

Lucknow tops in 'Ease of Living' index rankings

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LUCKNOW: The state government has said that the improvement in its 'Ease of Living' rankings over the last four and a half years has been one of its major achievements.

According to the 'Ease of Living' Index, 14 UP cities have been considered better in terms of living in the country. While Lucknow has been ranked the best place for living in the state, Varanasi is the second. Among small cities, Jhansi has been considered to be the best. Among all states, Lucknow has been ranked 26th among big cities, followed by Varanasi. Jhansi has ranked 34th among smaller cities.

"The vaccination campaign, agricultural reforms, development of Ganga Basin corridor for organic farming, clean Ganga mission, sustainable energy solutions, uplift of marginalised communities and villages like

Vantangia and Musahar have helped transform UP. The state has become easier to live in owing to a slew of public welfare schemes like better housing, sanitation, easy access to LPG connections, free electricity connection to the poor etc," said a government spokesperson.

He said that the One District-One Product scheme had contributed to improving the rural economy and increasing the per capita rural domestic product. Infrastructure development, focus on law and order, construction of greenfield townships, Noida Film City, special initiatives for tourism, and development of expressways and airports made life easier for people in the state, he added.

"Projects like Ujjwala Yojana have helped people get easy access to cooking gas. Meanwhile, the state government has declared all 652 local bodies as Open Defecation Free through schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Swachh Bharat Mission for rural and urban areas," he said.

The banking correspondent sakhi programme, under which the government has trained rural women in banking processes and is making banking facilities available at the doorsteps of rural citizens in the state is also being held as a major achievement of the government in ease of living.