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UP Global Growth Dialogue-2026

\$1 Uttar Pradesh Moving Towards a \$1 Trillion Economy

A landmark step towards building a resilient, inclusive and globally competitive Uttar Pradesh.

Partnerships. Innovation. Prosperity.
The Future is UP.



World-Class Infrastructure
Powering Progress



Investment Friendly Policies
Enabling Growth



Skilled Workforce & Innovation
Driving the Future



Global Partnerships for Shared Prosperity



Innovation. Investment. Impact.



Representative Image



Before 2017,
Lack of vision in
IT and Technology

In 2026,
Data and AI hubs
• Software Tech
Parks in 9 cities
• Uttar Pradesh
AI mission launched



Information and Public Relations Department, U.P.



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Nine Years : Transformation in Uttar Pradesh



As Uttar Pradesh completes nine years under the present government, the occasion provides an opportunity to reflect on the state's remarkable journey of development and transformation. Over the past nine years, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a key driver of India's growth through improvements in infrastructure, governance, investment, and public service delivery.

The expansion of expressways, airports, industrial corridors, and metro networks has significantly improved connectivity and strengthened the state's economic foundation. Major initiatives such as the Defence Industrial Corridor and One District One Product (ODOP) have encouraged industrial growth, promoted local entrepreneurship, and generated employment opportunities.

Investment-friendly policies and large-scale investor summits have helped attract businesses from across the country and abroad, supporting the state's vision of becoming a one-trillion-dollar economy. At the same time, efforts to improve law and order, digital governance, healthcare, housing, sanitation, and welfare services have enhanced the quality of life for millions of citizens.

Uttar Pradesh has also successfully leveraged its rich cultural and spiritual heritage. The development of destinations such as Ayodhya, Kashi, Mathura, and Prayagraj has boosted tourism while strengthening the state's cultural identity.

While challenges related to employment, education, healthcare, and sustainable development remain, the progress achieved over the last nine years has laid a strong foundation for future growth. The journey reflects a commitment to building a prosperous, inclusive, and globally competitive Uttar Pradesh.

RISHI KUMAR SHARMA

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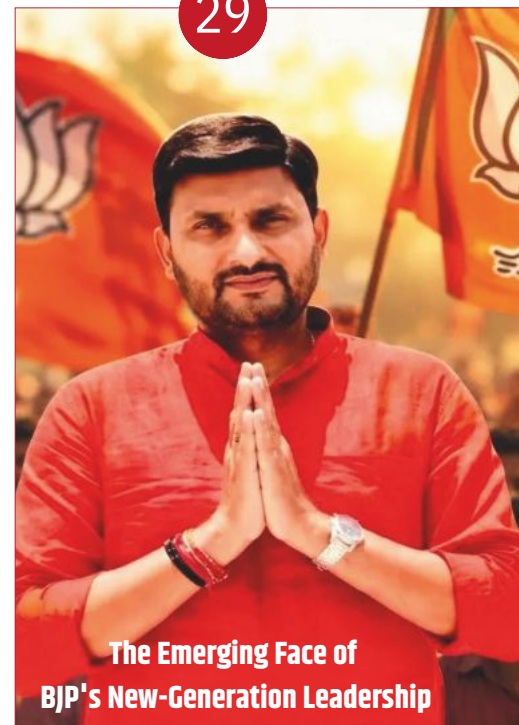
Invest UP

Strong Leadership
Visionary leadership driving transformative growth

Investor Friendly Ecosystem
Policies & reforms for sustainable and inclusive development

Global Partnerships
Building strong international alliances for a prosperous future

ONE STATE. ONE VISION. ONE TRILLION POSSIBILITIES.



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ROOST TO INDIGENOUS DEFENCE MANUFACTURING
Empowering India's defence industry

INCREASE IN DEFENCE PRODUCTION
New heights in production and exports

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT IN DEFENCE
Self-reliance is our strength

MODERNISATION OF ARMED FORCES
Advanced weapons, technology and infrastructure

WELFARE OF EX-SERVICEMEN A PRIORITY
Honouring their service, ensuring their well-being



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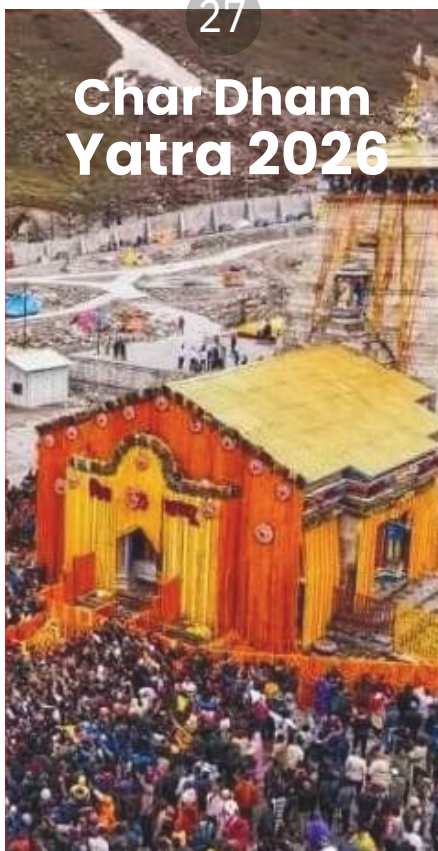
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Chief Operating Officer
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Uttar Pradesh Takes a Major Leap Towards Green Mobility



A New Chapter in Public Transport with Electric and Hydrogen Buses

As the world grapples with climate change, rising pollution, and an increasing energy crisis, the transition to clean-energy transportation is no longer a choice—it has become a necessity. India is steadily embracing this transformation, and Uttar Pradesh is emerging as one of its key drivers. The launch of 45 electric buses and three hydrogen-powered buses for Noida, Greater Noida, and the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) region by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath marks much more than the addition of new vehicles to the public transport fleet. It represents a forward-looking vision for sustainable mobility and environmentally responsible urban development.

