

Over ₹35,000 cr investment in works in UP defence corridor: Yogi Adityanath

POLICY PUSH. State has created land bank, offers incentives under defence aerospace policy, says Chief Minister

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Investment proposals worth over ₹35,000 crore are getting utilised on the ground in Uttar Pradesh's six defence industrial corridors spread across Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Agra, Aligarh and Chitrakoot, said the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday.

The CM's assertion came during his address at the closing ceremony of the three-day NorthTech Symposium at Prayagraj. This adds to the ₹12,000 crore worth of projects which have been seeded till January in one of the two defence industrial corridors — the other being in Tamil Nadu.

"The State government has also created a large land bank. Through the defence and aerospace policy, incentives are being provided to in-



POWER PLAY. M Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister with General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command Lt General Pratik Sharma at the North Tech Symposium PTI

vestors willing to invest," Yogi Adityanath said.

HUB FOR ARMS

Sharing region-specific programmes, the Chief Minister said Aligarh has evolved into a hub for small arms, defence equipment and military supplies. On the other hand, Kanpur — traditionally known as the Manchester of the East — is emerging as a centre for ammunition, missiles, defence textiles and

protective gear.

"Lucknow has been focused on BrahMos missiles and heavy defence manufacturing. Chitrakoot and Agra are being developed for precision engineering in aerospace and defence," he said before a gathering of senior armed forces personnel, defence industry representatives, other officials and experts.

According to the CM, to enhance the capabilities of

the armed forces, manufacturing of artillery shells, drones, bulletproof jackets and advanced communication systems is being undertaken in the defence corridors.

DRONE MANUFACTURING

"The required ecosystem for defence manufacturing corridors exists in Uttar Pradesh. The State has 56 per cent skilled manpower. There is also a strong base of MSMEs, with 96 lakh units already operational across sectors ranging from hardware to leather and textiles," he said.

Adityanath said the government is working with the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur to develop a Centre of Excellence for drones.

START-UP ENVIRONMENT

"Today, more than 21,000 start-ups have been estab-

lished in Uttar Pradesh across sectors, including AI, robotics, drones, semiconductors and data centres," he said. Underlining reforms of his government ever since he took office in 2017, he stated that its foremost priority was to ensure good governance and firmly establish the rule of law.

He noted that the State had to overcome what he described as an "identity crisis," which, he said, required the strict enforcement of a zero-tolerance policy towards crime and criminals.

According to him, this approach has helped create a stronger institutional ecosystem.

He added that Uttar Pradesh today boasts some of the country's most extensive infrastructure, including expressways, highways, rail links, metro systems and improved air connectivity.