

# Under Yogi's leadership, all roads lead to UP now

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In 2017, the 24 crore people of Uttar Pradesh turned to Yogi Adityanath to lead the state, which was reeling under a crumbling economy and deteriorating law and order. As he took the charge, the CM pledged to make the economy work for the last person in the socio-economic food chain.

He took steps to create jobs, rescue the farmers from debts, and rebuild the economy on a new foundation for growth and prosperity. Prior to 2017, industrialists and businessmen were harassed by mafia and gangsters. The flourishing organised crime made it very difficult for investments to flow in.

Due to the zero-tolerance policy of the Yogi government towards crime, the law and order situation in UP has completely transformed. This has given confidence to not just local people but also to business class.

In many ways, the state's real attraction is the way it is run. A decisive Chief Minister and pro-activeness of the administration has ensured that the state remains a hotspot for investors.

Uttar Pradesh is further leading a policy driven growth through 20 plus sectoral policies which have been carefully formulated considering the competition in India. The state organised a first of its kind 'Investors Summit' in 2018 where a record MoUs worth Rs 4.68 lakh crore were signed.

Of these, 371 proposals worth close to Rs 3 lakh crore are already functional. Never before has an investors' summit seen such a massive implementation rate in the country which affirms that our CM's strategy of 'Reform, Perform and Transform' has changed the perception of the state both nationally and globally.

The investment flow isn't just restricted to big cities like Noida, Lucknow but has also trickled down to cities like Etah, Amroha, Mirzapur etc. UP's rise can be judged by the fact that the state has moved to 2nd rank from the earlier 12th in terms of Ease of Doing Business.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described UP as a great example of the double engine government's double benefit. MSME serves as the backbone of the state's economy and is powering Yogi Ji's vision of making UP a \$1 trillion economy. MSME plays a quintessential role for any investments to come in as they require support/ancillary industries to help them. Our policies for the MSME sector are very encouraging as well. For example, we give the NOC for a new setup within 72 hours.

To back that, we have further introduced one single-window, Nivesh Mitra, and all the problems related to MSME are being addressed within 24 hours on MSME Saathi.

In the past 4.5 years, we have added 75 lakh new MSMEs in the state, creating about 2.6 crore jobs. In the same period, more than 82 lakh MSMEs have been given loans from banks, whereas in 2016-17 during Akhilesh government, only 6,35,583 MSMEs got loans.

Skill development has also been a crucial sector for the growing economy of the state followed by infrastructural development. With 75 Universities, 4000+ colleges and 1,25,000 ITI seats, the state offers the largest pool of skilled labour in the country.

National and international connectivity is being improved through 11 low-frill airports and 3 new international airports and expressways. Earlier, only the area around Noida was being focused

on when it came to infrastructural development. Now, western UP will see a boom as Asia's largest airport Noida International Greenfield airport is coming up in Jewar which will become India's largest logistics hub. Similarly, Purvanchal where the land was always considered cheaper and was a non-industrialised region is now being rejuvenated by our government with Purvanchal Expressway and Bundelkhand Expressway. Bundelkhand will further be bolstered by the Defence Corridor for which we already have a sectoral policy and investments have already started pouring in. All the investments will be supported by the MSME sector.

Data by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation further makes it evident how the sustained and inclusive economic model of Yogi Adityanath catapulted UP's GSDP to become the second highest in the country after Maharashtra. The state's GSDP grew at a CAGR of around 8.43% between 2016-17 and 2020-21 from Rs 11 trillion to Rs 19 trillion.

Investing in infrastructure not only makes our roads, bridges and airports safer and gives our businesses and workers the tools to compete successfully in the economy, it also creates thousands of jobs that can be outsourced. The latest data as per the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) states that the unemployment in the state stands at 4.8%. Prior to 2017, the unemployment rate was above 18%. Every decision of Yogi Adityanath signified a meaningful commitment and has heralded the economic ascent of the state.

*(The writer is UP minister for MSME, Export & Investment Promotion, Textile & Khadi, and NRI. Views expressed are personal)*

