

UP accounts for 55% of mobile phone production in country, says CM Yogi

Thanks Centre For Budget Allocations

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

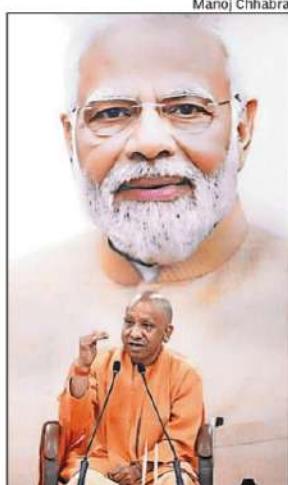
Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the fund will strengthen the 'One District One Product' (ODOP) initiative by supporting technology adoption, skill training, modern packaging and export access.

Expressing his gratitude to the central govt for granting two railway corridors to UP out of the seven that were announced, Yogi said that the Delhi to Varanasi dedicated corridor and the Varanasi to Siliguri corridor would bring down the commute time between important destinations significantly. Spanning more than 1,500 km, the dedicated high-speed corridor would facilitate movement of both passengers and cargo.

Urban facilities in the state are also set to improve, as the city economic region (CRE) scheme announced by the finance minister is aimed at upgrading urban infrastructure in cities with a population of 5 lakh, he said, adding "a total of 225 urban local bodies in UP among the 762 are catering to more than 5 lakh people."

"A lot of them are going to be covered under the CRE scheme," added a senior officer.

As UP is touted to emerge as the defence manufacturing hub, he added that investments and projects



Manoj Chhabra

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressing a press conference in Lucknow on Monday

worth Rs 12,000 crore are already being grounded across the 6 defence manufacturing nodes in the state.

Since the central govt provisioned additional spending of 15% for the defence sector compared to last year, the UP defence corridor would be positioned as the ideal investment destination for both domestic and global players.

Crediting PM Modi's contribution to all-round economic development of the country, the CM said: "The result of these efforts is that more than 25 crore people have emerged out of poverty in the last 11 years and are contributing to India's progress with self-respect," the chief minister said. The CM said it was a matter of pride for every Indian that the country was moving swiftly towards becoming the world's third-largest economy.

"When policies are clear

and intent is firm, the outcomes are evident. India's rapid progress on the global economic stage reflects this clarity," he said.

The CM said that there has been an emphasis on duties and not just rights in recent years, recalling that PM Modi had called for nationwide discussions on fundamental duties along with fundamental rights in 2015.

"We often discuss fundamental rights but rarely talk about our fundamental duties towards the nation and society," he said.

Calling the Union Budget "visionary", the chief minister said it reinforces citizens' responsibilities towards the nation.

The chief minister said the Rs 12.2-lakh crore infrastructure fund announced in the Budget would accelerate development in Uttar Pradesh. With both Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors passing through the state, UP is emerging as the country's largest logistics hub, benefiting industry, trade and employment.

He said UP would play a key role among the 20 inland waterways announced. The Varanasi-Haldia waterway is already operational, with proposals to extend it to Prayagraj and the Yamuna. Developing a ship repair and maintenance ecosystem, especially in Varanasi, will reduce logistics costs and improve efficiency.

He said the Budget has strengthened UP's biopharma potential, with progress on a bulk drug park in Lalitpur and a medical device park in Gautam Buddh Nagar. The Rs 10,000-crore allocation for the sector aims to

position India as a global pharma hub. An upcoming pharma conclave in Lucknow now reflects UP's investment readiness, he said.

The CM said central initiatives to develop India as a data centre hub would give UP fresh momentum, with investments exceeding Rs 22,000 crore underway. Data centres with a capacity of about 700 MW have already been established, positioning the state as a national hub. He said the Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Yojana would benefit UP the most due to its large rural base and over 1.05 lakh revenue villages, helping link rural products to global markets and improve incomes for artisans and entrepreneurs.

The CM said ensuring basic facilities and security can transform religious and historical centres into world-class destinations, citing the unprecedented success of the Magh Mela, which recorded record footfall this year.

He said the Union Budget's provision to develop 15 archaeological sites includes Sarnath and Hastinapur in UP, giving a fresh boost to tourism.

Other religious and historical sites will also be developed on similar lines.

The CM said semiconductor park announcements would benefit UP, which has already received major investment proposals, strengthening its position in high-tech manufacturing.

He said 10,000 tourist guides would be trained nationwide to support tourism, creating local employment. UP has also emerged

as a leader in electronics manufacturing, accounting for 55 per cent of mobile phone production and nearly 60 per cent of electronic components, with an ecosystem worth about Rs 2 lakh crore.

He said urban infrastructure would be strengthened in cities with populations above five lakh. With around 200 such urban bodies, including 17 municipal corporations, UP will see major improvements in urban living standards.

The chief minister said the budget would enhance district hospital capacity and support the 'One District One Medical College' goal. Emergency and trauma care centres will be established in every district to reduce preventable deaths during the golden hour.

Referring to the 'Samarth' scheme, he said Meerut has emerged as a sports goods hub under ODOP, with Agra and Kanpur also developing clusters. Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in Meerut will be completed by April and sports colleges will be set up at regional headquarters.

Citing the 16th Finance Commission, Yogi said UP receives the largest share of central tax devolution due to its population size. He said the Budget also promotes medical tourism, with UP proposing Varanasi for an All India Institute of Ayurveda, strengthening health tourism. In agriculture, he said the Bharat Vistar AI platform would provide information to farmers in local languages while 'She-Mart' would give women SHGs direct market access.