

Once BIMARU, UP now giving artisans platform to shine: CM

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

VARANASI: Chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said before 2017, governments with a 'BIMARU mentality' had turned Uttar Pradesh into a 'BIMARU' state bereft of security, infrastructure, technology, and markets.

He was addressing a gathering after inaugurating the golden jubilee edition of the India Carpet Expo, being organised from October 4 to 7 at the Carpet Expo Mart in Sant Ravidas Nagar, Bhadohi, on Sunday.

"Before 2017, there was frustration and despair in Uttar Pradesh. Due to riots, curfews, disturbances, and mafia activity, there was no conducive environment for business. Artisans and craftspeople were once compelled to migrate in search of livelihood and employment. They are now getting a platform to showcase their skills on their own soil. Now no mafia can threaten anyone by brandishing a pistol from an open jeep. Nor can anyone undermine the security of daughters and traders," he said.

"Today, the carpet industry has received technology, design and markets, along with better connectivity and security. Bhadohi carpets are establishing their identity in the global market," he said. "The government included Bhadohi carpets under the One District-One Product (ODOP)



CM Yogi Adityanath smiles as the artisans show their craft at the 'India Carpet Expo' in Bhadohi on Sunday.

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scheme and connected artisans with technology, design and markets," he said.

"Carpets made by the skilled hands of Bhadohi are now enhancing the beauty of major establishments across the world. The carpet laid in the country's new Parliament building was also made in Sant Ravidas Nagar. The district has a GI tag, the ODOP platform, the Carpet Expo Mart and a strong export system. A PM MITRA Textile Park is being developed across 1,000 acres between Lucknow and Hardoi," he added.

He also stated, "Exports worth Rs 6,100 crore are taking place from Sant Ravidas Nagar and the silk cluster. Sant Ravidas Nagar, Mirzapur and the silk cluster of Varanasi account for 60% of the country's total carpet exports. Sant Ravidas Nagar alone has 2,500 MSME units, with an annual turnover of Rs 10,000 crore. This industry has pro-

vided direct employment to more than 5 lakh people."

He said 90% of the carpets manufactured in the district are exported to various countries, including the United States, Germany, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. Around 250 exhibitors and more than 450 foreign buyers from 65 countries are participating in this expo. This includes 106 buyers from BRICS countries.

'Varanasi-Vindhya Regional Development Plan to roll out soon'

He said Sant Ravidas Nagar, Mirzapur and Varanasi will be developed as a silk cluster and the Varanasi-Vindhya Regional Development Plan will also be implemented soon.

He made the announcement during a direct interaction with exporters, sellers and prominent entrepreneurs of the carpet industry at the expo.