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FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies. Established in 1927, it is India's oldest and largest apex business organisation. FICCI serves its members from large (domestic and global companies) and MSME sectors as well as the public sector, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry.

EDITORIAL

From The Secretary General



In the last few years, the perception of Uttar Pradesh (UP) has changed from a state with socio-economic challenges to an area of opportunity with growth and stability under the stewardship of Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath. UP's progress over the last few years embodies the aspirations of over 20 crore fellow Indians living in our largest state.

FICCI held its National Executive Committee Meeting (NECM) in UP after a gap of 38 years.

This is a testament to the state's progressive and business-friendly regime focused on long-term growth and economic prosperity. In fact, acknowledging this return after four decades, the Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to FICCI for having the NECM in Lucknow. He also mentioned that the first business meeting that he attended after taking over as the Chief Minister in 2017 was also convened by FICCI.

UP has seen a robust economic trajectory in recent times. The state budget for 2023-24 has a robust blueprint towards a trillion-dollar economy, underscoring vigorous growth in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) over the preceding year. This fiscal prudence has laid the foundations for sustainable prosperity. The state budget has substantial allocations for youth empowerment, welfare schemes and infrastructure development, amplifying the State's commitment to holistic development.

UP has been the leader in expressway development by far. Beyond the Noida–Agra and the Agra–Lucknow expressway, the Poorvanchal expressway connecting Lucknow to Gorakhpur is complete, and several others are under construction. Now, it is developing more infrastructure projects in the housing and connectivity sectors. The state now leads in housing construction and establishing micro, small, and medium-scale industries. Furthermore, the construction of five international and sixteen domestic airports is a testament to the state's vision of enhancing connectivity and fostering economic integration. The Noida International Airport at Jewar will be the second airport for Delhi-NCR.

The most critical infrastructure for business is good law & order. Control of crime has been a priority of Shri Yogi Adityanath's government. The launch of 'Operation Conviction' and the significant dip in crime rates underscore the government's resolve towards fostering a safe and secure environment for trade and commerce.

For India to become the third largest economy in the world, our largest state, UP, would have to grow rapidly. As India's oldest and leading apex business chamber, I am confident that the transformation from Uttar Pradesh to Uttam Pradesh and eventually to Sarvottam Pradesh will be achieved in the near future.

Shailesh Pathak