

‘Data shows UP on track to achieve trillion dollar goal’

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Numbers speak for the potential of Uttar Pradesh to achieve one trillion-dollar (OTD) economy goal and data suggests that though slow, the state is on the right track, according to researcher and author, Sheelwant Singh, who has studied the plan in detail.

Talking to TOI on Friday, Singh said: “When India announced its target of becoming a five trillion-dollar eco-

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nomy, it was just UP that understood its role and joined the national government to contribute its bit. Many people laughed when UP announced this goal but when the plan was studied in detail, the state’s potential to achieve it came to the fore.”

Singh said that the progress towards the goal might appear to be slow, but the state was steadily moving on the right track.

“Total exports from UP in 2016-17 stood at Rs 89,000 crore and in the current year (2024-25), it could cross Rs 2 lakh crore mark. Similarly, the value of total foreign direct in-

vestment (FDI) received by the state between 1996 and 2017 was Rs 3,000. However, between 2017 and 2023, it has crossed Rs 11,000 crore and is poised to increase further,” he said.

Singh – who cited numbers to prove that Lucknow and Varanasi were crucial for achieving the goal – also drew an outline for amplification of development in the two cities. “Integration of modern technologies and skills are crucial to this plan. Both Lucknow and Varanasi have attracted global spotlight and time has come to put that attention to best use,” he said.

Crediting UP govt’s resolve as a key driver for progress since 2017, he said that people would benefit from the OTD push. “In the short term, people will benefit through employment generation, increase in per capita income, and quality of life, benefits in long run include better participation of women in economic activities, elimination of regional disparities and growth of local economies,” said Singh, who has compiled the research in his book, ‘Trillion Dollar Economy: Yogi Govt, Uttar Pradesh on the Move’.