

Banks to give fillip to UP’s \$1 trillion economy road map

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Uttar Pradesh (UP) is India’s most populous state, home to an estimated 250 million people. Today, UP ranks among India’s top states with a gross state domestic product (GSDP) estimated to touch almost ₹40 trillion in 2026-27 (FY27). The composite development of UP is imperative for India to become a developed nation by 2047.

Against this backdrop, UP offers unlimited growth potential to the banking sector to leverage the state’s vast market size and economy for its own growth. Owing to UP’s geography and population, banks have an expansive canvas to launch new products, assess market response and innovate for a wide spectrum of customers, both retail and institutional.

At the end of March 2026, the combined deposit base of all banks operating in UP was more than ₹21.43 trillion, a growth rate of 10.7 per cent over the previous year. Likewise, advances at the end of March 2026 outpaced the ₹12.85 trillion mark, posting a growth rate of 13.54 per cent, according to the official data.

Currently, UP has a combined branch network of almost 21,000 comprising all public and private-sector banks, cooperative banks, regional rural banks (RRB), small finance banks and payment banks. While commercial banks lead with more than 14,200 branches, RRBs and cooperative banks operate branch networks of over 4,300 and 1,690, respectively.

\$1 trillion economy target

In line with India’s overarching \$5 trillion economy target, the Yogi Adityanath government is also aiming to make UP a \$1 trillion economy by 2030.

Therefore, UP needs big-ticket investments in various sectors. These include infrastructure, health, logistics, transport, tourism, hospitality and services, among others, for implementing the next generation of reforms.

This is possible only through a ro-



Banking on growth

- UP has combined branch network of almost **21,000 branches**
- Commercial banks lead with more than **14,200 branches**, followed by RRBs and cooperative banks with over **4,300** and **1,690 branches** respectively
- At the end of March 2026, the combined deposit base of all banks in UP was more than **₹21.43 trn**
- CD ratio in the state has breached **60% mark**

bust and growing network of commercial and other banks across different regions, including eastern UP (Purvanchal), Bundelkhand, central UP (Madhyanchal) and western UP (Paschimanchal).

While the credit-deposit (CD) ratio of UP has breached 60 per cent, the chief minister has urged banks to take further steps to boost the ratio to almost 70 per cent by giving impetus to loans for startups, young entrepreneurs and micro enterprises. Due to the growing network of expressways, Uttar Pradesh is now acknowledged as the ‘Expressway Pradesh’ in India. However, mega infra projects, which have a long gestation period, need large funding by financial institutions, including banks.

Jan Dhan Yojana

Public sector banks account for the bulk of the banking transactions, especially in rural and remote pockets. They also lead in priority-sector banking services, including no-frills Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts.

The Centre has embarked on laying the foundation for a smooth transformation of the domestic economy from cash to digital.

To achieve this objective, the flagship financial inclusion programme ‘Jan Dhan Yojana’ was embodied by the Centre. Today, UP has the highest number of Jan Dhan accounts, corresponding to nearly 15 per cent of the pan India PMJDY accounts.

Jan Dhan is aimed at providing each individual a basic savings bank account. The scheme has achieved several global milestones in mass financial inclusion, deposit mobilisation and credit growth. Moreover, India is among the top receivers of foreign remittances by its citizens and non-resident Indians (NRIs).

Remittances are financial transfers made by people working abroad to support their families in their home country. In this context, UP is one of the top states in India.

The banks continue to offer seamless money transfer services to citizens and NRIs via digital channels and SWIFT wire transfers, among others.

‘Purvanchal emerging as a major investment hub’

Q&A By leveraging its location, skilled workforce, agricultural base, and rapidly improving connectivity, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government is positioning eastern UP as a major industrial and investment hub. Additional Chief Secretary (Industrial Development) and Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner **Deepak Kumar**, in an in-person interview with **Siddharth Kalhans**, speaks of industrial growth in Purvanchal. Edited excerpts:

Eastern UP, particularly Varanasi, has been receiving significant investment proposals. How will the government address the matter of land availability in this region?