The buses were flagged off virtually from Lucknow, where the Chief Minister also inaugurated the Noida Electric Bus Depot. The initiative is being seen as a significant milestone in Uttar Pradesh's journey toward green mobility, clean

energy, and a modern public transportation system designed for the future.

• A New Need for a Changing World

Cities across the globe are struggling with air pollution, traffic congestion, and excessive dependence on fossil fuels. Petrol and diesel vehicles remain among the largest contributors to carbon emissions, accelerating global warming and intensifying the impacts of climate change.

During the launch, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath highlighted these global challenges, referring to climate change, geopolitical conflicts, and the energy crisis as issues affecting humanity at large. According to him, adopting clean-energy public transportation is no longer simply an environmental commitment—it is an essential step toward sustainable development.

The introduction of electric and hydrogen

buses reflects this broader vision. Beyond reducing emissions, these vehicles are expected to improve air quality while supporting India's long-term climate goals.

• A New Need for a Changing World

Electric buses are increasingly recognized as one of the most effective solutions for reducing urban pollution. Since they produce little to no tailpipe emissions, they significantly improve air quality while also reducing noise pollution.

In rapidly expanding urban centres such as Noida and Greater Noida, these buses are expected to benefit office workers, students, industrial employees, and airport passengers alike. Reliable, clean, and affordable transportation will not only improve daily commuting but also contribute to a healthier urban environment.

The Chief Minister announced that



110 electric buses will be introduced during the initial phase, with plans to gradually expand the fleet to 500 buses based on passenger demand. This demonstrates that the project is not merely symbolic but part of a long-term strategy to build a comprehensive sustainable transport network.

• **Hydrogen Buses: A Glimpse into the Future**

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the initiative is the introduction of hydrogen-powered buses. Around the world, hydrogen fuel-cell technology is increasingly viewed as the next frontier of clean transportation. Countries such as Japan, Germany, and South Korea have already made significant

investments in hydrogen mobility, and India is now beginning to move in the same direction.

The Chief Minister explained that the hydrogen required for these buses would be produced using treated wastewater rather than groundwater or surface water. This innovative approach combines water conservation with renewable energy production, making it an environmentally responsible solution.

If successful, this model could serve as a blueprint for other Indian cities seeking to adopt hydrogen-based public transport.

• **Balancing Economic Growth with Environmental Responsibility**

Uttar Pradesh has traditionally been known for agriculture and conventional industries. However, over the past several years, the state has transformed into a major destination for information technology, electronics manufacturing, semiconductor investments, data centres, and start-up ecosystems.

Today, Noida, Greater Noida, and the YEIDA region rank among India's leading industrial and investment hubs, attracting global companies and creating substantial employment opportunities.

Such rapid industrial growth inevitably brings environmental challenges. Sustainable public transportation powered by electricity and hydrogen offers an effective way to balance economic development with ecological responsibility.

• **Transforming Uttar Pradesh Through Infrastructure**

During his address, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also reflected on Uttar Pradesh's infrastructure transformation. The state now boasts an extensive road network of nearly 400,000 kilometres, supported by world-class expressways and rapidly expanding air connectivity.

Major projects such as the Purvanchal Expressway, Bundelkhand Expressway, Ganga Expressway, Gorakhpur Link Expressway, and the upcoming Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway have significantly improved regional connectivity. Meanwhile, international airports in Lucknow, Varanasi, Ayodhya, Kushinagar, and Noida are positioning the state as one of India's most connected regions.

Integrating these infrastructure achievements with green mobility initiatives represents the next phase of Uttar Pradesh's development strategy.

• **Strengthening Local Manufacturing and Employment**

Green mobility is not only an environmental initiative but also an economic opportunity. The Chief Minister noted that Uttar Pradesh is becoming increasingly self-reliant in electric bus manufacturing. Major manufacturers such as Tata Motors and Ashok Leyland have established production facilities in Lucknow, creating employment while strengthening India's "Make in India" initiative. The government has also announced plans to prioritize local youth in operating transport services in rural areas, ensuring that sustainable mobility contributes to both economic growth and job creation.

• **Moving Towards Net Zero**

India has committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, and Uttar Pradesh is aligning its policies with this national objective. Programmes such as the Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Management Project, supported by the World Bank, the installation of millions of LED streetlights, the expansion of electric bus fleets, and the introduction of hydrogen-powered transportation all form part of a broader environmental strategy.

These initiatives are aimed not only at reducing pollution today but also at creating a cleaner, healthier environment for future generations.

• **A Vision for the Future**

The launch of electric and hydrogen buses marks an important milestone in Uttar Pradesh's transportation journey. More than simply introducing new vehicles, it reflects a vision that brings together technological innovation, infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, and public welfare.

