

# Uttar Pradesh: CM Yogi Adityanath brainstorms with ex-CEA, officials on \$1 trillion economy roadmap

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LUCKNOW: Hours after legislative council results were out, chief minister Yogi Adityanath summoned senior officials to discuss preparations for boosting the state's economy.

A detailed presentation will be given before the group of ministers in a few days to take them on board for turning UP into a \$1 trillion economy. The three important sectors, agriculture, manufacturing and services, are going to play a pivotal role in boosting the gross domestic product of the state, members of the high-power committee constituted to achieve the target within five years told Yogi.

Former chief economic advisor and professor at Hyderabad-based Indian Business School, KV Subramanian also shared his plan and ideas.

Yogi pointed out that the potential of religious tourism should not be undermined while finalising the roadmap. Recounting the good recognition the state had got for successfully organizing Kumbh in Prayagraj in 2019, Yogi asked officials to explore eco-tourism, heritage tourism, wildlife tourism also as options.

Till 2017, UP stood at third spot in the country in terms of tourist footfall, but lately it has been attracting the maximum number of visitors among all the states. Improving infrastructure and facilities at Varanasi, Ayodhya, Mathura, Prayagraj, Mirzapur and Chitrakoot has resulted in the increased footfall.

As demand for herbal and organic products has grown significantly, Yogi asked the team to get in touch with Ayush doctors to find out the popular herbs and medicinal plants that can be grown in UP. "Introducing farming of such products will increase the annual income of farmers and also help in growth of the state's GDP," said an officer.

The state government has also aggressively set up FPOs to provide more opportunities to growers. Yogi emphasised on the need to set up advanced food processing parks at multiple locations in the state and increasing the number of cold chain facilities where perishable farm products could be stored for longer duration. "The first meeting after the brief break was focused on turning around the state's economy. We all are going to pitch in our ideas," said an additional chief secretary.

Chief secretary DS Mishra will hold a meeting on Wednesday with the state's planning department to take stock of the bidding process. The state government has sought help of independent financial consultants in drawing up plans and the planning department has floated the bid document.