

Rewriting the rules of state-led growth

Satwik Misra

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is steering Uttar Pradesh, home to over 220 million people, to be the pivot of India's rise as a global economic power through the "double engine" growth model. His goal to make UP a trillion-dollar economy is part of a wider national mission called Viksit Bharat 2047. As India plots its route to become a fully developed nation by the centenary of independence, UP sees itself as the catalyst for this transformation.



With its overwhelming demographic weight, cultural capital, and rising industrial depth, UP will lead the path towards Viksit Bharat by integrating its policies, investments, and governance model with the national goal, UP is not simply chasing numbers but also contributing to a generational project: By 2047, India will be prosperous, equitable, globally respected and a developed nation becoming a torchbearer for the world.

The \$1 trillion dream is not just financial; it is a social pledge of equity, employment, and empowerment. Uttar Pradesh has become "Expressway Capital of India," it has the most airports, the largest MSME base, and a thriving One District One Product (ODOP) initiative. Its rise is powered by several investor-friendly policies and a governance model focused on execution. The state's GSDP has grown from ₹13.9 lakh crore in FY 2017 to nearly ₹24.4 lakh crore in FY 2024, with a ₹35 lakh crore target by 2027. All this aligns with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

BrahMos, a supersonic cruise missile jointly developed by India and Russia, flies at nearly three times the speed of sound with 300–400 km range and can be launched from land, sea, or air. The ₹3,000 crore BrahMos complex in Lucknow showcases UP's bid to emerge as a global defence manufacturing hub. But this isn't just about making rockets. It is about creating pride, jobs, and geopolitical relevance. The UP Defence Corridor demonstrates that this is not a one-time event; but a mission for national development.

Uttar Pradesh's deliberate emphasis on religious and cultural tourism has turned its spiritual legacy into a major economic force. The opening of the Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir in Ayodhya was a historic event. In the first six months, Ayodhya received about 110 million visitors, highlighting its status as a prominent pilgrimage site. The 2025 Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj was the largest congregation of people till date which generated an estimated ₹2.8 lakh crore in economic activity, directly, indirectly, and through induced effects.

Uttar Pradesh isn't just chasing a trillion-dollar economy, it's rewriting the rules of state-led growth in India. This isn't a simple story of rising GDP; it's about a state reclaiming its identity through faith, defence, and technology. Few places would dare to mix BrahMos missiles with temple tourism, or expressways with cultural revival, but UP is betting big on exactly that blend.

A developed India cannot exist without a developed Uttar Pradesh. Viksit Bharat is not a dream - it is our destiny and Viksit Uttar Pradesh which is rooted in its past, bold in its present and responsible towards its future is the road that takes us there.

(Writers is an advocate practising in the Supreme Court of India)