

# *'Cage-free egg production centre to be set up in U.P.'*

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**LUCKNOW:** India's first model cage-free egg production and training centre will be set up in Uttar Pradesh in an initiative that aims to introduce farmers to traditional, humane and profitable poultry farming methods as an alternative to the battery cage system.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard was signed here on Wednesday in the presence of UP chief sec-

retary Manoj Kumar Singh, the Central Avian Research Institute (CARI) and the People for Animals Public Policy Foundation (PFA PPF)

In his address on the occasion, the CS stated that this partnership was a significant milestone in India's journey towards animal welfare and reflected Uttar Pradesh's commitment to the economic well being of its farmers.

He emphasized that through this initiative, UP was setting an example for the entire country.

The collaboration would equip farmers with the knowledge and resources necessary to adopt modern poultry systems, promoting both economic advancement and alignment with global trends.

PFA PPF trustee Gauri Maul-ekhi highlighted that the training centre would educate farmers, producers, and other stakeholders on the best practices for cage-free egg production, besides helping farmers access domestic and international markets, enabling them to max-

imize the benefits of these sustainable practices.

"India, the world's second-largest egg producer, has long been a hub for poultry farming. In the battery cage system, hens are confined to small cages, restricting their natural behaviour," said a government spokesman. "With increasing global awareness, many multinational companies operating in India have pledged to use only cage-free eggs, with most commitments set to be fulfilled by the end of 2025," he added.