

U.P. now country's leading economic powerhouse: CM

This progress made possible partly due to the constructive role of institutions like FICCI, says Yogi

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LUCKNOW : Chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said Uttar Pradesh is no longer seen as a laggard but as one of India's leading economic powerhouses, growth engine and second-largest state economy.

Addressing the national executive council meeting of FICCI here, Yogi showcased the state's progress to top entrepreneurs since the BJP came to power in March 2017.

Marking the occasion as significant, the CM noted that it coincided with the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar.

"Although U.P. is the largest state in India by population, it was long categorised as a 'BIMARU' state. At the time of independence, its per capita income was at par with the national average, but over time, it declined to just one-third. However, the state has witnessed extraordinary progress over the past eight years," he added.

"The state has doubled its gross state domestic product and per capita income," the CM said and added this progress was made possible partly due to the constructive role of institutions like the FICCI.

Recalling the financial constraints U.P. faced in 2017 when the BJP came to power, Yogi said after assuming office, the government struggled to find funds even for farmer loan waivers and employees' salaries with little cooperation from banks.

"The government restored fiscal discipline by identifying and eliminating budgetary leakages amounting to Rs 36,000 crore—a key factor in transforming UP into a revenue surplus state today," he said.

The CM said in the past, people were forced to conceal their



CM Yogi at the FICCI event in Lucknow on Monday.

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identity due to rampant anarchy, hooliganism and corruption in the state. Citing the example of the Mahakumbh, he said prior to 2017, the event was marred by dirt and disorder. But this time, cleanliness and orderliness were the defining features, the CM added.

Emphasising the state's infrastructure development, Yogi said earlier the state was associated with poor roads and darkness. "But today, U.P. has the country's largest expressway network, metro rail, rail network and waterways," he said.

"The state boasts four lakh kms of national highway network, 16 functioning airports, and Asia's largest Jewar airport which is under construction. Apart from this, steps like a logistics hub and dry port have made Uttar Pradesh attractive for investment," Yogi said.

The CM stressed that the government has taken significant steps to support farmers, citing that 122 sugar mills now operate in the state with sugarcane farmers' dues paid within three to seven days. "Over the last eight years, sugarcane prices have been directly credited to farmers' accounts via DBT," Yogi said.

On enhancing investment, he said in 2017 when companies like Samsung and TCS considered leaving U.P., the government reassured them. "Today, the state has attracted Rs 15 lakh crore investment," he added.

The CM said U.P. now ensures over 500 approvals through a single-window system for entrepreneurs supported by 33 sectoral policies and the Nivesh

Mitra portal. This has led to the revival of MSMEs and eliminated unnecessary harassment of entrepreneurs.

He recalled an incident from 2017 when an entrepreneur from Mumbai sought a security guarantee. In 2023, that same entrepreneur invested Rs 4,000 crore, calling U.P. a 'dream destination' for investment.

The CM hailed the successful organisation of the Mahakumbh as a testament to Uttar Pradesh's potential, highlighting that Rs 7,500 crore was invested in rejuvenating Prayagraj's infrastructure. Addressing critics who questioned if organising the mega religious fair was the government's responsibility, he said the event was not confined to Prayagraj alone.

"Cities like Kashi, Ayodhya and Mathura also saw massive gatherings of devotees, boosting local businesses and reshaping U.P.'s image," Yogi said. He said the crucial role of U.P. and FICCI in realising PM Modi's vision of a self-reliant India.

FICCI national president Harsh Vardhan Agarwal said: "From a robust law and order ecosystem to world-class infrastructure, expressways and airports, from ease of doing business to attractive sectoral policies—the scale and speed of progress is unprecedented in the state." Chief secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, FICCI senior vice president Anant Goenka, chairman, FICCI, U.P. Manoj Gupta, principal secretary (home) Sanjay Prasad and CM's advisor Awanish Awasthi were also present at the event.

Justice must be timely: Yogi at new CAT building opening

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LUCKNOW : Chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday emphasised that the foundation of good governance lies in the rule of law.

Addressing a gathering at the inauguration ceremony of the new building of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Lucknow bench in Gomti Nagar Extension, Yogi said: "It (justice) must be timely, accessible and straightforward—ensuring that not only the common man but also government personnel can access justice with ease."

Union minister Jitendra Singh was also present at the event. The CM underlined the importance of merit-based and timely resolution of cases.

"Today is a significant day as we mark the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar—the architect of the Indian Constitution and a crusader for justice for the Dalits, marginalised and deprived sections of the society. The government's vision is to reduce the burden on the courts and ensure that tribunal-level hearings help expedite justice without unnecessary delays," Yogi said.

He noted that in line with this vision, tribunals are being operationalised across various regions of the country. The CM reiterated the government's priority to ensure that tribunals like CAT function efficiently and offer justice based on merit.

"Many officials and personnel associated with central government departments and undertakings often do not receive timely justice. The CAT will serve as a crucial platform to address such grievances effectively,"

Yogi said.

"Between 2014 and 2025, over 6,000 of the 6,700 registered cases have been disposed of by the Lucknow bench—a commendable achievement that can be further accelerated," he said. The CM said face-to-face hearings between parties in certain matters can further facilitate timely resolution.

Reflecting on broader judicial reforms in the state, Yogi recalled that in 2017, nearly 33 lakh revenue-related cases were pending—most of them minor.

"The state government took a firm decision to resolve these on merit within a set timeframe. We introduced online monitoring mechanisms and ensured accountability," he said.

"As a result, over the past eight years, 34 lakh cases have been resolved despite the addition of 10 lakh new cases during the same period," the CM added.

"These are also being addressed as per the prescribed timelines, bringing relief not only to the citizens but also to government employees," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Union minister Jitendra Singh commended CM Yogi Adityanath, stating that the impressive CAT building in Lucknow stands as a result of the state government's proactive efforts. "The process of land transfer for this project commenced under your (CM Yogi) leadership. The state government promptly allocated 1,825 square feet of land for the construction, without any delay," Singh said. Chairman, CAT, New Delhi, Justice Ranjit Vasant-rao More, head, CAT Lucknow, Justice Anil Kumar Ojha and administrative member, CAT, Lucknow Sanjay Kumar.