## THE TIMES OF INDIA

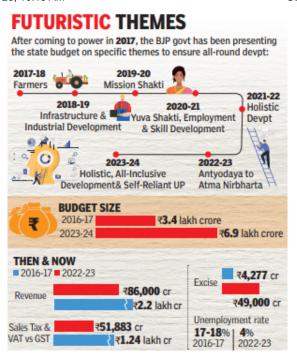
## Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath: Budget a milestone on way to \$1-trillioneconomy goal

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LUCKNOW: Looking to build an atmanirbhar or self-reliant Uttar Pradesh and focusing on development, chief minister Yogi Adityanath said that the budget for 2023-24 will prove to be a milestone in making UP a USD 1 trillion economy within the next five years.

The CM said that the new budget could be larger than the last, even without new taxes, due to financial prudence, better management and the government's efforts to stop tax evasion. He added that a significant component of the budget was on capital expenditure, indicating a focus on infrastructure development which will play a crucial role in generation of employment.



Setting the mood for a populist budget ahead of the CM's address, finance minister Suresh Khanna said: "Yogi ji ka budget bana hai UP ki khushhali ko, yeh adbhut rangeen karega aane wali holi ho (Yogi ji's budget is meant to ensure UP's happiness, this will make the coming Holi amazingly colourful)."

The CM said that the first budget of the "amrit kaal" was more than double the budget of 2016-17, the last budget of the previous government.

"In 2016-17, the budget was Rs 3.4 lakh crore while this budget is Rs 6.9 lakh crore. The state's GDP has also doubled since then. The budget's scope has widened. Before the 2022 assembly elections, our party had issued a Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra, which had made 130 promises. Through today's budget, we are meeting 110 of those for which a fund of Rs 64,000 crore has been set aside," the CM said.

