

# Yogi 2.0 promises bright future for UP and India

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**C**M Yogi Adityanath has returned for a second term in Uttar Pradesh with ambitious plans. In his first term, the focus was on establishing law and order, safety of life and property, and infrastructure development across the state. The expressways and other developments will boost the state's agenda of returning to its industrial legacy. Yogi 2.0 has started with a bang and is marching towards the state's vision of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2027.

The central government has rightly recognized that UP's development will drive India's development as the state comprises 16% of national population. PM Modi laid the foundation stone of 1,406 projects worth Rs 80,000 crore in UP in June. Investors' confidence is increasing with the focus of both central and state governments in developing UP. Over FY22, UP's exports increased from Rs 1,07,423 crore to Rs 1,40,123 crore, an increase of 30%. The contribution of the CM's one district one product scheme in this is about 72%.

Moving forward in phase 2, the state can build on the momentum and take a slew of socio-economic development strategies to reach its vision. UP's education system is doing quite well but because of the vast population, needs special policies to ensure its younger population is equipped for the future. School enrolment in FY21 was 4.64 crore with 37.9% in government schools, 9.9% in aided and 47.6% in unaided schools. The state government had set a target of enrolling 2 crore children between the age of 6 and 14 years in government schools for the 2022-23 academic session. As of June 2022, the state government is working to-

wards its target as it has successfully enrolled 1.88 crore children studying in 1.3 lakh schools across UP.

School policy in UP must be balanced to enable growth of both public and private schools, with speedy implementation of forward-looking suggestions made in the National Education Policy 2020. Education must now be made mandatory till Class 12, with a variety of options like skilling and vocational programmes and higher education after Class 12.

UP has, by far, the largest higher education enrolment in the country: 63.9 lakh of India's 3.9 crore in 2019-20. The state also consistently generates around 16 lakh

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graduates every year, over half of whom are women. Gross enrolment ratio of 25.3 is quite close to the national average of 27.1, which is remarkable given the large population. UP can utilize this extensive higher education system to drive up learning outcomes and industry-ready graduates. Young men are emigrating for jobs, but most women graduates cannot, lowering workforce participation. A major reason for India's low labour force participation rate among women is the high graduation rate of women in UP coupled with minimal white-collar job prospects for them. Creating qualified jobs in the state will help include this massive untapped resource.

UP can follow the China model of driving socio-economic growth across the region with infrastructure development. This will boost the construction sector which is a highly under-utilized growth driver with backward linkages to metal consumption, employment, and tax revenue generation. The newly completed Purvanchal Expressway, the ongo-

ing Ganga Expressway, and the extensive road network planned are all in the right direction.

The Noida International Airport will transform the state and region as a global hub for both passengers and cargo. With the Ganga clean-up projects, the river can be developed as a central waterway system like the Rhine in Germany. Health infrastructure, too, is being bolstered and with more medical colleges coming up, citizens will not have to leave the state.

Tourism infrastructure is another growth driver. Places like Mathura, Ayodhya and Varanasi are being developed and the Ram temple in Ayodhya will be a boost.

Among labour-intensive industries (LIIs), the textile sector is showing great potential with a share of 9% (Rs 12,996 crore) in the goods exported from UP in FY22. It is third after electronics and electrical products. Meanwhile, Noida is becoming the foremost electronic export hub for India.

While LIIs are required to generate mass-consumption products for domestic use and exports and provide large-scale employment, specialized industries like electronics component design, defence parts manufacturing, robotics and space applications with a significant R&D and IP production component yield asymmetric yields and value-addition. It is suggested that UP create a Rs 10,000 crore fund-of-funds over 5 years to invest in deep research, intellectual property generation, and building specialized workforces with focused centres of excellence, grants, R&D laboratories, and manufacturing facilities. UP can build this specialized industry base in the western region close to the NCR region.

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