UP growth engine of country's economy: CM

Lucknow: Chief minister Yogi Adityanath distributed tablets to 46,800 students and trainees from Gonda, Bahraich, Balrampur and Shravasti districts of Devipatan division at a ceremony in Gonda on Friday.

Addressing the gathering, the CM said, "These tablets, distributed under the Swami Vivekananda Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana, are like mobile universities for students. They should use them properly to access education, employment, entrepreneurship and skill development."

He urged students to devote at least 30 minutes each day to honing their skills if they spend 30 seconds watching reels. He said AI should be a tool for empowerment, not a medium that takes control of one's mind. He also warned them that not all viral content is accurate and should be fact-checked.



CM Yogi hands over a tablet to a student in Gonda on Friday

The CM said proper development required time, dedication and a clear vision. While previous govts had turned UP into a hub of crime and lawlessness, the state had now become a growth engine for the country's economy. "For me, the 25 crore people of the state are my family, whereas there were those for whom their families were restricted to Saifai," he said.

Describing Gonda's condition before 2017, the CM said it was among the dirtiest cities in the country. Roads were in extremely poor condition, while three districts of Devipatan division — Balrampur, Shravasti and Bahraich — were listed among NITI Aayog's aspirational districts. Now, medical colleges have been established in Gonda and Bahraich. A university has been established in Balrampur, where a medical college is also being constructed.

"Over the past nine and a half years, the double-engine govt has sanctioned Rs 36,000 crore exclusively for Devipatan division. The airport in Shravasti is ready, and air connectivity is set to begin soon. Today, Gonda, Bahraich, Balrampur and Shravasti have moved beyond their identity as dirty cities in cleanliness surveys and are showcasing their development," he said.

The CM further said that before 2017, the state had around 120 start-ups, whereas their number had now crossed 25,000. Warning the youth against the Opposition, he said those who had created an identity crisis for the state would once again try to approach them. Those who opposed the construction of the Ram temple avoided visiting Noida to save their chairs, he said, adding that Noida had been turned into a means of looting and corruption under them.

The CM also spoke about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skilling and Employment Zones being developed in every district, saying that youth would be provided skill training according to their qualifications and connected with employment opportunities.