

## CABINET MEETING

# Wheat MSP, Agra metro land transfer okayed

Among 19 approved proposals, Cabinet decides to phase out physical stamp papers ranging from ₹10,000-₹25,000

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, MARCH 10

THE UTTAR Pradesh Cabinet on Monday gave approval to Rs 2,425 per quintal as the minimum support price (MSP) for wheat, transfer for the Agra metro rail project and 17 other proposals related to agriculture, healthcare, industry and infrastructure, officials said.

The decisions were taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow.

Speaking to media, Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna said wheat procurement in the state will take place from March 17 to June 15 at the Rs 2,425 per quintal MSP, as announced by the Central government. A total of 6,500 procurement centres will be set up across the state by eight agencies, including the state Food and Civil Supplies Department, he said.

The Cabinet approved the free transfer of land from the Horticulture and Food Processing Department to the Housing and Urban Planning Department for the first corridor of the Agra Metro Rail Project under the Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited. Khanna said 8,684.68 square meters of land, previously under the Horticulture and Food Processing Department, will be leased for 90 years to the Housing and Urban Planning

### STATE SMART CITY SCHEME EXTENDED FOR 2 MORE YEARS

The Cabinet also approved the proposal to extend the State Smart City Scheme for two more years, which covers all 17 municipal corporations in the state and was initially launched for five years. It will be expanded under the State Smart City Mission. While the Centre had selected 10 smart cities in UP in 2019-20, the Uttar Pradesh government later included seven cities i.e. Ghaziabad, Meerut, Firozabad, Ayodhya, Mathura-Vrindavan, Shahjahanpur, and Gorakhpur. **ENS**

Department at a token rate of Rs 1, with provisions for renewal every 30 years.

The state Cabinet has also approved the transfer of 20,753 square meters of land from the Home Department for the second corridor of the project. This land will also be leased for 90 years under similar conditions.

The Cabinet also gave the nod to the free transfer of 14.05 acres of land from the Ballia district jail to Medical Education Department for establishing a medical college. Of this, 12.39 acres will be used for the college, while two acres will

be developed into a memorial for freedom fighter Chittu Pandey, after whom the college may be named, he said.

In another decision, 4,570 square metres of land from the Government Agricultural School in Bulandshahr's Balipura village will be transferred free of cost to the Medical Education Department for establishing a nursing college.

The Cabinet also approved the revised administrative and financial sanction for a 300-bed gynaecology block, including a 100-bed paediatric block, under the Uttar Pradesh Institute of Medical Sciences in Saifai, Etawah.

A major financial decision was taken regarding the withdrawal of physical stamp papers ranging from Rs 10,000 to 25,000 from circulation. The step was taken to increase transparency and prevent irregularities, officials said. Stamps worth over Rs 5,630 crore will be auctioned as old stamps would be valid only until March 31.

A proposal to grant 'permanent employee' status to seven staff members who have been working for over 25 years at the Uttar Pradesh Council of Science and Technology under the central government-funded "Assistance for S&T Secretariat to CSTUP" project.

They will now receive salaries as per the 7th Pay Commission. **—PTI INPUTS**

## On Yogi govt's 8 years, ministers to fan out in districts with Kumbh jal

MAULSHREE SETH  
LUCKNOW, MARCH 10

AS THE Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government completes eight years in Uttar Pradesh on March 25, the state ministers will fan out in districts with Kumbh water for distribution expressing gratitude to people for making the recently concluded Maha Kumbh a success and list the achievements of their party's governance.

The decision was taken at a meeting Adityanath held in Lucknow on Monday, in which the ministers passed a resolution congratulating the Chief Minister for the Maha Kumbh, which according to them "increased acceptability of Sanatan" across the world and was seen by many as a model in organisation.

"In the meeting, the CM was hailed for the successful organisation of the Maha Kumbh, in which 66.30 crore people participated. The event became a model before the world, enhanced Uttar Pradesh's identity and also increased the acceptability of Sanatan in every way," said Cabinet Minister Suresh Khanna.

It was for the first time that the ministers met after the Maha Kumbh.

The resolution congratulating the Chief Minister was read by Khanna, it is learnt.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a state Cabinet meeting in Lucknow on Monday. **PTI**

Apart from congratulating the Chief Minister, a discussion also took place on the ways to reach out to the public as the BJP government completes eight years on March 25 (5 years of the first term and three years of the second term), Khanna added.

Sources said Chief Minister Adityanath directed all the ministers to reach out to public in the districts under their charge and share the achievements of both the state and the central governments while taking forward the message of Kumbh.

"The government is completing 8 years on March 25, so we would talk about development schemes of both the Central and the state governments. In the districts under our charge, we will take the Kumbh water for those who could not come to the mela due to some

reasons," said Minister Daya Shanker Singh.

The government is contemplating about sharing its district-wise achievements, including new development projects and welfare schemes, in the past 8 years. "We will also hold press conferences in districts under our charge to list the district-wise development achievements and how the government is working towards the 1-trillion dollar economy goal. Also, we will highlight as how the Kumbh was a major factor in boosting that economic growth with such a large footfall," the minister added.

Even after the Maha Kumbh, people in large numbers continue to visit Prayagraj to take the dip at the Sangam.

On some days, the number is in lakhs, officials said.

