

India's growth story on track despite global turmoil: Shah

600+ foreign buyers from 90 nations are participating in UP trade show

VIRENDRA SINGH RAWAT

Lucknow, 25 September

Inaugurating the fourth edition of the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS) 2026 on Friday morning in Greater Noida, Union Home Minister Amit Shah described those sceptical about the country's economic growth data as "vakradrashtas", or people with a malignant outlook. He also praised the state's "double-engine government" for replacing the illegal arms factories that had mushroomed in UP before 2017 with a mega defence industrial corridor with six world-class manufacturing hubs.

"This transformation has occurred under the 'double-engine government', and today Uttar Pradesh is becoming a major destination for investment from India and abroad," Shah said. He was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the five-day event, which was also attended by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other state ministers. Shah said India's 7.8 per cent economic growth in the latest quarter was evidence that the country continues to be the fastest-growing among major economies. "Despite the turmoil in the world and despite many hurdles, India has maintained its development and has taken it forward," Shah said at Greater Noida's India Expo Centre and Mart, where the UPITS is being held.

The Union home minister said that today the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, which is made in UP, gives Pakistan sleepless nights, and the AK-203 assault rifle, manufactured in Amethi, had become a weapon against "Naxalites and terrorists". He said the "transformation from an earlier environment of crime to defence manufacturing, vehicle production, and medical-device manufacturing" rep-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah (right) with UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the UP International Trade Show 2026, in Greater Noida on Friday

PHOTO: PTI

resented a major change in UP.

More than 600 foreign buyers from 90 countries are participating at the fourth UPITS, 2,400+ exhibitors are showcasing their products, and 150,000 B2B (business-to-business) visitors are expected at the Show, which is being held from September 25-29. UP government officials said they were confident that the attendance at the five-day event would surpass the 2025 edition, which had 500,000 attending and also saw signing of 400 memorandums of understanding (MoUs).

Shah said India had not only sustained its economic growth despite global upheavals but had also strengthened it under Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's leadership. He said Modi has raised the country's growth-rate estimate from 6 per cent to 7 per cent. The Union home minister also referred to the recent upgrade of India's sovereign rating by Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR).

He slammed Opposition parties and some experts for criticising India's economic performance, including the 7.8 per cent growth recorded in the first quarter. "Some 'vakradrashtas'

(people with a malignant or distorted outlook) keep disputing the gross domestic product (GDP) figures. Those whose thinking itself is dead cannot see vibrancy; they see dead everywhere," Shah said alluding to Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's remark of July 31, 2025, where the Congress leader claimed that the "Indian economy is dead" and accused the PM of "killing it" in a post on X.

The Union home minister highlighted the trade deals that India has signed or is negotiating, which he said have opened up greater export opportunities for Indian entrepreneurs. Lauding the UP government's efforts in creating an environment conducive to investments, Shah said the poor law-and-order situation in UP in 2013 did not allow for holding an investment summit in Lucknow, and it was instead held in Delhi. "A favourable industrial policy, a proactive government, and a pro-industry stance are essential for attracting investment, and that all these conditions today exist in Uttar Pradesh, which has set a target of becoming a \$1 trillion economy," Shah said.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony at the event, UP Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath said the fourth edition of the UPITS provides an opportunity to see the potential of the "new Uttar Pradesh", which has "transformed its identity" over the past decade by connecting traditional skills with technology, investment, and global markets. "Uttar Pradesh had never lacked potential, but what was required was to identify it, create the right ecosystem, and take it to scale," he said. The CM said infrastructure such as expressways, highways, airports, freight corridors, and industrial infrastructure had strengthened connectivity and created opportunities for investment, production, and access to global markets.

The CM said the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative had given a brand identity to traditional enterprises and contributed to UP's emergence as a manufacturing hub. The state, he said, was now exporting goods worth more than ₹2 trillion to markets across the world. The CM said 550 buyers from 75 countries had participated in the previous edition of the UPITS, while this year, buyers from around 90 countries, including more than 600 international buyers, were expected to take part. The event is also expected to attract around 1.5 lakh B2B visitors. He said there is participation from Japan, Russia, Vietnam, Singapore, Austria, and Belarus as partner countries. "Their pavilions would provide opportunities for strategic partnerships, technology transfer, and joint ventures. India's free trade agreements (FTAs) with several major economies under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership had created opportunities for Uttar Pradesh to invite international companies to invest and manufacture in the state for exports to global markets," he noted.