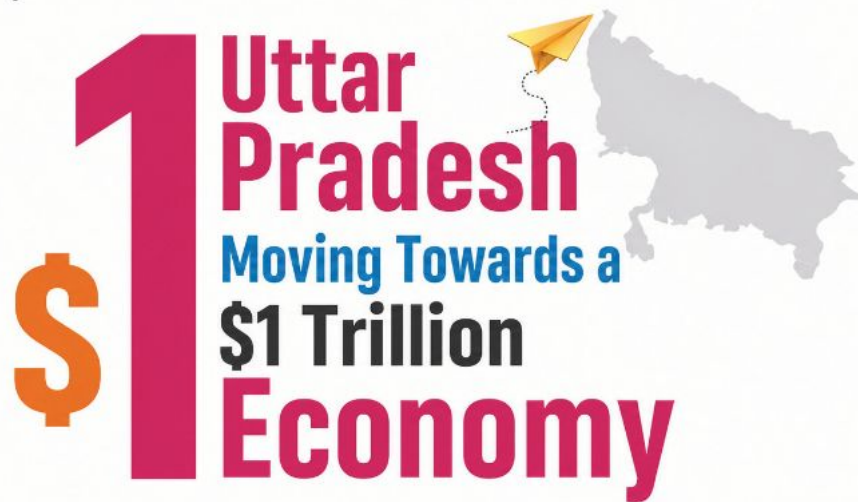
If the expansion of electric and hydrogen-powered public transport continues at the planned pace, Uttar Pradesh has the potential to emerge not only as one of India's largest industrial and investment destinations but also as a national leader in green mobility.

By integrating modern infrastructure with clean energy solutions, the state is laying the foundation for a future where economic progress and environmental responsibility move forward together—a model that could inspire urban development across India.

Invest UP Roadshow 2026 in Bengaluru:

A Major Step Towards Making Uttar Pradesh a Global Investment Hub

UP Global Growth Dialogue-2026



- **A Strategic Investment Outreach**

As part of its ambitious investment promotion strategy for 2026, the Government of Uttar Pradesh successfully organized the Invest UP Roadshow 2026 in Bengaluru, India's technology capital. Led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the roadshow aimed to position Uttar Pradesh as the country's most preferred investment destination for emerging sectors such as Information Technology (IT), electronics, semiconductors, data centers, aerospace, defence manufacturing, startups, and Global Capability Centers (GCCs).

- **Investment Commitments Worth Over ₹50,000 Crore**

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from leading domestic and international companies, industrialists, investors, and business organizations. During the roadshow, the Uttar Pradesh government received investment proposals worth over ₹50,000 crore, reflecting the growing confidence of the business community in the state's investor-friendly policies and rapidly expanding industrial ecosystem. These proposed investments are expected to lead to the establishment of several major industrial projects and generate significant direct and indirect employment opportunities across the state.

- **The 3S Model Driving Industrial Growth**

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath emphasized that Uttar Pradesh is progressing on the foundation of the "3S Model"—Safety, Stability, and Speed. He stated that a secure environment, political stability, and swift decision-making are the three essential pillars for industrial growth, and Uttar Pradesh has made remarkable progress in all these areas. Improved law and order, transparent governance, and a robust single-window clearance system have significantly strengthened investor confidence.

Building India's Next Global Capability Centre Hub

Bengaluru, widely recognized as India's IT capital, was strategically chosen as the venue to attract leading technology companies and Global Capability Centers (GCCs) to establish operations in Uttar Pradesh. The state government has set an ambitious target of establishing 500 GCCs by 2031, positioning Uttar Pradesh as a premier destination for technology-driven services, innovation, and digital transformation.

• World-Class Infrastructure Supporting Investments

During the roadshow, investors were introduced to Uttar Pradesh's rapidly developing infrastructure and industrial capabilities. The government highlighted transformative projects such as the Purvanchal Expressway, Bundelkhand Expressway, Ganga Expressway, Agra-Lucknow Expressway, Noida International Airport (Jewar), Defence Industrial Corridor, Data Centre Policy, Electronics Manufacturing Policy, and an expanding logistics network, all of which are creating a highly conducive environment for industries. Additionally, the state's large consumer base, vast domestic market, and skilled young workforce were showcased as key competitive advantages.



• Expanding Partnerships in Emerging Technologies

On the sidelines of the event, the Chief Minister and senior government officials held a series of one-on-one meetings with representatives of leading industrial groups and technology companies. These discussions focused on potential collaborations in areas such as new investments, research and development (R&D), electronics manufacturing, artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors, fintech, and digital services.

Companies	MoUs (in Crores)
• Horizon (Blackstone)	- ₹10,000 Cr.
• Prestige	- ₹15,000 Cr.
• Embassy	- ₹5,000 Cr.
• Sattva Developers	- ₹4,000 Cr.
• Raheja – Mindspace REIT	- ₹5,000 Cr.

• A Strong Foundation for a US\$1 Trillion Economy

The Invest UP Roadshow 2026 was more than just an investment outreach programme—it represented a significant effort to establish Uttar Pradesh's new industrial identity on both the national and global stage. The receipt of investment proposals exceeding ₹50,000 crore, coupled with the overwhelmingly positive response from industry leaders, underscores the state's emergence as one of India's fastest-growing investment and industrial destinations.

In the coming years, these investments are expected to accelerate Uttar Pradesh's economic growth, create large-scale employment opportunities, strengthen its industrial ecosystem, and play a pivotal role in realizing the state's ambitious vision of becoming a US\$1 trillion economy.



