

Development of Mega Leather Clusters to be expedited

- **Chief Secretary: Setting up of MLCs should move ahead quickly**
- **All incentives available in Infrastructure & Industrial Policy to be availed**

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The process of setting up of two green-field Mega Leather Cluster (MLC) projects proposed at Sandila in Hardoi and Ramaipur in Kanpur district will be expedited. **Chief Secretary Jawed Usmani issued directions for speeding up the process** in a high-level meeting here today. A detailed presentation was made in this meeting by consultants ILFS Ltd on the future course of action required for development of infrastructure in these leather clusters.

Chief Secretary said, "All incentives and facilities specified in new Infrastructure & Industrial Policy 2012 should be availed to implement the projects." "As these projects are expected to be set up by investment of more than Rs 200 crores, incentives available to mega projects in the policy will be available to them," he added.

One of the leather parks will come up in around 300 acres of land in Sandila Industrial Area of UPSIDC. Sandila falls in Hardoi district. The second project will be set up in Ramaipur area of district Kanpur. Land measuring 625 acres has been already identified in villages - Kuraina Bahadur Nagar and Senpurabpara.

Infrastructure & Industrial Development Commissioner (IIDC), Anil Kumar Gupta said, "The projects have evinced encouraging response from tanneries, around 170 tanneries have applied for Sandila mega leather cluster, while nearly 300 tannery owners have applied for upcoming leather cluster at Ramaipur in Kanpur."

Proposed integrated leather parks would have world class infrastructure with latest technology equipped production chain to meet the demands of domestic markets and standards for export along with residential facilities.

It may be noted that in a major boost to traditionally productive leather industry in Uttar Pradesh, **Chief Minister, Akhilesh Yadav** has already given in-principle approval to two green-field Mega Leather Cluster (MLC) projects.

Besides, in order **to mitigate pollution** and ensure environment conservation, there will be facilities for treating the effluents generated in the parks. Provisions for rain water harvesting, warehousing, raw material banks, exhibition centre, design centre and human resource development are also proposed in these leather clusters.

Each of the parks would have an investment of around Rs1000 crores with creation of employment opportunities for nearly **10,000 persons**.

Managing Director, UPSIDC, Manoj Singh informed that these mega leather clusters would be implemented through special purposes vehicles (SPV) under a Government of India scheme for development of mega leather clusters. The scheme provides for 70 per cent contribution by Government of India. Maximum grant of Rs. 125 crore is sanctioned by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) for a cluster coming up in 150 acres of land.

MD UPSIDC said very soon the proposals will be sent to DIPP for approval.
