

UP goes big on food processing, logistics

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LUCKNOW: In a push to strengthen its rural economy, increase farmer incomes, and expand welfare delivery systems, the Uttar Pradesh government has unveiled an ambitious investment plan focused on food processing and logistics infrastructure.

At the heart of the strategy is the UP Food Processing Industry Policy-2023, designed to attract investment and promote planned industrial development in the food processing sector.

Officials say the policy is already helping create a more structured ecosystem for food-based industries, encouraging private players to set up processing units closer to farm gates. This is expected to reduce post-harvest losses and increase farmers' share in the consumer

rupee.

Complementing the state's initiative, the Centre-backed Pradhan Mantri Sookshma Khaadya Udyog Unnayan Yojana (PMFME) is being implemented to support micro and unorganized food processing units. The scheme provides capital subsidies, enabling small entrepreneurs to upgrade technology, improve branding, and integrate into formal supply chains.

In a parallel welfare push, the government has proposed a massive ₹20,124 crore allocation for food and logistics-related schemes. A major share — ₹15,480 crore — has been earmarked for the Annapurna Yojana, aimed at strengthening food security mechanisms across the state. To further support economically weaker households, ₹1,500 crore has been allocated for the Free LPG Cylinder Refilling Yojana.