11 YEARS OF DIGITAL INDIA:

BETTER HEALTHCARE AND DIGITAL MARKETPLACES ARE MAKING LIFE EASIER



POSHAN TRACKER



DIGITAL
PAYMENTS



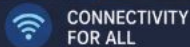
BETTER
HEALTHCARE



DIGITAL
MARKETPLACES



EMPOWERING
CITIZENS



CONNECTIVITY
FOR ALL



SECURE
& TRANSPARENT



BUILDING A
DIGITAL FUTURE

11 Years of Digital India

Better Healthcare and Digital Marketplaces Are Making Life Easier

Digital India is no longer just a government initiative; it has become the foundation of India's social, economic, and administrative transformation. Launched on 1 July 2015, the programme has now completed 11 years, and its impact is visible across every section of society. A decade ago, cash transactions, paper-based records, and slow government processes were the norm. Today, digital payments, online public services, real-time health monitoring, and digital marketplaces have made everyday life more convenient, transparent, and efficient.

From a tea vendor accepting instant UPI payments to a rural artisan selling handcrafted products nationwide, and an Anganwadi worker updating the health records of mothers and children through a mobile application, Digital India has transformed the way millions of Indians live and work.

From a Cash-Based Economy to a Digital Nation

Not long ago, India's economy relied heavily on cash. Everyday purchases, utility payments, and business transactions were largely conducted using physical currency. Finding exact change, carrying cash, and standing in long bank queues were common inconveniences.

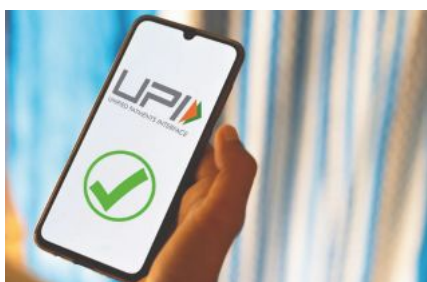
The Digital India programme has fundamentally changed this landscape by integrating internet connectivity, smartphones, Aadhaar, banking services, and digital payment systems into a unified digital public infrastructure. This transformation has accelerated economic activity while making financial services more accessible to citizens across urban and rural India.

Today, digital payments are no longer confined to metropolitan cities; they have become an integral part of daily life in villages, small towns, and remote regions.

UPI: The Backbone of India's Digital Payment Revolution

One of the greatest achievements of Digital India is the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), introduced in 2016. It has evolved into the world's largest real-time payment system. Today, nearly 49 percent of all real-time digital payment transactions worldwide are processed through India's UPI network. This remarkable achievement has established India as a global leader in digital payments.

UPI's greatest strength lies in its simplicity. With just a smartphone



and an internet connection, individuals can transfer money instantly and securely. Street vendors, farmers, students, professionals, and small business owners now use digital payments with ease.

Pillars of India's Digital Payment Ecosystem

India's digital payment success is built upon several key pillars:

- **Unified payment infrastructure through UPI.**
- **Aadhaar-enabled secure digital identity.**
- **Seamless integration of the banking network.**
- **Affordable mobile internet and expanding 5G connectivity.**
- **Nationwide optical fibre connectivity reaching rural areas.**
- **Affordable smartphones accessible to millions.**
- **Secure, user-friendly digital payment applications.**



Together, these elements have made cashless transactions possible across the country, from large cities to the smallest villages.

India's Digital Infrastructure Gains Global Recognition

India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has become a global model for digital transformation. Several countries are exploring the adoption of Indian digital payment technologies.



Recently, Greece became the tenth country to introduce UPI services, enabling Indian travellers and businesses to make seamless digital payments abroad. This growing international acceptance reflects the trust and confidence in India's technology-driven financial ecosystem.

Transforming Healthcare Through Digital Technology

The impact of Digital India extends far beyond financial transactions. Healthcare and nutrition services have also undergone a major transformation.

Developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development under Mission Poshan 2.0, the Poshan Tracker has become a powerful digital platform for monitoring nutrition services across Anganwadi centres nationwide.



Previously, Anganwadi workers maintained eleven separate paper registers, resulting in delays and administrative burdens. Today, the entire system has shifted to a digital platform, significantly improving efficiency and service delivery.

Reaching Millions Through Digital Nutrition Services

As of May 2026:

- **More than 1.33 million Anganwadi workers are registered on the platform.**

- Approximately 89.3 million beneficiaries receive services through the system.
- 99.89 percent of beneficiaries have completed Aadhaar verification.
- Daily digital transactions have increased to over 220 million.
- The platform is operational across all 36 States and Union Territories.

The Poshan Tracker now maintains a live database monitoring the nutritional indicators of more than 77 million children, enabling evidence-based policymaking and timely interventions.

Technology Ensuring Transparency

The Poshan Tracker incorporates several advanced digital features, including:

- **Aadhaar-based authentication.**
- **Mobile verification.**
- **Geo-tagging and geo-fencing.**
- **Time-stamped data capture.**
- **Face Recognition System (FRS) for ration distribution.**
- **Multilingual interfaces.**
- **Citizen-friendly beneficiary portals.**

These technologies ensure that government services reach the right beneficiaries at the right time while improving transparency and accountability.