■ Land is not a constraint in UP. It is a competitive advantage. The state has developed an industrial land bank of over 75,000 acres. To leverage its extensive expressway network, UP is developing 27 “Integrated Manufacturing & Logistics Clusters” (IMLCs) along major expressways and economic corridors. In the Purvanchal region, IMLCs are being developed in nine places including Ayodhya, Prayagraj, Varanasi, and Gorakhpur.

Which industries does the state government wish to promote in eastern UP?

■ We are building on the region’s strengths. The state is positioning its eastern part as an industrial and investment hub by leveraging its location, workforce, agricultural base, and rapidly improving connectivity to attract investment, create jobs, and drive balanced regional development. Priority sectors include food processing and agro-based industries; textiles & apparel (including the Varanasi silk and Bhadohi carpet clusters); tourism & hospitality; energy;



logistics & warehousing; and information technology-enabled services (IT and ITes), global capability centres (GCCs), data centres and digital infrastructure. To support investment in these sectors, the state offers a comprehensive policy ecosystem.

What is attracting investors to Purvanchal? Why do they find this region investor-friendly?

■ Infrastructure creates confidence and confidence translates into investment, which, in turn, creates jobs. Purvanchal has witnessed a remarkable transformation in recent years and is increasingly emerging as one of India’s most attractive investment destinations, supported by world-class connectivity, policy support, and improved ease of doing business. Major factors are driving investor confidence, such as the Purvanchal Expressway and expanding expressway connectivity, including the upcoming Ganga Expressway, National Waterway-1 and the Multi-Modal Terminal in Varanasi.

Besides connectivity through the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor and an extensive railway network, reducing logistics costs and improving market access are also major factors.

What are the prospects for technology industries, particularly GCCs and data centres, in eastern UP?

■ Talent is distributed, and so should be opportunities. The next generation of technology investment will not be confined to metros. Technology follows talent and infrastructure. UP has aligned all three and the eastern region is emerging as a promising technology and knowledge-services hub, supported by the GCC Policy 2024, IT & ITes Policy 2022, and Data Centre Policy, which provide differentiated incentives for the Purvanchal region and create a strong foundation for technology-led investment. The region offers significant competitive advantages, including a large talent pool from Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), and other

leading institutions; lower operating costs; improving multimodal connectivity; and investment-ready industrial infrastructure.

These strengths support UP’s hub-and-spoke GCC model, enabling companies to access high-quality talent while optimising costs. Growing investment in IT/ITes and data centres in Prayagraj, Unnao, Jhansi and Bundelkhand demonstrates that the state’s technology ecosystem is expanding beyond the National Capital Region. With policy support, talent, competitive costs and improving infrastructure, eastern UP is well positioned to attract the next wave of GCCs, digital services, technology, analytics, health care, and banking and insurance, apart from research & development.

What is the current preparedness for the next ground-breaking ceremony (GBC), and how many projects from eastern UP are expected to be rolled out?

■ The story of UP is one of converting investor confidence into factories, jobs and economic growth. Last year alone, the state added 4,860 factories, taking the number of registered units to 32,332. Our success is measured not by proposals but by investment translated into operational enterprises and employment opportunities. This momentum is reflected in the success of the UP Global Investors Summit (GIS) 2023 and GBC 4.0. GIS 2023 attracted investment proposals worth over ₹33.5 trillion, while GBC 4.0 saw the launch of 14,701 projects worth more than ₹10 trillion. UP continues to witness strong investment momentum, and further announcements will be made by the chief minister. Eastern UP is expected to play a significant role in this next phase.

