

UP now robust state under Yogi: Rajnath

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Lucknow: Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said that the Centre was working on a centrally sponsored scheme under which investments in the two defence corridors, one in Tamil Nadu and the other in UP, would be incentivised. Speaking after an interaction with chief minister Yogi Adityanath and representatives of the defence manufacturing industry in Lucknow, Singh said that while the government was mindful of the potential of the private sector, it also understood its requirements and was taking all steps to ensure that industries could be anchored in the country.

“We are confident that we will be able to develop a strong defence manufacturing ecosystem in UP. For this, I have to credit CM Yogi Adityanath for the work he has done. If this was the UP of earlier years, I would not have seen this glow on your faces,” he told the industry representatives, adding that the CM had provided an environment conducive to investments and a robust law and order situation.

“If you tell the CM something, then there is no delay in implementation. He will do whatever is possible. To promote investments, his government has issued various sectoral policies and has already signed 58 MoUs. The defence corridor will bring about an industrial revolution in the state,” Singh said.

The Lucknow MP added that for the first time, the Centre had given private industry a share in domestic defence manufacturing. Since 2014, the Centre has issued 350 licences while the previous government had issued about 200 licenses between 2004 and 2014. To further strengthen the role of the private sector in the defence industry, the government was bringing in policy provisions in the design and development sector. Schemes were also being made to encourage industries to act as anchors.

“Foreign direct investment through the direct route is 74% while if it is through the government, it is 100%. The Centre has also made a provision of Rs 1,000 crore to make purchases under the innovation for defence excellence scheme, floated to promote invention in the defence sector and in coming months, this provision will be increased. An additional Rs 500 crore has been allocated for promoting start-ups,” the minister said.

Inviting investments in the UP defence corridor, Yogi spoke about the incentives being provided by his government, emphasising on the law and order situation in the state and Nivesh Mitra, the single window portal through which clearances are being provided.

“UP promises the best security and if the private sector is interested in taking up this offer, UP can become an export hub in the defence sector and help in realising PM Narendra Modi’s dream of Atma Nirbhar Bharat. I will request the defence minister that if the Centre can implement the defence production policy, it will help boost investments in the corridor,” the CM said.

Yogi said the Defence Expo organised by UP was hailed even by the experts. He said UP has become a sought-after investment destination under the guidance of PM Narendra Modi and the efforts of the state government are bringing dividends. The CM highlighted the robust infrastructure developed in the past 4 years such as expressways, international airports and connectivity corridors.