

UP pips Maha to become top sugar producer

At a time when cane-growers in western UP, hit by demonetisation, missed the rabi season and were considering to quit farming, the fact that the state has surged past even Maharashtra to become the country's top sugar producer might restore their confidence. The estimation was revealed by a state delegation at a high-level meeting called by the Centre in New Delhi recently. **P7**

THE TIMES OF INDIA, LUCKNOW
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017

AMU students union rallies behind BSP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: The BSP received yet another shot in the arm on Thursday when the Aligarh Muslim Students Union (AMUSU) came out in its support and gave a call for Dalit-Muslim unity.

In a statement issued on Thursday, AMUSU said while the BJP is trying to impose its ideology on students, the Samajwadi Party is no more inclined towards the socialist movement and is instead responsible for the communal incidents and poor law and order in the state. The union also criticised SP's alliance partner Congress, holding it responsible for the demolition of Babri Masjid.

The union cited the suicide of dalit scholar Rohith Vemula and missing JNU student Najeeb Ahmad as instances of dalit and Muslims being oppressed by "an organisation" which wants to impose its ideology on students. AMUSU secretary Nabeel Usmani said they appeal to the Muslims to defeat the fascist and communal forces by voting in favour of the BSP.

UP pips Maha, is now top producer of sugar

DeMon Hit Cane-Growers Set For Turnaround

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Maharashtra, which was so far the largest sugar producer, is struggling with around 40 lakh tonne from the earlier 110 lakh tonne a year because the water table sank alarmingly leading to drought like conditions.

UP's production estimation was revealed by a state delegation at a high-level meeting called by the Centre in Delhi to assess sugar production in the country. UP's figures of around 80 lakh tonne surprised the Centre and representatives of other cane



SUGAR RUSH: UP's figures of around 80 lakh tonne surprised the Centre and representatives of other cane growing states

growing states as with this the state is all set to record the highest ever production.

Talking to ToI, secretary general of UP Sugar Mills Association, Deepak Gupta said that the farmers deserve special mention for introducing varietal changes in the crop and researchers for the new high yielding crops, while the state government played its role in implementation of the plans and programmes. With this development,

to be declared officially by March end, the sugar industry is all set for a revolution which would benefit farmers, mainly nearly 35 lakh sugarcane growers.

The record production of sugar will not only stabilise the price of the product in the market, but would also result in timely payments to cane-growers, even as sugar mills would profit from selling more. In the previous cane year, the state had produced 68.55 lakh tonne. The record production in sugar is linked to increase of sugar recovery in sugarcane from around 9 per cent till last year to more than 10 per cent this year.

It also got a push with growth in productivity from 59 tonne per hectare to 67 tonne per hectare. Moreover, the government has been able to overcome the barrier of transfer of hybrid and high quality seeds of sugar from lab to land.