

With a firm resolve, UP on path to \$1trn economy

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Uttar Pradesh is poised to enter a new age with its bold ambition to create a trillion-dollar economy. This will not only transform UP, but also give a boost to India's position in the world.

If UP, starting from a lower base than other Indian states, manages to grow to a trillion-dollar economy, proportionately, India itself, though growing less quickly overall, should become at least a 10 trillion-dollar economy.

If such a herculean task is achieved, the credit must go to the work ethics, dedication and vision of UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath. Whatever be the outcome, the CM cannot be faulted for lacking ambition.

Major economic developments have already prepared the ground. Among the changes that the CM has affected in the past five years, improvement in law and order is the most important.

He has shown that peace and amity can be achieved with political will and the administrative apparatus is able to respond with appropriate measures to ensure it.

The critical areas of policy measures have been the creation of physical and industrial infrastructure in UP, from major road networks, airports, defence corridors and new AIIMS in Gorakhpur, and Rae Bareilly. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also launching 1,500 projects worth Rs 70 lakh crore to propel UP towards the trillion-dollar GSDP goal.

Underlying the UP's economic policy is the priority accorded to equity and the welfare of the least privileged people, irrespective of their social and religious identity. Such a perspective is in accord with the development policies of the PM.

Public welfare is central to Adityanath's administrative policy. He has proved that it is essential to connect with people at a personal, human level. That is why he is focused on the most ambitious set of public service reform that any government in Uttar Pradesh has undertaken – discipline.

Yogi has directed tehsil-



File photo

SKILLED WORKFORCE

dars, SDMs, SHOs, COs and other officers to stay in the area of their posting. Officials in the state are now expected to practise what Yogi practises and preaches.

Since being re-elected in March, Yogi Adityanath's administration has taken numerous steps in its first 100 days to signal a renewed commitment to governance and focus on creating jobs, improving infrastructure, and attracting investment.

Welfare schemes like giving free ration under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kaly-

BY INVITATION

an Yojana, free medical treatment and cash transfers to the poor, farmers and women through DBT have ensured confidence of people in his administration. This has proved to be a major reason for the return to power of an incumbent political party for the first time in 37 years.

With the use of modern technology, efficient management and clear policies, the UP government is working to improve the state's ranking in the 'Ease of Living' index. To ensure this, the government has adopted a "perform or perish" rule, implying that anyone who lags behind in performing their duties will have to make way for others.

Ministers have been advised to maintain punctuality and ensure that files are not pending. They have also been asked to reduce expenditures on renovation of ministerial bungalows and office furniture and will no longer be allowed to hire personal staff of their choice. Instead, they will be allotted staff through a digital lottery system. Furthermore, ministers will have to spend more time on-ground and to be in sync with people's problems and find solutions.

To accelerate economic growth in UP and ensure that its fruits reach everyone, especially the underprivileged, some key issues that highlight government efforts might be underlined. The first is regulatory and administrative reform to create an environment that incentivises and propels economic activity.

The second policy is to set up infrastructure that facilitates business activity and eases the condition of ordinary people, an area where the government has been excelling unprecedentedly despite Covid-19 pandemic.

The third leg of government policy measures is to reach out to people with multiple schemes while the transition to prosperity proceeds and create jobs for all through appropriate policy measures.

One of the key areas that is likely to become established is a whole portfolio of policies to improve rural incomes without which the rest of the economy will stall because of a lack of growing domestic demand. The agricultural sector's productivity will be a vital area of policy to raise incomes.

An important measure for improving rural productivity and incomes will be marketing, with attention to growing and profitable markets and products and interim storage facilities to curtail waste.

All of this will require finance and a determined effort will ensue, without any harsh impact on employees, to eliminate losses in public utilities and enterprises. Other ways to finance it might be to reform and monetise public assets and market public bonds linked to growth rather than a fixed return. There is recognition of a need to improve secondary school performance and provide quality vocational training in conjunction with the private sector.

This will create the skilled workforce essential for economic activity and prosperity. This is how UP will aspire to become a trillion-dollar economy.

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