

# U.P. to host Excise Investors' Summit on July 9

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**LUCKNOW:** The Uttar Pradesh department of excise and prohibition will hold a daylong Excise Investors Summit 2025 at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow on July 9 in collaboration with Invest UP for the alcohol and alcoholic manufacturing beverages sector.

The event will see participation from wine-making and beer-making MSME units, ENA (Extra Neutral Alcohol) and Grain-ENA manufacturers, related plant and equipment manufacturers, industry association and interest groups and alcoholic beverages manufacturing companies. This will be a unique initiative by any department of the state so far, according to excise minister Nitin Agarwal.

In an exclusive interview with Hindustan Times, Agarwal said, "Our investment policies have improved under the Yogi Aditya-



**UP excise minister Nitin Agarwal**

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nath government and now people are willing to invest in the state.

Our department is attracting investors at a fast pace and those who were already doing business have expanded in recent years."

"Our department is organising the Excise Investment Summit on 2025 on 9th July at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow. We are inviting big companies on the national and international level, including giants like Carlsberg, and others who are interested in setting up their

plant in Uttar Pradesh. We have also touched upon countries like Singapore, China, Dubai, United Kingdom, Malaysia, etc. We want them to come and invest in UP," said Agarwal.

"It will be a one-day programme and it's happening for the first time in the state. We have called Industry experts, our existing and new investors, representatives from other countries, where we will be telling them what our state is offering them like subsidies and other things," the minister added.

The department had signed MoUs worth around Rs 8000 crore in the UP investors summit held earlier, according to information shared by the minister.

Those who had signed the MoUs are also being called to attend the summit.

Speaking on the manifold time increase in excise revenue, the minister said, "It is a big achievement for us that in 2017, when our government was formed, the state excise revenue

was around Rs 14,000 crore. Last year, we had clocked Rs 52,574 crore, which was three-and-a-half times more than what the state was getting in 2017. At the moment there are 95 distillers in the state which are also contributing to the revenue."

"The main reason behind our 10-15% annual growth was that we cracked down on smuggling of illicit liquor from neighbouring states," Agarwal added.

"Previous governments were harbouring liquor mafia. We fixed accountabilities and gave targets. We brought the entire system online and also brought a track and trace system to rule out any kind of adulteration. Right from distilleries to retail shops, everything was aligned with a track and trace system to ensure that not even one bottle goes unaccounted. Our other focus was enforcement teams which worked hard to curb illicit liquor production in the state. We have curbed this nexus so far by 95%," said Agarwal.