

UP has shunned BIMARU tag, driving India's growth: Gadkari

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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Lucknow: Praising development in Uttar Pradesh, Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said that the state has shunned its BIMARU tag and added that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has successfully worked towards establishing 'Ram Rajya' in Uttar Pradesh.

Speaking at the inauguration of two flyovers in Lucknow on Friday, Gadkari said that UP was one of the leading contributors to India's economic development and praised Yogi for ensuring investments and infrastructure development in UP. The minister termed infrastructure as the fuel for India's growth and thanked the CM for positive development in the state.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India aims to become a global leader and a USD 5 trillion economy. Uttar Pradesh is playing a crucial role in achieving this target. Strong infrastructure in roads, water, energy, transport, and communication will boost industries, attract investment, and create new employment opportunities," he said.

"Roads worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore have been completed, and projects worth Rs 1 lakh crore are under construction. Projects worth another Rs 1 lakh crore are in the pipeline," the minister said.

He added that the Kanpur-Lucknow Expressway was be-



Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurate the Munshipulia and Khurramnagar flyovers on Friday

ing built using 'Automated Intelligent Machine and Guided Construction' technology, being used in India for the first time to ensure superior road quality and zero potholes for the next 10 years.

"To drive industrial growth in Purvanchal, a Rs 75,000 crore road network is planned from Varanasi to Kolkata and Gorakhpur to Siliguri," Gadkari said, requesting the CM to expedite land acquisition and environmental clearances for these projects to ensure timely execution. Explaining how the govt was planning to further increase investments in the country, Gadkari said that logistics costs were an important component in deciding where to invest. "In the US and Europe, the cost is 12% while in China it is 8%. Due to the failures of previous govts, in India that cost stood at 12%. The govt aims to bring it down to 9% which will boost the economy by 1.5 times and create employment opportunities for mil-

lions of youths," he said. "In addition to strengthening infrastructure, innovation in fuel technology is also crucial for development. For this, the govt is actively promoting biofuel, ethanol, electric, and CNG vehicles," he said.

The minister highlighted the massive economic impact of the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh, stating that the event contributed Rs 3 lakh crore to UP's GDP. "Tourism is a sector which generates high employment with minimal investment, benefiting hotels, taxis, restaurants, small businesses, and local artisans. The growth of infrastructure and tourism would further strengthen UP's economy," he added.

Gadkari said that strong law and order in UP instilled fear among criminals and confidence among investors. He expressed confidence that UP would soon become one of India's largest economies and play a key role in making India a global leader.