

Our target is to make UP biggest economy of India in terms of GSDP: Yogi Adityanath

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As Yogi Adityanath completes 4 years in office, he writes for TOI about challenges he overcame in one of the most trying years and his roadmap for the state.

Sammukh phaila agar dhyeya path, Pragati chirantan kaisa iti ath.

Sushmit, harshit kaisa shram shlath; Asafal, safal samaan manorath.

Sab kuchh dekar, kuchh na mangate; Pawas bankar dhalna hoga, Kadam milakar chalna hoga...

(We have to move united with vigour on the path to accomplish our eternal aim of progress without getting tired, remaining unaffected by the success and failure. We have to be as generous as the rains as we have to keep giving and seeking nothing.)

DRAWN from one of the memorable poems of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, these lines have been the driving force behind me ever since I took over as the chief minister of UP. These four years have been very satisfying for me on the work front and spiritually and have literally flown in the service of the state and its people. And today as I stand as the chief minister of the state, I am of the firm belief that a good work carried out with good intent and honesty in the larger interest of people is bound to succeed come what may.

A year of intense struggle with Covid-19 pandemic has passed. I remember the day of the janata curfew when His Excellency the President and the vice-president spoke to me on the phone about the preparation of the state amid the deepening crisis. They were concerned about how a huge state like UP with dense population and inadequate health infrastructure will cope with this epidemic. But, I assured them that UP would do its best to contain and combat the virus.

We formed two teams — one consisting of members of the Council of Ministers and the other of officials called Team-11. Everyone's responsibility was fixed. The situation of the pandemic across the state was minutely reviewed on daily basis and prompt action was ensured wherever and whenever needed. The condition of UP workers in other states and the problems faced by them was constantly monitored while we also catered to the needs of the people residing in the state. I have a sense of immense spiritual satisfaction while writing today that the whole of UP remained united in this global war.

Moving on the path of development, the per capita income has gone up from Rs 47,116 in 2015-16 to Rs 94,495 today. This is change. More than 40 lakh families got housing and 1.38 crore families got electricity connection in just four years, while connectivity of every village has improved significantly. Five expressways are getting ready to accelerate development whereas defence corridors are being built to make the country self-sufficient in the field of defence production. Doubling the income of farmers is our primary target. We embarked on our public welfare journey four years ago with the waiving of farmers' loans. Today, farmers in the state are becoming progressive and with the support of advanced technology are moving towards agricultural diversification. Recently, the central government has taken a historic initiative of agricultural reforms. The reforms are aimed to give a new dimension to the progress of farmers. Efforts are being made to reduce their cost of production and enhance their income. Farmers have the freedom to sell their crops where they can get a better price than the Minimum Support Prices (MSP).

Uttar Pradesh was even awarded for the best performance in the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. As many as 2.42 crore farmers of the state have benefited from this scheme. The scope of the Farmers Accident Insurance Scheme has also been expanded to benefit farmers' families and sharecroppers. The hope and prosperity of farmers is one of our top priorities and we are constantly trying to live up to it completely.

The light of cultural nationalism that has pervaded Uttar Pradesh in the past four years has illuminated the heart of every

'sanatani' (believer in the eternal order). Through the 'Ganga Yatra' the objectives of both faith and economy were fulfilled. Moreover, the foundation stone for the centuries-old, long-awaited grand Ram temple was finally laid in 2020 at the Sri Ram Janmabhoomi site. Ayodhya Deepotsav, Kashi's Dev Deepavali and Braj Rangotsav were widely appreciated.

The state has shrugged off the tag of a BIMARU state that has been attached to it for decades. Its economy is no longer on the fifth position where it was four years ago despite being the largest state and from where youths preferred to migrate for lack of job opportunities. Today, UP has set a model for other states to emulate. The state with a GDP of Rs 10.90 lakh crore in 2015-16 has emerged as the second largest economy within the country with a GDP of Rs 21.73 lakh crore today.

The result of the changing environment is that UP is the first choice of investors today. It was not an easy task to rise to number two in the national ranking of the 'Ease of Doing Business' within four years, but we did it. Today, our government is also focusing on the 'Ease of Living'. Our Prime Minister has dreamt of a 'Self-reliant India'. He is pursuing the goal of making the country a US \$ 5 trillion economy and UP expresses its commitment to achieve this noble goal.

As we are marching towards becoming \$ 1 trillion economy, our target in the coming year is to become the largest economy in terms of the GSDP.

This new work culture of dedication, commitment and transparency is the hallmark of the new, rising UP. The Prime Minister has provided the path of 'Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas-Sabka Vishwas'. Today, while the present state government completes four years, I am personally happy that we have been successful in implementing our policies according to this path. Farmers, youth, women and the poor are at the centre of the policies of the present government. The policies and intention of the government are crystal clear and that is why the people are with the government. Some time ago, when we called Uttar Pradesh as a state of possibilities, some people mocked us saying nothing could happen here. But today Uttar Pradesh is moving fast on the path of development with the government deriving its strength to do good from its commitment to public welfare. May Maa Bharati guide us and give us the strength to pursue our goals in the larger interest of people.

(The writer is the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh)

