

Broke neta-criminal nexus for better law, order: UP minister

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LUCKNOW: State MSME minister Sidharth Nath Singh on Monday said the BJP government's primary challenge after coming to power in 2017 was to improve the law and order situation in UP.

Speaking at the Conclave, the minister said, "The government was accused of political vendetta when it went after people from Opposition parties but what one did not realize was that these people were part of a nexus between politicians and criminals. It was necessary to break this nexus to improve law and order situation."

Claiming that industries which existed in the state before 2017 functioned as ATMs for criminals and politicians, Singh said, "The situation in the state was not so rosy when the BJP took over the state's reins. UP was known as a BIMARU state. A nexus existed between politicians and criminals who

were controlling UP. No tender could go through the system if these people were left out. It was necessary to weed out such elements and that is why CM Yogi Adityanath is called 'bulldozer baba' for taking action against them."

Speaking about the need to convert UP's demography into an asset from a liability, Singh said that to provide an ecosystem for UP's rural population to participate in improving the state's GDP, it was necessary to ensure security and improve ease of living.

"ODOP scheme helped in involving small industries in the growth of UP and bringing traditional industry into the economic fold. If people want to be a part of economic activity, they should also enjoy ease of living. The large force that exists in UP is from the rural belt. If they are fighting for daily livelihood, how do you draw them in? Government needed to give houses, toilets, ration, electricity and roads to them," he said.

The minister said when Yogi Adityanath became the CM, he came up with his own model of development. "Therefore, I call him the 'Monk with an economic model'," Singh said.

Elaborating UP's strategy, he said it was necessary to bring in contemporary industrialisation. "Working with the same bureaucrats who were a part of previous dispensations, the current government ensured that UP achieved second spot in 'ease of doing business' rankings," he added.