

# Govt managed to take growth forward despite pandemic: CM

Sunil Kumar

## UP To Become \$6Trn Economy By 2047: Yogi

Neha Lalchandani & Arvind Chauhan | TNN

**Lucknow:** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that CAG report which placed Uttar Pradesh at the top in revenue surplus was a two-year-old report and UP has grown much beyond that.

"We managed to take growth forward at this speed despite three years of the Covid pandemic. We have a lot of work to do in every field. It takes time to set the foundation but once that is done it doesn't take time to build over it. The action plan for Viksit UP is before us, now we only need to give it speed," he said.

Thanking TOI for giving an impetus to the debates and discussion across the state over Viksit UP-2047, the CM said that UP govt would work with it to achieve the targets of the development plan.

Under the Viksit UP-2047 plan, the CM said, 12 sectors had been highlighted encompassing various departments, and a massive public outreach programme was underway where more than 300 intellectuals were engaging with people in the state to get their feedback and suggestions. So far more than 9 lakh suggestions have been received. UP should become a USD 6 trillion economy by 2047, he said, with the highest per capita income in the country.

Highlighting UP's development over the past eight years, the CM hit out at the Opposition for having forced UP into becoming a BIMARU state through corruption, dynastic rule and casteism. "People with a sick mentality running the govt had turned it into a BIMARU state," he said. His government on the other hand had provided jobs, built infrastructure and ensured safety and security for everyone, which in turn opened the state to major investments.

Linking India's development with UP's growth, the



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath speaks at the TOI Viksit UP Vision 2047 Conclave on Saturday

CM said that as the largest state in terms of population, UP could not sit back and watch India's journey but had to be an active participant in it. Even though India's geographical area was less than Russia, China and the US, it still had 60% land cultivable, against the others which had only 20% cultivable land.

"India's fertile land and ancient civilization made it a global leader. During the period of Chandragupta Maurya, India's economy was 40% of the world. In the 11th century, it dropped to 30% while in the 17th century, it was 25%. The British ruined India's small and cottage industries and looted USD 32 million worth of gold from the country. Despite these setbacks, in 1947, the economy, which was 2% of the world economy, was 11th in 2014 and is currently the 4th largest," he said.

Saying that it was never the case that a person was unsuitable, but often the case that there was no proper planner, he said that it was the duty of leaders to ensure that the aspirations of people were fulfilled.

To lay the ground for the next phase of development that would pitch UP as the top manufacturer, producer and employer by 2047, the CM said that UP already has 55% of India's expressway net-

work, the highest number of cities with metro services, and 16 operational airports. In October, India's largest airport at Jewar will be inaugurated. Where the state was getting an annual average of 65 crore tourists against the earlier 3 crore, the CM also highlighted potential for improvement in agriculture, saying that UP could improve production by three times of what it currently is.

Highlighting UP's own economic growth, the CM said that in 1947, UP's share in the national economy was 14%, which had fallen to 8% by 2016-17. This would be raised to Independence levels at least. "In 2016, UP's economy was Rs 12 lakh crore which will cross Rs 35 lakh crore within this financial year. Per capita income has risen from Rs 45,000 to Rs 1.2 lakh. The cabinet just gave permission to set up the 52nd private university in the state and work is ongoing to set up medical colleges in every district," he said.

Describing the changes in connectivity, Yogi Adityanath said that earlier to get to Delhi from Gorakhpur, he had to drive 6 hours to Lucknow and then take a flight. Now, Gorakhpur airport itself has 14 direct flights connecting to various parts of the country.

He added that UP had become India's growth engine

with the state supplying 55% of all mobile phones and electronic components made in India.

"Since 2017, we have implemented Rs 15 lakh crore worth of projects while another Rs 5,000 lakh crore of projects will be grounded at a groundbreaking ceremony in November. We have clear, fair policies for everyone. It is not the pick and choose policy of previous governments where Azam Khan would get something and others would get something else," he said, referring to the senior SP leader.

"No citizen faces an identity crisis, daughters and traders are safe, farmers no longer face ruin, and youth have job opportunities. We've dismantled the mafia and their corrupt networks. Uttar Pradesh now leads in expressways, railways, metro, airports, rapid trains, inland waterways, MSMEs, sugarcane, ethanol, and foodgrain production. It employs the most youth and attracts the most investment," he added.

"With the fastest growth rate, a robust defence corridor, and expressway network, UP is poised to fulfill its citizens' aspirations by 2047," he said, concluding "I thank the Times family for amplifying this vision. Viksit Uttar Pradesh is our mantra, our resolve, and our way of life to overcome the mentality that made India and Uttar Pradesh backward."

**TOI CONCLAVE  
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