

U.P. climbs to 'Front Runner' category

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LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh has moved from the 'Performer' to the 'Front Runner' category in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index, following a 25-point improvement in its score, from 42 in 2018-19 to 67 in 2023-24. The state now ranks 18th nationally, rising from the 29th position, marking the most improved performance among all states during this period, the state government said on Tuesday.

Chief minister Yogi Adityanath called the development a landmark achievement, crediting it to "focused policy decisions, efficient implementation of schemes, and public participation". He stated that the shift reflects the combined efforts

made at all levels of governance.

The CM cited state-run schemes such as Har Ghar Jal, Har Ghar Bijli, Kanya Suman-gala, Poshan Abhiyan, Mukhya-mantri Arogya Yojana, Mission Shakti, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Mission Kayakalp, and One District One Product (ODOP) as key contributors to progress on SDG indicators.

He also spoke about better access to healthcare, education and nutrition, especially in rural areas.

The CM instructed officials to implement SDGs in mission mode at the local level and ensure that information about all government schemes reaches Gram Panchayats. He said timely delivery of benefits must be ensured so that intended recipients are not left out.