

Kashi-Vindhya hub plan takes centrestage at Niti Aayog meet

Varanasi: Niti Aayog deputy chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri on Saturday reviewed key development projects and directed officials to strengthen technology-driven monitoring, improve inter-departmental coordination, and accelerate efforts to achieve the 2030 development goals. He also reviewed a proposal to develop the Kashi-Vindhya region into a major economic hub under the Develop India 2047 vision.

The high-level meeting was attended by divisional commissioner S Rajalingam, DM Satyendra Kumar, municipal commissioner Himanshu Nagpal and other senior officials. During the meeting, Varanasi Development Authority vice-chairman Purna Bora presented a development model for the Kashi-Vindhya region, comprising seven districts with a population of 23 million and contributing \$24 billion, or 7.7%, to Uttar Pradesh's GDP.

The proposal envisages developing the region into a \$600 billion economic hub



Tourists enjoying a boatride on the Ganga in city on Sunday

under the Develop India 2047 vision by generating 500,000-700,000 jobs, building premium hotels, strengthening manufacturing and logistics hubs, attracting investments in the power and energy sectors, and boosting allied agricultural sectors.

The plan also focuses on water conservation, the social sector, primary agriculture, fisheries, forestry, education, healthcare and nutrition. Chief development officer Prakhar Kumar briefed the deputy chairman on rural development initiatives and presented the district's performance across 76 devel-

opment parameters.

Lahiri directed officials to monitor anaemia patients on the lines of the TB eradication programme by regularly contacting them to ensure they take their medication. He also asked officials to make sustained efforts to achieve the 2030 targets.

Reviewing the progress of various government schemes, the deputy chairman stressed timely and quality implementation, stronger coordination among departments, and ensuring that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the last person. ANI