

Amul to anchor food park

A Staff Reporter



Calcutta, Nov. 18: Amul, the dairy products brand of the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation, will be the anchor unit in the third-phase expansion of a food park in Sankrail, Howrah, a top official of the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) has said. The company is said to have sought a 16-acre plot in the food park to set up an industrial unit about two months back. This can translate into an investment of close to Rs 150-200 crore.

Gupta: Upbeat

"Amul is going to be the anchor unit in our phase-three expansion of the food park," Krishna Gupta, managing director of the WBIDC, said yesterday at the 44th annual members' convention 2014-15 of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, East India council.

The proposed third phase of the food hub will be set up on 34.12 acres. It consists of 23 plots of land with sizes varying from 0.25 acres to 2.73 acres. A four-storied standard design factory has also been conceived for the benefit of small manufacturing units.

Kishore Biyani-led Future Group is also setting up a food processing park at a proposed investment of Rs 550 crore in Kharagpur.

"The WBIDC as a state government agency for industrial development creates industrial parks with plug-and-play facilities. There are some ongoing parks in the state where infrastructure is ready. Work has also begun in the gems and jewellery park at Ankurhati, Howrah. There is a multi-product industrial park in Haldia. The WBIDC has 3,000 acres available with it for industries to set up shop," Gupta said.

Dairy major Amul has a three-tiered mode of operation. The dairy co-operative societies at the village level are federated under a milk union located at the district level and a federation of member unions at the state level. Its primary role has been to root out the problem of middlemen in the milk trade. middlemen in the milk trade.