‘Growth must go hand in hand with environment’

Q&A Achieving a trillion-dollar economy in Uttar Pradesh (UP) is possible if industrial growth and environmental sustainability go hand in hand. The Yogi Adityanath government has been making efforts to ensure that industrial growth is achieved along with environmental protection. **Ravindra Pratap Singh**, chairman of the UP Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) tells **Siddharth Kalhans** in an interview how this can be done. Edited excerpts:

What kind of industries should be promoted in eastern UP, particularly in Varanasi, so that less harm is caused to the environment?

■ In eastern UP, all types of industries can be promoted. Now, technologies are available, that can treat effluents well, and also there are devices that can control air pollution. Eastern UP has rich natural resources, fertile soil, and plenty of water — best-suited for agro-based industries also.

Can industry and environment protection go together in environmentally sensitive areas of eastern UP?

■ Absolutely. Industrialisation and environmental protection can go together. Just that there is need for industries to select and use appropriate technologies for treating pollutants being release.

Despite all required resources, eastern UP is power-starved. Can solar energy bridge this gap?

■ Eastern UP is producing thermal power not only for the entire state but also for the country. However, as far as solar power is concerned, it can be furthered as Mirzapur, Prayagraj, and other districts have very good potential in this area.



“TO STRENGTHEN ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING IN THE STATE, UPPCB IS ESTABLISHING A STATE-OF-THE-ART AI-ENABLED CONTROL ROOM AND DATA CENTRE”

Ravindra Pratap Singh, chairman, UPPCB

Another potential source of energy in eastern UP can be biofuel. Eastern UP has been doing well in agriculture and dairy sectors, which can be utilised for producing bioenergy.

With industries growing at a faster pace, what precautions is the UPPCB taking to maintain an ecological balance?

■ Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, UP has set itself a target of becoming a trillion-dollar economy. And also, the state is playing a pivotal role in ensuring that India becomes a \$5 trillion economy as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. To achieve this, industrial

growth must go hand in hand with environmental protection. The UPPCB is committed to ensuring that industrial development remains environmentally sustainable. Besides pushing for end-of-pipe solutions, we are also encouraging industries to adopt cleaner production technologies, resource-efficient processes, water conservation measures, and waste-minimisation practices to ensure that in pursuit of economic growth we also achieve net-zero targets.

To strengthen environmental monitoring in the state, the UPPCB is establishing a state-of-the-art artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled control room and

data centre. In the first phase, this initiative will facilitate real-time monitoring of sewage treatment plants (STPs) and biomedical waste treatment and disposal facilities across UP, enabling better compliance and timely regulatory action. This will be done in other sectors as well.

What steps is the UPPCB taking to create awareness of environment so that pollution can be reduced in the state?

■ Public participation is essential for effective environmental protection. the UPPCB is undertaking a wide range of awareness programmes to encourage citizens, educational institutions, industries, and local communities to adopt environmentally responsible practices.

The board has developed National Service Scheme (NSS)-led programmes, and has started outreach activities in schools and colleges, plantation drives, plastic-free campaigns, and the observance of important environmental events such as World Environment Day.

To engage the youth, the UPPCB has introduced its mascot “Sarus Saathi”, and launched initiatives such as “Green Commando”, “Be a Change Maker”, and “Expert Lecture Series”.

The board also collaborates with premier academic institutions and civil society organisations to promote research, innovation, and public participation in environmental conservation.

In addition, the UPPCB uses digital and social media platforms to disseminate information on air and water pollution, waste management, plastic waste reduction, and sustainable lifestyles, inspiring citizens and industries to adopt cleaner and greener practices.



Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board

REFUSE SINGLE USE PLASTIC



PLASTIC CARRY BAG



PLASTIC BOTTLE



PLASTIC CUTLERY



PLASTIC STRAW

ADOPT ECO-FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVES



CLOTH/JUTE BAG



STEEL/GLASS BOTTLE



BAMBOO/WOODEN CUTLERY



REUSABLE STRAW



Sarus Saathi

The Mascot of UPPCB