

# Path to Viksit Bharat goes through developed, self-reliant UP: Rajnath

**'EV Project To Generate Jobs In UP'**

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**Lucknow:** Asserting that the path to a Viksit Bharat goes through Viksit Uttar Pradesh, Union defence minister and Lucknow MP Rajnath Singh on Friday said the state was playing a leading role in India's journey towards self-reliance in areas ranging from defence manufacturing to clean mobility.

Calling the Ashok Leyland facility in Lucknow a landmark for the state's industrial growth, Singh said the unit would position Uttar Pradesh, and India, at the forefront of clean and green mobility and future-ready technologies.

"This project will generate employment opportunities for the youth of the state and equip them with skills in emerging EV technologies, allowing them to build their futures within their own state," he said.

Expressing confidence in



Defence minister Rajnath Singh with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the inauguration of the new manufacturing plant of Ashok Leyland for the production of electric vehicles, in Lucknow on Friday

India's long-term growth trajectory, the defence minister said the goal of making India a developed nation by 2047, as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, would be realised through the rapid development of states like Uttar Pradesh. "The progress of Uttar Pradesh is central to the progress of the nation," he said.

Referring to the state's transformation over the past few years, Singh said a region

once labelled 'BIMARU' and associated with poor law and order has now emerged as a preferred destination for large-scale industrial investment.

He credited chief minister Yogi Adityanath for decisive improvements in governance and the creation of a strong, investment-friendly ecosystem that has attracted both domestic and global investors, including Fortune 500 companies.

Highlighting Uttar Pradesh's growing role in defence manufacturing, Singh said the state is now producing a wide range of equipment for the armed forces, ranging from ammunition to aircraft and advanced missile systems such as BrahMos. He said this demonstrated the success of the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives and underscored UP's emergence as a key hub for defence self-reliance.

The defence minister also lauded the Hinduja Group and Ashok Leyland for completing the EV manufacturing unit in a record 18 months, significantly ahead of the original projection of 60 months, calling it a notable achievement made possible by coordinated efforts between the industry and the state govt.

Emphasising that electric vehicles represent the future of transportation, Singh said dependence on petroleum-based vehicles would gradually decline, making such projects critical for sustainable growth. He added that the facility would also serve as a major skill development hub, preparing large numbers of young people for gainful employment and higher incomes.