

Budget gives direction for UP's rapid devpt: Khanna

Welcomes Creation Of Ayurvedic Hospitals

Team TOI

Finance minister Suresh Khanna welcomed the Budget, saying that it would provide a new direction to the comprehensive, balanced and rapid development of Uttar Pradesh.

The minister said the increase in capital expenditure would accelerate the development of expressways, industrial corridors, logistics hubs, railways and urban infrastructure in the state, which would invite more investment.

"Industrial incentives and MSME support will strengthen small and medium industries in the state, which will increase opportunities for lo-



Suresh Khanna

cal and self-employment. The establishment of a Digital Knowledge Grid will be extremely beneficial for the youth. The decision to promote 15 historical cities to boost tourism and create 10,000 tourist guides, the AI hub, and the decision to spend 40,000 crore on the electronic sector are also welcome," he said.

Khanna pointed out that the Budget has made a provision of Rs 20,000 crore to mitigate climate change and provide relief to cities with poor air quality. High-speed rail corridors, especially Delhi-Varanasi and Varanasi-Siliguri rou-

'It's a roadmap for developed India'

Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya termed the Budget as one that embodies the development of villages and the poor, besides empowering women, promoting tourism and increasing farmers' income. "It is a roadmap for a developed India. It is focused on the welfare of the poor and overall development, an all-inclusive Budget. The interests of women, youth, the elderly, farmers and all sections of society were given paramount importance." Maurya said the Budget, with its sound policies and results-oriented vision, strongly propelled the goal of a developed India by 2047. "Today's Budget is historic. It reflects the strong empowerment of the nation's women," he said.



tes, and waterway projects would give new momentum to connectivity, trade and tourism, he said. Khanna also welcomed the creation of Ayurvedic hospitals. Appointment of 1.5 lakh caregivers for the elderly and women's hostels.

"The Budget has made medicines for seven serious diseases including cancer and diabetes cheaper. Along with this, leather and sports equipment will also become cheaper," the minister said.

The minister appreciated the Mahatma Gandhi Gram

Swaraj Yojana through which villages will be empowered and provisions that will increase the income of farmers, and strengthen irrigation facilities and boost the rural economy. "Education, skill development and employment schemes for youth will provide UP's youth the opportunity to play a decisive role in the country's development. Provisions related to health, women empowerment and social welfare will directly benefit the poor, women, elderly and deprived sections in the state," he said.