

# 'Law & order was biggest challenge in attracting biz'

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Lucknow: Poor law and order situation was the biggest challenge before the UP government when it started inviting investment to the state in 2017, said additional chief secretary (industry) Arvind Kumar here on Monday.

He was speaking at a session on 'policy umbrella and incentives to attract investment' at 'Destination Uttar Pradesh Conclave' organized by the Times Group in Lucknow. Kumar said that the state government was able to initiate a severe crackdown on mafias who had been posing a grave challenge to the government and its functioning.

Kumar was principal secretary (home) between May 19, 2017 and July 31, 2019 in the Yogi Adityanath government.

Kumar said that the second challenge was the availability of land in the state. He said that the state government made the process of land acquisition for various development projects, including expressways and airports, smooth. "The new policy and process gave farmers no reason to crib about land acquisition," he said while elaborating about the move to connect the land bank of the state to the national land bank online. "Now, the investors can see where the land is available and can file their application through Nivesh Mitra Portal," Kumar said.

Kumar said that the state government also roped in consultants to identify the potential areas along the expressways where industrial hot spots could be developed.

"That can be a private industrial park as well as a government backed utility," he said.

This, he said, has been facilitated by the Purvanchal expressway and the upcoming Gorakhpur link expressway and the Bundelkhand expressway.

Speaking about the Defence Corridor policy, he said the state government has managed to get investment worth Rs 4000 crore in six nodes of the corridor in UP.