

CABINET MEETING

Govt to set up 5 seed parks on PPP model 'to cut dependence on other states for seeds'

Will be named after Charan Singh: Agriculture Minister

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UTTAR PRADESH is set to get five state-of-the-art seed parks — one each in five "agro-economic zones" in the state. A proposal in this regard was approved by the state Cabinet on Thursday, State Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi said.

It was also decided that these parks would be named after former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh as a tribute towards his contribution to agriculture and the first of these parks would come up in Lucknow, said Shahi.

The minister told mediapersons that the first such park would be built with an investment of Rs 266 crore over 130 acres in the Attari area of Lucknow. He informed that this would be equipped with several facilities for enhancing seed production as well as processing, storage, speed breeding and hybrid research. The initiative would revolutionise the seed sector in the state, he said.

The seed parks would come in a phased manner, said Shahi. After Lucknow, one would be developed in western Uttar Pradesh, another in Terai region, one in the Central zone and one in Bundelkhand. The minister also informed that these parks would be built through public-private partnership, where land would be offered on lease for 30 years to the seed companies.

Shahi pointed out that Uttar Pradesh is one of the largest agriculture states, having 165 lakh hectares of cultivable land and if both the crops are calculated, farming takes place on nearly 270 lakh hectares.

"For this, we require 70 lakh quintals or seven lakh metric tonnes of seeds. Against this, the state is able to produce around 46 lakh quintal only and the re-



CM Adityanath chairs the meeting in Lucknow, Thursday, Express

RESOLUTION LAUDS PM MODI FOR OP SINDOOR

Lucknow: The UP Cabinet of Ministers on Thursday passed a resolution congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the armed forces for the "successful implementation of Operation Sindoor". The resolution said the "success of the operation has shown strong commitment of the country towards national security and strong stance on terrorism." Cabinet Minister Suresh Khanna said about the resolution, "Operation Sindoor is a symbol of our strength, unity and collective resolve to protect the country." **ENS**

maining is taken from the neighbouring states. Thus, to promote seed production within the state and at the same time provide certification for quality seeds, approval has been given for developing seed parks in the state," said Shahi.

Officials informed that Uttar Pradesh has nine agricultural climatic zones and seed parks would be developed in five of these regions, with the aim of reducing dependency on other

states and also export seeds to other states.

Shahi pointed out that while Uttar Pradesh does not produce any hybrid seeds, of the nearly Rs 7,000 crore seed business, around Rs 3,500 crore business goes to other states. Thus, the idea is also to capitalise on this mark within the state.

Event halls in every rural Assembly seat

The Cabinet approved the proposal for construction of "marriage and event halls" to be named "Panchayat Utsav Bhawan" in each rural assembly constituency across the state. In the first phase, 71 of these halls would be constructed and officials informed that Rs 100 crore has been allocated for the project, as one Utsav Bhawan is expected to cost around Rs 1.41 crore of which 40 per cent would be contributed by the state government from UP Matri Bhoomi Yojana, while remaining 60 per cent would be through funding from donors.

Pay hike for contract staff in Aviation dept

The Cabinet approved revision of remuneration of contractual employees of Directorate General of Civil Aviation, including both technical and non-technical staff working right from pilot, co-pilot, aviation engineer, quality manager, additional director (technical) to operations manager and flight safety chief.

Govt earmarks Rs 179.42 crore to boost ration delivery system

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THE UTTAR Pradesh government on Thursday approved Rs 179.42 crore to give a fillip to the ration delivery system under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The funding aims at enhancing the operations across the supply chain — from procurement to delivery and inter-state coordination in order to improve the efficiency of the Food and Civil Supplies Department.

According to the government, as part of the NFSA, eligible beneficiaries are being identified and issued ration cards. To date, over 3.16 crore household ration cards and 40.73 lakh Antyodaya ration cards have been distributed, covering more than 1.29 crore people under the Antyodaya scheme. The ongoing identification campaign aims at ensuring that no eligible individual is left out, a statement said.

For the 2025-26 fiscal, funding has been allocated with a 50-50 contribution from both the central and state governments. The aim is to make the Public Distribution System (PDS) more transparent, efficient, and inclusive, ensuring timely delivery of quality food items to beneficiaries.

The scope of this scheme includes inter-state transportation, storage, loading and unloading, and distribution of ration to fair price shops. The allocated funds would be utilised to strengthen the food storage infrastructure and supply chain, ensuring smooth and uninterrupted distribution of food at every level, the statement said.

Eye on investments, govt increases subsidy for dairy units to 35%

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TO ATTRACT investment in the dairy sector, the state government has decided to increase the subsidy for setting up new units or upgrading the existing ones to 35 per cent or up to Rs 5 crore.

The state Cabinet on Thursday gave its nod to the amendments to the UP Dairy Development and Milk Production Promotion Policy 2022.

Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Minister Dharampal Singh said that so far, only 10 per cent subsidy was given by the state government under the existing policy, whereas under the policies like Food Processing Industry Policy 2023, 35 per cent subsidy or up to Rs 5 crore was given. "Similarly, now under the Uttar Pradesh Dairy Development and Milk Production Promotion Policy, a subsidy of 35 per cent, up to Rs 5 crore, will be given for establishing new dairy units as well as for the upgradation of existing ones," Singh said.

He said that apart from this, 35 per cent of the cost or up to Rs 2.5 crore would also be given for modernisation in dairy

plants, while 35 per cent or up to Rs 1 crore would be given for the purchase of machinery and equipment.

"While another 35 per cent of the cost, up to Rs 1 crore, has been offered for setting up of cold chain for dairy products," the minister said.

Govt to assist gram panchayats to generate earnings

As part of efforts to make Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayats financially self-sufficient, the Cabinet on Thursday allowed the rural bodies to undertake activities with the available resources for generating earnings with the state government providing the gram panchayat five times the assistance amount.

"For example, if through activities like undertaking fish breeding in the existing ponds or through local markets, if Gram Sabha is able to earn Rs 10,000, then the government would provide them five times the amount, that is Rs 50,000, as assistance to enhance their earnings further. A maximum of Rs 5 lakh assistance based on the maximum Rs 1 lakh earning of the Gram Panchayat, would be provided by the government," said Cabinet Minister Suresh Khanna.

