

Uttar Pradesh: We have fulfilled all promises made in Sankalp Patra, says Yogi Adityanath



Yogi Adityanath defended his government with a firm assertion over management of the two waves of Corona pandemic even as many other states faced a resurgence of new cases.

LUCKNOW: Maintaining that his government has fulfilled all the promises made in BJP's 'Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra' (election manifesto) in 2017, UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday asserted that the saffron party was poised to return to office by winning no less than 350 seats in the forthcoming UP assembly elections due next year.

He was speaking at an event organised to mark the completion of four-and-a-half years of BJP government in Uttar Pradesh.

Yogi's assertion was seen as his stern rebuttal to the opposition's charge accusing the ruling BJP of failing to stand by the promises it made to the people while failing to deliver a responsive government and putting the state on a requisite growth trajectory.

"Our friends in the opposition need to have the habit of reading and understanding how the promises made in the Sankalp Patra have been fulfilled and how the perception about UP has changed," Yogi said, while speaking at length about the development projects like expressways and Metro rails and implementation of various government schemes, including PMAY, Saubhagya, and Ujjwala, taken up under the incumbent BJP dispensation.

The event, which was marked as 'Vikas Utsav' with a tag line of "Soch Imaandaar, Kam Damdaar...Chha Gayi Yogi Sarkaar", also had the presence of BJP vice-president and UP in-charge Radha Mohan Singh and UP BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh.

In another rebuttal to the opposition, the CM also defended the government with a firm assertion over management of the two waves of Corona pandemic even as many other states faced a resurgence of new cases.

Yogi did not miss the chance to lash out at the opposition parties for avoiding going to Hindu religious centres like Ayodhya and Mathura out of fear of getting tagged as "communal". "But the BJP did not think so and organised events that marked the religious and cultural identity of the places," he said.

Launching a blistering attack on the previous SP government, Yogi said that this is the same UP where criminals and mafia dons enjoyed political patronage and riots happened every fourth day. "Now, no riots happen and criminals are facing the wrath of the government," he said, highlighting his government's achievement of seizing illegally occupied land worth nearly Rs 1800 crore.

He also slammed the previous CMs for vying to make big bungalows for themselves while ignoring the basic needs of the people. "But we did not make houses for self but provided houses to as many as 42 lakh people," Yogi said, in an apparent jibe at SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and BSP chief Mayawati.

He also underscored that it was through the teamwork of the state government and the BJP organisation that the needs of the people were fulfilled. He also credited the leadership of PM Narendra Modi and other senior BJP leaders, including party president JP Nadda and home minister Amit Shah for helping the state government achieve its goals. "We managed to infuse confidence among people about governance and facilitate them on various fronts. And this is the real identity of the present government," he said.

He said that UP used to witness deaths due to hunger. "But after BJP came to power it was found that nearly 40 lakh needy people did not have the ration cards, which were otherwise used fraudulently by other people. We put a check on the practice and connected all 80,000 PDS shops with e-PoS machines," he said.

Yogi added that the state government also ensured that people get adequate compensation in times of crisis. "We transferred Rs 5 lakh crore to the needy through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in the last four and a half year period," he said.

On the employment front, he said, youth were given jobs on the basis of merit, while following reservation provisions, and not by their "identity". In a veiled attack on the opposition, Yogi said that earlier the "whole Khandaan" used to move out to "extort money" from the job seekers. "Now, there is no 'dalaali' and over 4.5 lakh jobs were given to the youth," he said, insisting that even the transfer and posting of officials in the government had become an "industry" in the previous government. "But in the past 4.5 years, no one can level a charge of corruption in the transfer of officials. We have been able to provide a stable government," he said.

Yogi said that the "swift decision making" image of his government and improvement in UP's ranking from 14th to 2nd position in "ease of doing business" attracted a host of big investors to the state. He said even the small and medium scale industries, which were dying a slow death in the previous government, were now exporting products worth over Rs 1.21 lakh crore.

The CM also took a pot shot at the previous SP and BSP governments -- spanning between 2007 and 2017 -- accusing them of paying a paltry Rs 95,000 crore to the cane growers.

"In contrast our 4.5-year rule saw cane farmers being given a compensation of over Rs 1.43 lakh crore," he said.

He also cited the example of paddy and wheat procurement which, he claimed, remained as low as 6 lakh MT per annum in the previous government.

This, Yogi said, increased to 66 lakh MT annually in case of paddy and 56 lakh MT in case of wheat, despite the Corona pandemic. Yogi's statement came amid the ongoing farm protest which threatens to take political overtones in politically restive west UP region.