IndiaHandmade: Empowering Rural Artisans Through Digital Commerce

Another significant achievement of Digital India is IndiaHandmade, a digital marketplace connecting artisans directly with customers. Traditionally, rural artisans and weavers depended on intermediaries to sell their products, reducing their earnings while increasing prices for consumers.

IndiaHandmade has transformed this model by creating a direct connection between producers and buyers.

Better Income for Artisans, Affordable Products for Consumers

The platform offers:

- Direct access to customers across India.
- Secure digital payments.
- AI-powered product listings.
- Integrated order management.
- Free logistics support.
- Simplified multilingual registration.

Most importantly, the entire payment from every sale is transferred directly to the artisan's bank account without intermediary deductions.

Currently, the platform features:

- More than 3,900 artisans and weavers.
- Over 21,000 handicraft and handloom products.

As a result, rural entrepreneurship has gained momentum while consumers can purchase authentic handcrafted products at fair prices.

Real-Life Stories of Digital Transformation

The true success of Digital India is reflected in the lives of its beneficiaries.

Priyanka, a pregnant woman enrolled under the Poshan Tracker, receives timely antenatal care, nutrition counselling, immunisation reminders, and Take-Home Ration (THR) services. Digital monitoring ensures continuous healthcare support throughout her pregnancy.



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Priyanka, a pregnant woman enrolled under the Poshan Tracker, receives timely antenatal care, nutrition counselling, immunisation reminders, and Take-Home Ration (THR) services. Digital monitoring ensures continuous healthcare support throughout her pregnancy.

Digital Public Infrastructure: The Engine of Inclusive Growth

India's Digital Public Infrastructure has emerged as one of the world's most successful digital governance models. Aadhaar, UPI, digital banking, mobile connectivity, cloud-based services, and citizen-centric digital platforms together have created an ecosystem that is transparent, efficient, and inclusive.



Digital India has not merely digitised government services; it has fundamentally transformed the way people live, work, transact, and access public services. Today, education, healthcare, banking, commerce, governance, and social welfare are increasingly delivered through digital platforms.



Eleven years of Digital India represent far more than technological advancement; they represent a transformation in the daily lives of millions of Indians. It is a story of inclusion, empowerment, transparency, and opportunity.

Whether it is a roadside tea seller accepting QR-code payments, a rural mother accessing healthcare through a mobile application, or an artisan selling handcrafted products directly to customers nationwide, Digital India has fulfilled its vision of making technology accessible to every citizen.

"As India moves towards Viksit Bharat 2047, emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, 5G, Digital Health, e-Governance, and Digital Commerce will further strengthen this transformation. Digital India has evolved from a government initiative into the digital foundation of a modern, self-reliant, and globally competitive nation."

BY KAMINI SHARMA



The Sacred Story and Spiritual Legacy of Vaishno Devi

Nestled amidst the majestic Trikuta Hills in Jammu and Kashmir, the Vaishno Devi Shrine stands as one of the most revered pilgrimage destinations in India. Every year, millions of devotees undertake the sacred journey to seek the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi, chanting the divine call of “Jai Mata Di.” For countless believers, the shrine symbolizes faith, devotion, courage, and the eternal power of the Divine Mother.

• The Divine Origin of Mata Vaishno Devi

According to Hindu tradition, when evil forces and demonic powers threatened righteousness on Earth, the three supreme manifestations of Shakti—Maha Kali, Maha Lakshmi, and Maha Saraswati—combined their divine energies to create a celestial maiden known as Vaishnavi.

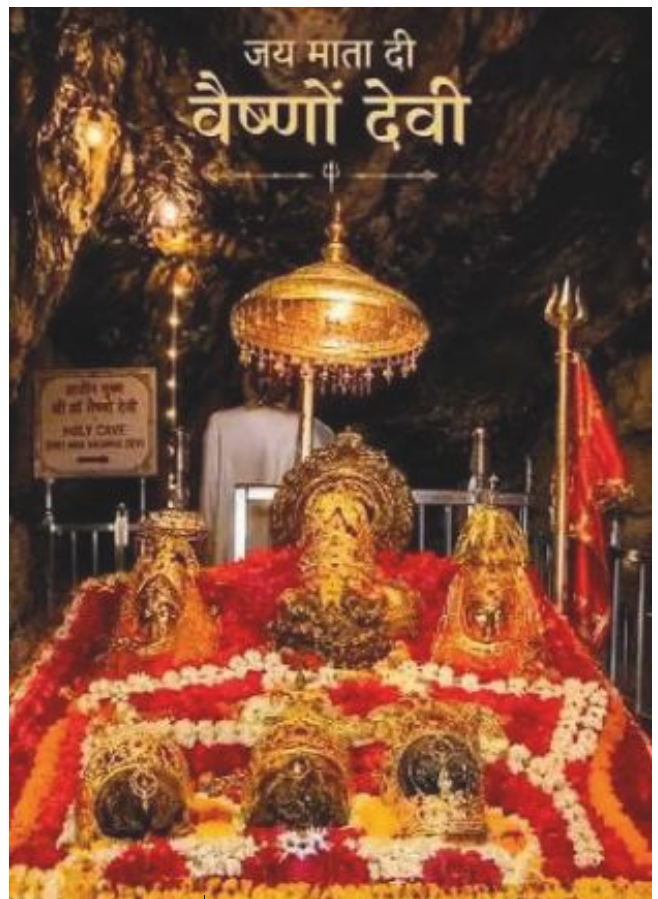
Blessed with extraordinary spiritual powers, Vaishnavi dedicated her life to meditation, penance, and the protection of dharma. It is believed that she sought Lord Vishnu as her divine consort and undertook rigorous austerities to attain spiritual perfection. Following divine guidance, she eventually settled in the Trikuta Mountains, where she continued her penance and blessed devotees.

