

# Lucknow is now known for defence sector mfg: Pathak

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**ROOTING FOR PROGRESS:** Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak meets former India hockey captains Zafar Iqbal and Jagbir Singh at TOI Dialogues

## Spotlight on Kashi at TOI Dialogues

**Lucknow:** The concluding edition of TOI Dialogues will be held in Varanasi on Thursday at the scenic Taj Ganges and will see celebrities, bureaucrats and experts discussing the transformation and growth of Varanasi.

Advisor to UP CM, Awasthi will deliver the keynote address, while actors Vikrant Massey and Shweta Tripathi will engage with the audience in a fireside chat session. TOI Dialogues will focus on the contribution of Varanasi in UP's growth. Panellists comprising authors, historians, columnists, folk singers and poets would share their thoughts on UP's vibrant present and future in various sessions at the event.

Sportspersons like Anju Bobby George, former hockey player Sardar Singh, Kabaddi star Rahul Chaudhari and UFC fighter Puja Tomar will deliberate on advancing athletics aspirations in Varanasi. Officials like UP tourism director Prakher Mishra and Varanasi divisional commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma would delve on the impact of developing infrastructure on Varanasi.

Authors Anuj Dhar, Vikram Sampath and Abhijit Chavda would speak on the intersection of history and modern politics while experts like Yatindra Mishra and Pankaj Bhadoria will share thoughts on the cultural tapestry of Varanasi.

now was a laidback city of service class people. There were just a few industries. But today, Lucknow is a name in the defence sector manufacturing and is set to manufacture the prestigious BrahMos Missile—a prototype of which has been put up at the state capital's 1090 square.

The journey has just begun, and the state is set to scale new highs with the one trillion-dollar economy goal on board," said Pathak.

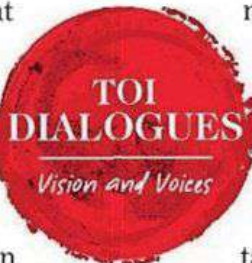
The deputy CM said that the best thing about Lucknow was its cosmopolitan and well-accommodating culture which makes it warm, unlike big cities where next-door neighbours are not aware and concerned about each other. "Unlike Delhi, Mumbai or Bengaluru, people in Lucknow share a bond with their neighbours and are willing to help as and when required," he said.

Pathak also lauded the people of Uttar Pradesh for

adapting and upskilling themselves to match the needs of the modern world and to embrace development. "The state has progressed with the combined efforts of the government, private sector, and the people in general," he said.

Lauding TOI's effort to bring vision and voices from different walks of life on a common platform, he said: "The Times of India brings in irrefutable credibility with it. We have verified their reports at our level on several occasions and found them true and unbiased. What makes the brand even more reliable is its effort to present views besides news through platforms like this one. We will be happy to include suggestions gathered at this event for a policy rejig."

The event was sponsored by Apco Infratech Private Limited. The firm's director, Amit Singh, said: "The interface between government and private experts through such programmes is always beneficial for the society."



**Lucknow:** Lucknow has come to being identified as an educational and medical hub in recent years, said deputy chief minister Brajesh Pathak while delivering the keynote address at the Lucknow edition of TOI Dialogues.

"The arrival of private players is one thing, but public health services have been strengthened in a big way. Though centres like Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences and King George's Medical University remain overwhelmed with patients, they serve as the penultimate centre of hope in healthcare for the middle class." Pathak admitted that the govt health sector was facing a crisis of doctors but asserted that the state was aware of the demand and had rolled out measures to mitigate the crisis. "Before 2017, there were about a dozen medical colleges in state but today, under the programme of 'one district one medical college', the state has been able to provide 65 functional medical colleges. We are also the only state to engage specialist doctors at a fee of their choice to ensure that services in peripheral areas," he said.

He also noted that the state has paid emphasis and attention on quality in medical and health sector and is, therefore, working to boost the resources in nursing and paramedical layers as well.

Pathak also listed how the city's business and MSME base was growing. "In the 1980s and 1990s, Luck-