

UP no longer a 'BIMARU state' but a land of 'unlimited potential': CM

Opens 3-Day UP State Trade Show

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gorakhpur: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday distributed certificates to youth trained under skill development programmes at the NIELIT campus. Yogi also inaugurated the three-day UP State Trade Show.

Highlighting the state's rapid industrial progress, he said Uttar Pradesh has already grounded investment proposals worth Rs 15 lakh crore, out of Rs 45 lakh crore has been received. "This December alone, projects worth Rs 5 lakh crore will be implemented on the ground," he said, adding that lakhs of youths are now getting jobs within their home districts. GIDA alone has generated nearly 40,000 jobs.

Recalling GIDA's early struggles, he said industrial activity remained "virtually zero" between 1989 and 1998 due to protests, shootouts and administrative apathy. The situation changed only after improved law and order and policy-driven governance.

Yogi emphasized that UP is no longer a "BIMARU state" but a land of "unlimited potential". With India's largest rail network, maximum metros, most airports and the upcoming Jewar international airport, the state has emerged as a fast-growing economic powerhouse.

Taking aim at previous govts, he said they fostered division, appeasement and lawlessness. "Those who grabbed land of farmers and properties of traders have been straightened out. Their seized land is now being used to build factories," he said.

Highlighting how the state's development approach changed, he said the govt ensures fair compensation to



CM Yogi Adityanath at Gorakhpur Trade Show on Saturday

'Complete Khichdi Mela preps by Dec 20'

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday instructed officials to complete all preparations for the world-famous Khichdi Mela at Gorakhnath Temple by Dec 20. Chairing a review meeting with the mayor and senior officials, he said the mela draws devotees from eastern UP, Bihar, Nepal and across the world, and therefore every basic facility must be ensured. Doordarshan and All India Radio will telecast the event live for those unable to attend. Yogi emphasized prioritizing safety, crowd control, sanitation, and zero-waste efforts. He instructed Nagar Nigam to ensure thorough cleanliness, adequate lighting, and functional street lights on temple routes. The CM said special trains will be operated in coordination with Indian Railways, along with wide publicity. Electric buses will run from major stations, while the transport department will arrange special buses from rural areas. Considering the cold wave, he ordered timely arrangements for bonfires, with the forest department ensuring firewood supply.

farmers for land acquisition and strives to avoid injustice to any poor family. "If a project requires land, the farmer must be compensated well and provided housing support," he said.

Yogi listed the state's rapid infrastructure expansion, noting that Uttar Pradesh today has 55% of the country's expressways, the largest rail network, the highest number of metro cities and the most operational airports. Sixteen airports are functional, including four international ones, and the upcoming Jewar airport—India's largest—is set to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister next month.

On large-scale development projects in Ayodhya, he noted that the recent ceremonial hoisting of the 'Dharm Dhvaj' by Prime Minister Modi on Nov 25 filled "all Sa-

natanis with joy", and that India became the world's third-largest economy just two days later.

Yogi said eastern UP, once neglected and overrun by mafia, is today witnessing heavy industrial inflow. Nearly 500 industrial units have come up in GIDA over the past eight years, bringing investment of over Rs 11,618 crore. Major companies such as PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Campa, CP Milk, Keyaam Industries and others have established units, while Reliance is ready to set up a Campa factory in Dhuriyapar.

He also announced allotment of 10 acres of land to the iconic Gita Press, calling it a matter of pride for Gorakhpur. The CM expressed confidence that GIDA would soon emerge as a major industrial hub, creating large-scale employment opportunities for youth in eastern UP.