• The Legend of Bhairon Nath

One of the most celebrated legends associated with Vaishno Devi revolves around Bhairon Nath, a disciple of Guru

Gorakhnath. Fascinated by Vaishnavi’s divine powers, Bhairon Nath pursued her relentlessly.

As she moved through the mountains, the Goddess is believed to have created several sacred landmarks that remain important pilgrimage sites today. At Ban Ganga, she released a stream of water with an arrow to quench thirst. At Charan Paduka, her footprints were imprinted upon a rock. She later meditated for nine months in the cave of Ardhkuwari, also known as Garbh Joon.



The pilgrimage begins from the town of Katra and covers approximately 12–13 kilometers before reaching the holy cave.

Major stops along the route include:

• Ban Ganga

The sacred stream believed to have been created by the Goddess through a divine arrow.

• Charan Paduka

A revered site where the footprints of the Goddess are believed to be preserved.

• Ardhuwari (Garbh Joon)

The meditation cave where Mata Vaishno Devi is believed to have spent nine months in deep penance.



• Sanjichhat

The highest point on the route, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding valleys.

• Bhawan

The main shrine where the sacred Pindis are worshipped.



• Bhairon Temple

The final destination that completes the pilgrimage according to tradition.

• Modern Facilities for Pilgrims

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has significantly enhanced pilgrim facilities over the years. Today, visitors benefit from



- **Helicopter services to Sanjichhat.**
- **Battery car services on selected stretches.**
- **Online registration and accommodation booking**
- **Medical and emergency assistance.**
- **RFID-based tracking and security systems.**
- **Improved pathways, shelters, and sanitation facilities.**

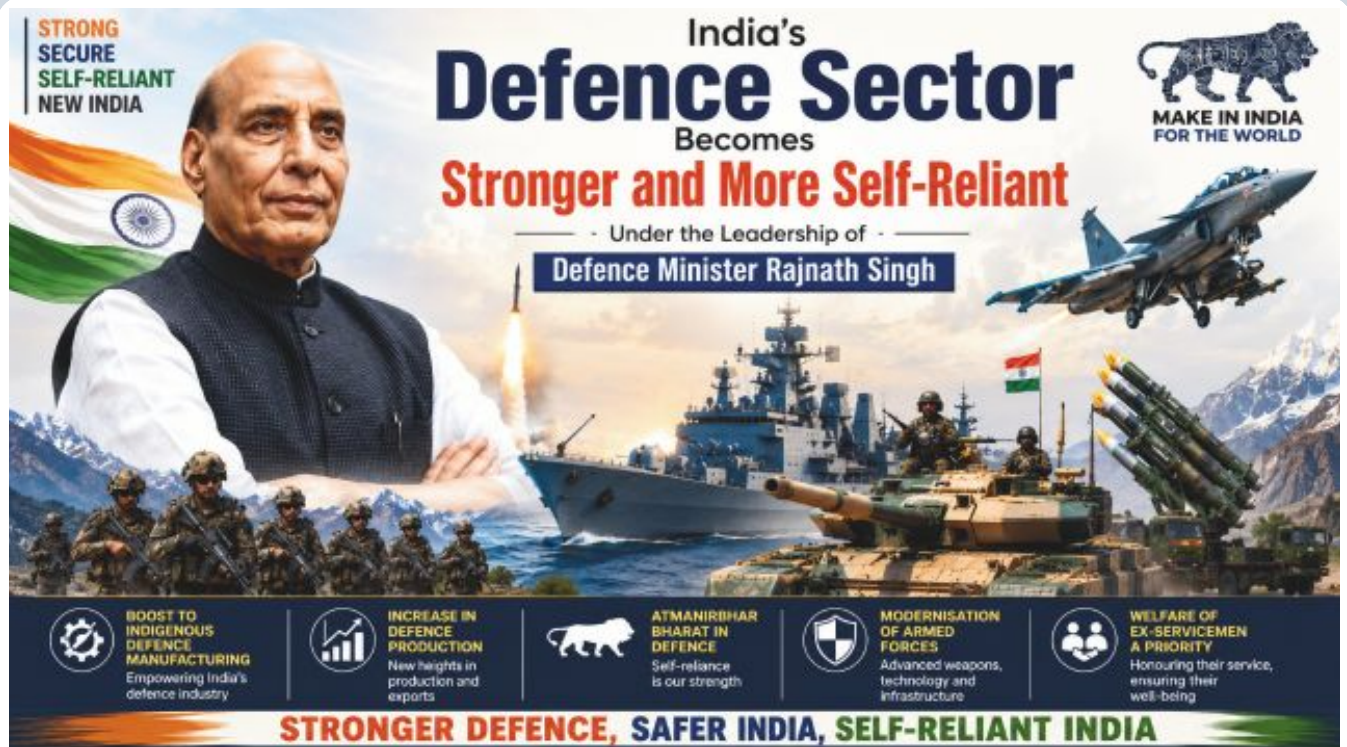
These developments have made the pilgrimage safer, more accessible, and comfortable for devotees from across the world.

