

Mitigation of tax evasion, transparent tax collection, prudent financial management, focus on creating long-term assets and establishing new resources in the social sector have enabled UP to supercharge their budget to the tune of Rs 6.9 lakh crore

## Sound financial governance: UP's 'parasmani'

Pradesh's financial governance.
Overcoming challenges and streamlining its priorities, the state government has been on a winning streak when it comes to setting the optics in favour of India's heartland.
Already blessed with the largest consumer base, largest MSME set-up, ODOP, biggest network of expressway infra in the country and one of the largest landbanks, whatever CM led UP touches, turns to gold.

The new budget that stands at a staggering figure of Rs 6.9 lakh crore, has been a result of several factors, with good financial governance being one of them. Steadfast in creating long-term assets and building its social sector through its own resources or borrowings, have enabled UP to propel GSDP. The fiscal deficit alone, which was 3.96% in 2022-23, has come down to 3.48% in 2023-24. Laying

## **NEW PUSH**

- Initiation of Jhansi Link & Chitrakoot Link Expressways: Rs 235 core
- Defence Corridor project in Bundelkhand: Rs 500 crore
- AMRIT 2.0: Rs 5,616 crore
- Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0:
   Rs 2,707.86 crore
- PMAY (Rural): Target increased to 12,39,877 in 2023-24
- Pension for widows & destitute:
   Rs 4,032 crore
- Pension for senior citizens & farmers: Rs 7,248

- New townships: Rs 3,000 crore
- UP's Green Mission: Rs 600 crore
- National Law University in Prayagraj: Rs 103 crore
- Construction of offices for newly formed Commissionerates:
   Rs 850 crore
- · Health sector: Rs 20,000 crore
- Ramgarh Tal facelift: Rs 650 crore
- Digital libraries at gram panchayat
   & ward level: Rs 300 crore
- Unit Malls for ODOP: Rs 200 crore

Rs for residential 1,400 facilities for police officers and staff **ćrore** Rs **700** for construction of court complex in districts across UP crore Rs for non-residential 420 **buildings** of district courts crore Rs for installation of 100 **CCTV** cameras at subordinate courts crore

special emphasis on mitigating expenditures and opening new vistas of revenue and income have also aided UP in scripting its growth story. Achieving a balance between income and expenditure, better fiscal management and overcoming tax evasion challenges. The result of this has been promising - revenue collection of Rs 86,000 crore in 2016-17 will likely cross the Rs 2.2 lakh crore mark this time. The expenditure borne by the state government in payment of dues and arrears has dropped from 8% to 6%.

With futuristic themes aimed at all-round development, the Yogi-led government since 2017 has been

presenting budgets accordingly. Keeping the people of the state at the heart of its growth motto, the state has achieved several benchmarks and added significant revenue to its coffers. Stopping tax evasion and making the process of tax collection transparent, it is remarkable to note that in the last 6 years the state residents have not paid any additional taxes. VAT on petrol and diesel came down and every effort has been made by the Yogi government to insulate its people from the ill-effects of inflation. Protecting the state residents from rising prices as compared to other states, keeping the prices of essential commodities low and formulating visionary tax policies, the UP government has leveraged a major advantage in its favour and mobilised it to build state-of-the-art infrastructure and fund several public welfare initiatives.