

# Budget to focus on women & youth

## UP Moving Towards \$1Trn Economy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** Like the previous year, experts expect state finance minister Suresh Khanna to table a revenue surplus budget. Last year, the budget was around Rs 60,000 crore in revenue surplus, with the focus areas being infrastructure development, education, and agriculture. Around 22% was marked for infrastructure, 13% for education, and 11% for agriculture.

The UP govt's push this year will remain on these sectors, with several development projects, including new expressways, already planned. What looks to be a rosy picture for govt



CM Yogi Adityanath and Suresh Khanna arrive for Budget Session on Tuesday

is the fact that, slowly but surely, the state is moving towards becoming a 1-trillion-dollar economy, with the total GSDP of the state reaching Rs 30.8 lakh crore, with an estimate of the economy size of the state reaching over Rs 36 lakh crore by the end of 2026-27. This year, the focus is also likely to be on women and youth.

The budget is also expected to see a couple of new schemes. The focus is also likely to be on the creation of new job and employment opportunities.

According to sources in the finance department, it is a known fact that the govt does not have the capacity to increase employment by a big number; hence, the

## House pays tribute to departed leaders

**Lucknow:** Uttar Pradesh Assembly was on Tuesday adjourned for the day after paying tributes to departed members.

The House observed two-minute silence in memory of BJP legislator Professor Shyam Bihari Lal and Samajwadi Party leader Vijay Singh Gond after condolence motions were moved by Leader of the House and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Lal (60), a two-time MLA from Faridpur in Bareilly district,

passed away on January 2, while Vijay Singh Gond (71), an eight-time MLA from Duddhi in Sonbhadra district, died on Jan 8. Moving the condolence motion, Adityanath described Lal as a simple, people-oriented leader committed to the welfare of the poor and marginalised. Paying tributes to Gond, the chief minister said he was a senior legislator and a strong voice of the tribal community, known for his simplicity and struggle-driven public life.

focus would be on making more and more people skilled so that they are able to do something. The budget, thus, is likely to have a focus on skill development and MSME sectors, they believe. However, the challenge will be to counter the loss, even if it is for the short term, after GST liberalisation during Diwali last year brought most items lower from 28% slab. The loss to the state ex-

chequer will be a challenge for the state govt, experts opined.

Among the major central share that is already due, the state govt's concern is also on the non-payment of dues until now against "piped water to all household" under the Namami Gange project. The state govt is waiting for dues to the tune of Rs 33,000 crore under the project, sources in the department said.