• A Symbol of Faith and Devotion

For millions of devotees, Vaishno Devi is more than a pilgrimage destination—it is a spiritual experience. The arduous climb through the mountains is viewed as an act of devotion, faith, and surrender to the Divine Mother.

The belief that “Mata calls her devotees” remains deeply embedded in popular tradition. Pilgrims often describe their journey as a life-changing experience filled with spiritual energy, inner peace, and divine blessings.

Standing high in the Trikuta Hills, the sacred shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi continues to inspire faith, unite devotees, and serve as one of the most cherished symbols of India’s spiritual heritage.



India's Defence Sector Becomes Stronger and More Self-Reliant Under the Leadership of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

India's defence sector witnessed several historic achievements during 2025–2026, driven by the visionary leadership of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, his commitment to Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India), and a clear roadmap for modernizing the Indian Armed Forces.

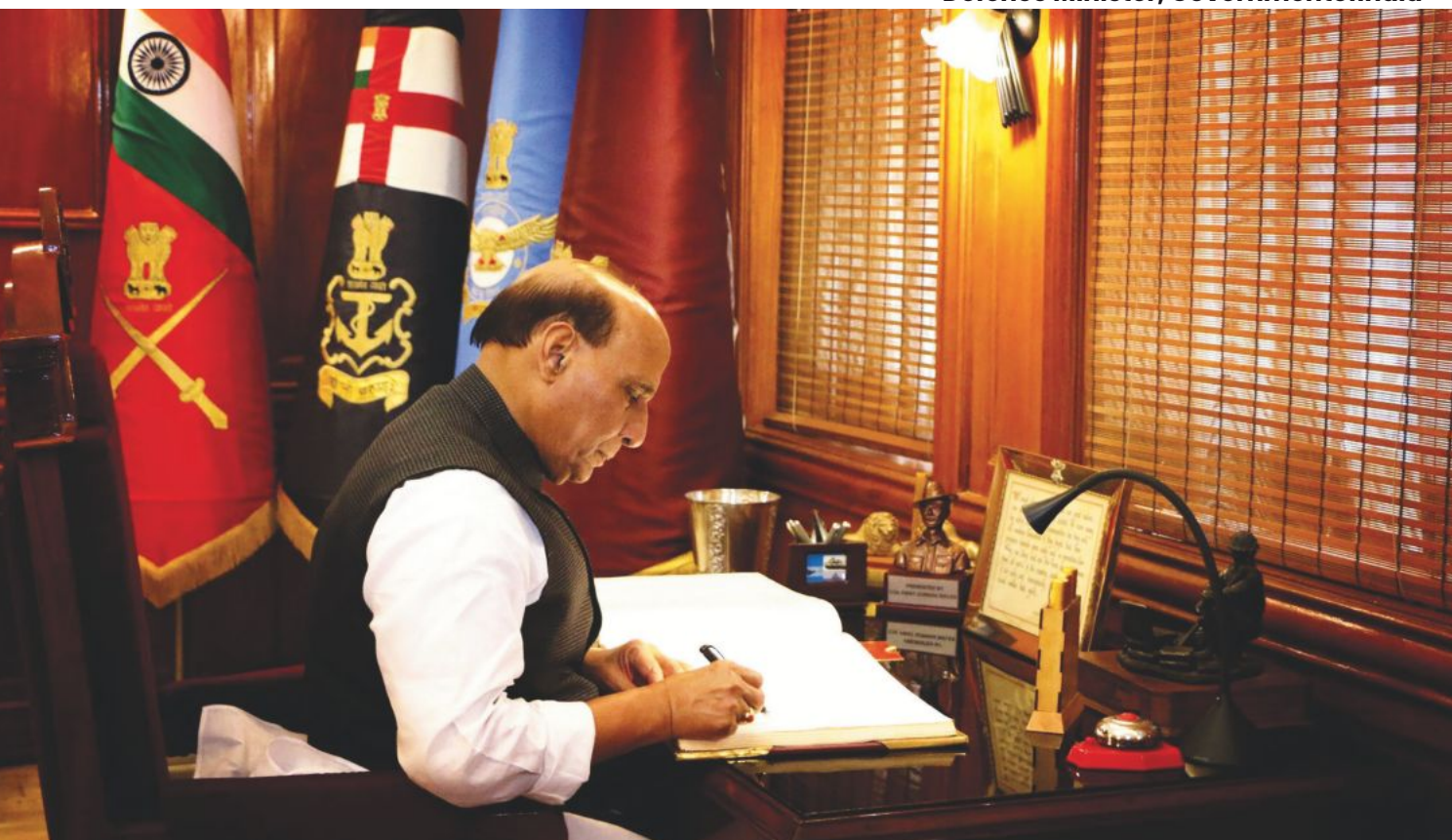
As Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh placed self-reliance in defence manufacturing at the heart of India's strategic priorities. Under his leadership, the Ministry of Defence accelerated initiatives such as Make in India, Make for the World, and Design in India, significantly reducing dependence on imported weapons while strengthening indigenous defence industries. These efforts resulted in record-breaking growth in both defence production and defence exports.

Rajnath Singh also gave fresh momentum to the modernization of the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force. Advanced fighter aircraft, next-generation missiles, drones, artificial intelligence-enabled military systems, network-centric warfare capabilities, cyber security, and space defence technologies have all been prioritized. Defence procurement processes have been made more transparent, faster, and more supportive of domestic industries, encouraging greater participation from private companies, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), MSMEs, and start-ups.

