

# We transformed UP from 'Bimaru' to a 'Samarth' state: Yogi Adityanath

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LUCKNOW: Marking his government's fourth year in office on Friday, chief minister Yogi Adityanath said that they had lifted Uttar Pradesh from its status as a 'Bimaru' state to one which was 'Samarth' (capable), using the mantra of "reform, perform, transform".

"Four years back when a resident of UP used to go out, people used to look at him with suspicion because he was coming from a state where there was no law and order, where corruption ruled and where there was anarchy. Now the situation is such that a person from UP is greeted with respect. The perception of its people, the government and its representatives has changed. UP has emerged as the second strongest economy in the country," he said.

The state government will be organising programmes to mark the completion of its four years in power for a week. On Friday, the CM launched a book and a song to mark the event and inaugurated an exhibition showcasing the state government's work over the past four years.

Attacking the opposition for having failed to implement any of the Narendra Modi-led Central government schemes, the CM said that UP was lagging behind on every parameter but since he came to power, the state's ranking had improved significantly.

"The Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra we issued ahead of the 2017 elections was as sacred as the Geeta for us and we tried to

implement every single promise we made in it. Under the PM Awas Yojana, we have given houses to 40 lakh poor people in rural and urban areas and are ranked first among all states. Till 2017, the previous government had managed to construct 45 lakh toilets under Swachh Bharat and UP was ranked 27th. In a year and a half, we declared UP open defecation free by constructing 2.61 crore toilets,” he said.

Infrastructure development was totally missing, he said, adding that as soon as one drove into UP before 2017, they only encountered potholes. People preferred walking, he said, and one could not determine whether the stretch was a road or a field. In monsoon, he said, one could plant paddy in the potholes because they were so deep.

Hitting out at Samajwadi Party, the CM said: “Azamgarh propelled SP to power on so many occasions but during their rule, people from Azamgarh were viewed with suspicion. When they went to Mumbai, hotels would refuse them rooms when they learnt that they were from Azamgarh. Now Azamgarh is known not for terrorism but for development. It is going to get a new airport and a state university.”

Invoking the Ramayana, the CM said that thousands of years earlier when Lord Ram returned to Ayodhya after having defeated Ravana, he came to Chitrakoot on a Pushpak Viman. “It is shameful that even after thousands of years, this area did not have air connectivity. Now we are building an airport here.”

The CM also said that his government had a zero tolerance policy towards crime, which had gone a long way in changing the perception of UP and making it a hub of investments. “A criminal is a criminal. He has no caste or religion. The government will act against a criminal in the best way it can to do whatever is necessary for the welfare of the 24 crore people of this state,” he said.