

Big push to infra, tourism in UP budget

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LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday presented the ₹8.08 lakh crore state budget for 2025-26 in the legislative assembly, announcing major allocations for infrastructure development, education, healthcare and agriculture, and emphasising the government's aim to turn the state into a trillion-dollar economy.

State's finance minister Suresh Khanna presented the ninth annual budget of the Yogi Adityanath-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, which made the highest allocation of ₹1.79 lakh crore, or 22% of the total budget, for infrastructure development across various sectors.

The budget incorporates new schemes worth ₹28,478.34 crore with a futuristic vision to make UP the main investment

Highlights of the budget

₹8.087 l-cr budget allocation, 9.8% more than the 2024-2025 budget estimate	
₹2,000 cr for maintenance of stray cows	₹400 cr for development of tourist spots in Ayodhya, Mathura and more
₹900 cr for construction of greenfield expressway connecting Agra-Lucknow expressway and Ganga expressway	₹400 cr allocated for Rani Laxmi Bai Scooty Scheme to distribute scooters to meritorious girl students
₹400 cr for state smart city scheme	₹5 cr to develop AI city in Lucknow

hub and growth engine of the country, the minister said in his nearly 80-minute budget speech.

According to an official statement, the total budget size of ₹8,08,736.06 crore for 2025-26 is 19.7% more than the revised estimate for the current fiscal.

The revised estimate of expenditure for 2024-25 has been pegged at 8.3% less than the budget estimate for the year.

The government expects a tax revenue of ₹5.5 lakh crore in 2025-26, including ₹2.95 lakh crore from its own tax revenue and the rest from the state's

share in central taxes. The revised estimate of tax revenue for 2024-25 is ₹4.4 lakh crore, of which ₹2.1 lakh crore is expected to be its own tax revenue.

The fiscal deficit in 2025-26 is estimated at ₹91,399 crore or 2.97% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

The total government debt is expected to be 29.4% in 2025-26, lower than the revised estimate of 30.8% in 2024-25 and the 30.5% in FY24.

Hailing the budget, CM Adityanath said its main theme is "priority to the deprived".

"This budget is dedicated to the upliftment of the poor, farmers, youth, and women, in line with the concept of 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah' (happiness for all) from Sanatan culture. Under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central theme of this budget is 'priority to the deprived'," he added.