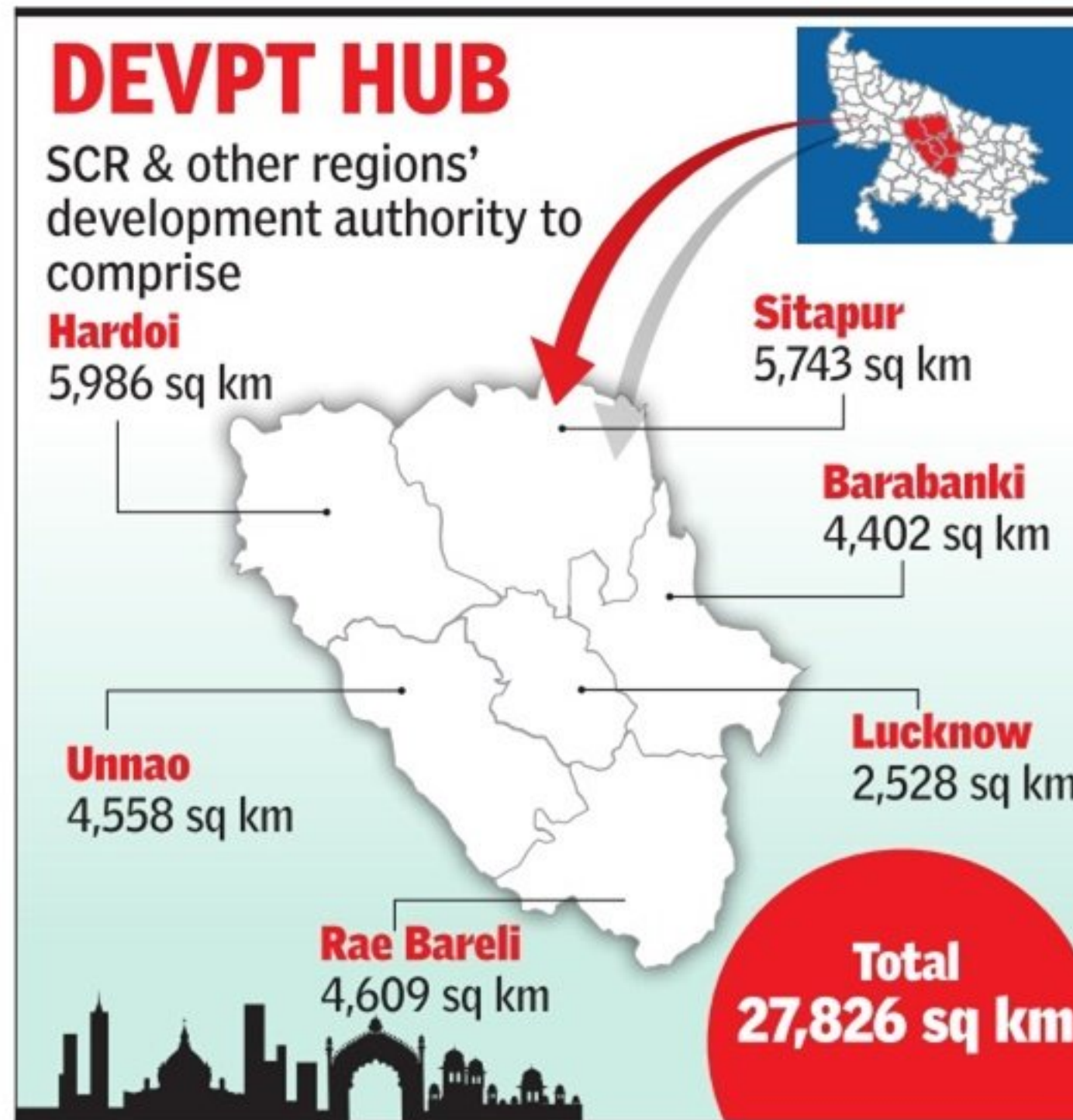
# Govt notifies State Capital Rgn, other rgns devpt body

## 5 Dists Sharing Border With Lko Included

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** The state govt on Friday notified the state capital region (SCR) and other regions development authority. In order to develop Lucknow on the lines of the metropolitan region, the five neighbouring districts sharing their boundaries with the capital city would be amalgamated to drive future growth. Comprising 27,826 sqkm, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, Barabanki and Sitapur districts would be developed as growth centres to drive the economic growth of the state.

Additional secretary of the housing department, Nitin Ramesh Gokarn said that the authority which would develop the state capital region and other regions in the state was constituted on Friday. "The chief minister would preside over the authority as its president, while the chief secretary would be its vice-president," said Gokarn.



Being constituted with more than three dozen members, the board of the authority would include head of the departments from the housing, revenue, urban development, finance, environment, rural development, irrigation, public works, transport, agriculture, tourism and chief town planner among others as its members.

Divisional commissioner of Lucknow and Ayodhya would be also part of the board and governing council, while the day-to-day decision would be taken under the supervision of a chief executive officer and members of the executive committee. "The important decisions related to acquisition of land, improving connectivity, planning commercial business dis-

tricts and seeking funds would be put up before the board for final decision by the executive committee," said a senior officer.

The authority, with its headquarters in Lucknow, would work towards providing the resources and infrastructure required to connect the towns situated within its scope and work towards convincing the Centre and state to improve transportation, rail connectivity, communications, waterways, public transport, industrialisation and commercialisation besides improving the basic infrastructure within the region.

Officials said that the authority that would be constituted in the coming days would have wider and broader jurisdiction in the state to suggest similar amalgamation of urban centres and towns to promote economic growth in other parts of the state.

"Varanasi, Gorakhpur and Bareilly are three growth centres where a centralised regional authority could be constituted to push for planned urban development and further expansion," said a senior officer.