

Purvanchal steps up on development journey



(From left) UP Excise Minister Nitin Agarwal, Transport Minister Dayashankar Singh and MoS for MSME Hansraj Vishwakarma, highlighted eastern UP's growth, better connectivity and improved law-and-order under the current government

VIRENDRA SINGH RAWAT

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Coming out of its image of being the badlands of Uttar Pradesh (UP), Purvanchal (the eastern region) is emerging as the state's growth hub on the back of a massive infrastructure push, improved law and order, and ease of doing business, top ministers of the state government said here on Tuesday at *Business Standard's* "Ubharta Purvanchal", or Rising Purvanchal, conclave.

Delivering his inaugural address, UP Excise Minister Nitin Agarwal, the chief guest, said that eastern UP had turned its back on the past to become a key contributor to the state's growth.

Sustained public investment in roads, industrial infrastructure, tourism, education and health care brought about this

change, he said.

The fact that both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have their base in eastern UP gives the region added focus and advantage, Agarwal said.

He said Varanasi, where the conclave was being held and which lay at the very heart of the region, had become the focal point of this transformation. He described the city as a model of balancing heritage conservation with modern urban development.

Over the past 12 years, Agarwal said, the city has witnessed improvement in physical infrastructure, public services, and tourism while retaining its cultural and religious character.

According to him, improved connectivity has been the biggest catalyst in economic activities in the region. Turn to Page 7 ►

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