# 'Investors choose UP for its large consumer market, matching infra'

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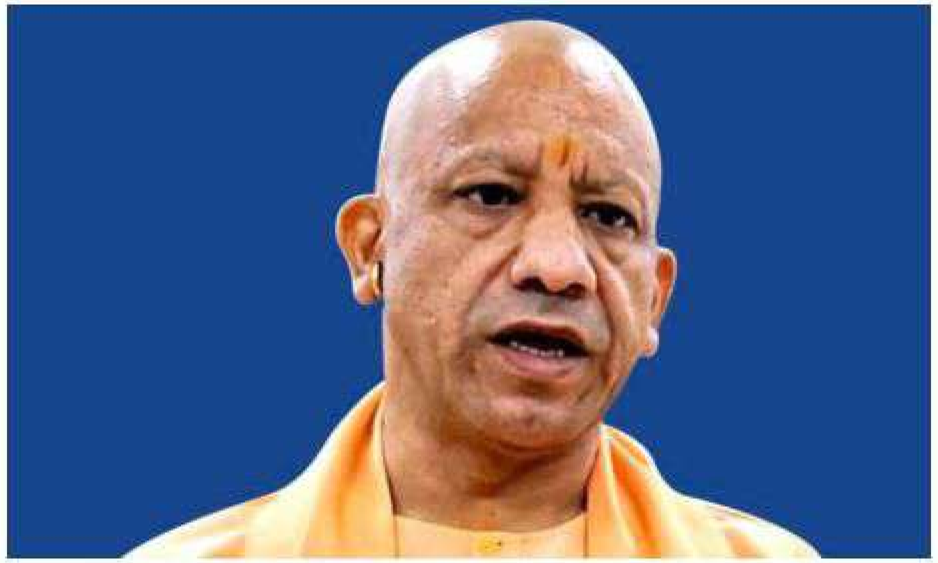
**Shishir Sinha**
Greater Noida

Uttar Pradesh has sought support from the Centre for semiconductor fab units, a dedicated rail cargo link and funding for inter-state transmission to further boost investment in the state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said. The Chief Minister elaborated on how focused effort is being made to reduce logistics costs in big projects.

Edited excerpts:



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**YOGI ADITYANATH**
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

**How much foreign investment has Uttar Pradesh received in the last 3 years, including the current fiscal and in which sectors?**

Over the last three years, Uttar Pradesh has received $1.5 billion in FDI. Taken alone, that number undersells what is happening on the ground. DPIIT records FDI against the State where a company has its registered office. When a multinational with its Indian headquarters in Delhi or Mumbai builds a plant in Noida or Kanpur, the money appears in another State's figures, while the factory, the production and the jobs are in Uttar Pradesh.

Foreign capital is coming mainly into electronics and mobile manufacturing, semiconductors, data centres, renewable energy, defence, logistics, EVs and pharmaceuticals. At Davos this year, we signed MoUs worth nearly ₹3 lakh crore, and our outreach in Japan and Singapore brought commitments of ₹2.5 lakh crore across data centres, clean energy, defence, logistics, EVs, pharmaceuticals and AI.

**Why should an investor choose UP?**

Scale and the ability to use it. UP has 25 crore people, one of the largest consumer markets anywhere, and a young workforce that grows every year. An investor can make and sell within the same State.

The infrastructure now matches that scale. UP has more than half of India's operational expressway network, the longest stretch of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor of any State, 425 km of National Waterway-1, and an international airport at Jewar that began commercial flights in June.

**What are the changes being proposed in UP's investment policy for domestic as well as foreign investors?**

The earlier phase of our policy was about removing barriers. The question now is which industries we want to build, what they need, and how the State can make itself competitive for them.

For foreign investors, we introduced a dedicated FDI and Fortune 500 Investment Promotion Policy covering Fortune Global 500 and Fortune India 500 companies, with a land cost rebate of up to 75 per cent and capital subsidy. For domestic industry, we have strengthened employment-linked incentives, and the Uttar Pradesh Semiconductor Policy supports the chip ecosystem taking shape around Jewar. We now have more than 36 sector policies. Where investors have shown us a genuine constraint, we have changed the rules.

The recent changes show the direction. In July, we approved the Data Centre Policy 2026, which targets investment of more than ₹2 lakh crore and 2 GW of new capacity, focusing on AI-ready, GPU-based and green data centres. With it came the Startup Policy 2026, a ₹1,000 crore Startup Fund and a new UP Startup Mission. In August, we amended the IT and ITeS Policy so that eligibility now counts employment and business capacity, and not capital investment alone. That brings smaller technology companies into the net.

We have also cut the time it takes to deal with the government. Nivesh Mitra 3.0, launched on 24 March, has folded more than 530 services from 43 departments into fewer than 225.

**What are the efforts being made to bring down the logistics cost, so that investors can bring down their cost of production?**

Our Logistics Policy sets a clear target: bringing logistics costs down from 13-14 per cent of GSDP to the global benchmark of 8-9 per cent.

We are getting there by changing how UP connects to the national network. The Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors give industrial freight a fast rail route, with the Western corridor linking the Dadri region to JNPT. National Waterway-1 and the Varanasi multimodal terminal offer a cheaper route for bulk and farm cargo. Noida International Airport, open for commercial flights since June, is building cargo capacity close to our electronics and pharmaceutical producers.

**How are the Centre's policies helping you in attracting investment?**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Defence Industrial Corridor at our Investors Summit in 2018, and MoUs worth more than ₹35,000 crore have since been signed under it. The India Semiconductor Mission brought the ₹3,706 crore HCL-Foxconn unit to Jewar, with the Centre providing about ₹1,500 crore in incentives.

The very first payout under the production-linked incentive scheme anywhere in the country went to a manufacturer in Noida, and PLI has helped make UP the source of the majority of India's mobile phones.