One of the key strategic initiatives under his leadership is the Defence Forces Vision 2047, a long-term roadmap aimed at transforming India's armed forces into one of the world's most advanced, technology-driven, and integrated military powers by 2047. The vision emphasizes Integrated Theatre Commands, artificial intelligence, robotics, hypersonic weapons, drone warfare, space security, cyber warfare capabilities, and indigenous defence technologies.

Rajnath Singh has also elevated India's defence diplomacy to new heights by strengthening strategic partnerships with countries including the United States, France, Russia, Japan, Australia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, the UAE, and Seychelles. The export of Indian defence systems such as the BrahMos missile and expanded defence cooperation have significantly enhanced India's global strategic standing.

Today, India is no longer focused solely on protecting its borders. It is rapidly emerging as a major global hub for defence manufacturing, innovation, and exports. The vision, policy direction, and decisive leadership of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh have played a crucial role in this transformation.



Major Achievements of India's Defence Sector (2025–2026)

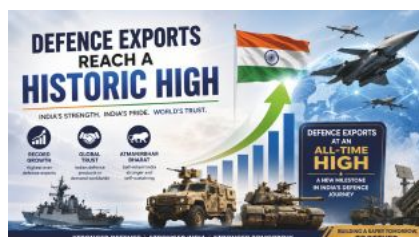
A Detailed Overview

Defence Exports Reach a Historic High

India achieved a landmark milestone in FY 2025–26, recording defence exports worth approximately ₹38,424 crore, the highest in the country's history. From exports worth only a few thousand crore rupees in 2014, India has now become a trusted defence supplier to more than 80 countries.

India currently exports BrahMos missiles, Dornier aircraft, coastal surveillance systems, radars, bulletproof jackets, ammunition, patrol vessels, electronic warfare systems, communication equipment,

and defence software. These exports not only generate valuable foreign exchange but also strengthen global confidence in India's defence capabilities.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has repeatedly emphasized that India is progressing towards becoming not only self-sufficient but also a reliable global defence partner. The government aims

to multiply defence exports further in the coming years.

Historic Growth in Indigenous Defence Production

Under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, India's defence manufacturing has witnessed unprecedented growth. The country is now designing and producing advanced fighter aircraft, helicopters, warships, submarines, missiles, artillery systems, radars, drones, armoured vehicles, communication systems, and electronic warfare equipment domestically.

The government has introduced several policy reforms to increase the



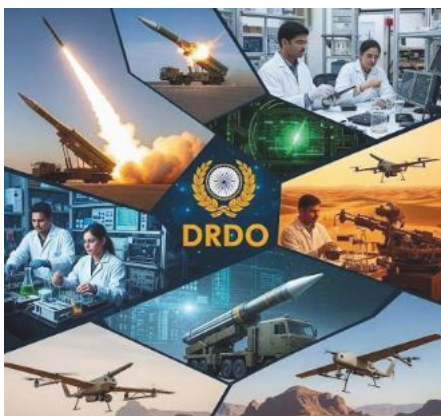
participation of private industries, MSMEs, start-ups, and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs). Measures such as the Positive Indigenisation List, procurement reforms, and preference for domestic manufacturers have significantly accelerated indigenous defence production.

Under Rajnath Singh's leadership, India aims not only to become self-reliant but also to emerge as a global defence manufacturing hub.

Major Achievements of DRDO

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved significant milestones during 2025–26 by successfully developing and testing several next-generation military technologies.

These include advanced missile systems, long-range drones, air-drop systems, electronic warfare technologies, sophisticated radar systems, AI-enabled defence solutions, autonomous robotic platforms, laser weapons, and hypersonic technologies.



Final Operational Clearance for Netra AEW&C

India's indigenous Netra Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) system received Final Operational Clearance, significantly enhancing the surveillance capabilities of the Indian Air Force.



India's indigenous Netra Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) system received Final Operational Clearance, significantly enhancing the surveillance capabilities of the Indian Air Force.

The system can detect enemy fighter aircraft, drones, cruise missiles, and other airborne threats from hundreds of kilometres away while providing real-time battlefield intelligence. This enables faster decision-making and improved air defence preparedness.

The achievement highlights India's growing expertise in indigenous aerospace and defence technology.

Expansion of Drone and Counter-Drone Capabilities

Recognizing the increasing importance of drones in modern warfare, India has placed drone technology at the forefront of defence modernization.



The Indian Armed Forces are inducting surveillance drones, armed drones, swarm drones, loitering munitions, and

long-endurance UAVs for operational deployment.

Simultaneously, India is developing advanced indigenous counter-drone systems capable of detecting, jamming, and neutralizing hostile drones to safeguard military installations, borders, and critical infrastructure.

Defence Forces Vision 2047

The Defence Forces Vision 2047 serves as India's long-term modernization blueprint for the Armed Forces.



Its objective is to transform India's military into a fully technology-enabled, network-centric, AI-powered force equipped with Integrated Theatre Commands by 2047.

The roadmap prioritizes cyber warfare, space security, drone warfare, robotics, quantum technologies, electronic warfare, and indigenous defence manufacturing.

Strengthening the Indian Navy

The Indian Navy continues to expand its strategic presence across the Indian Ocean Region.

A growing fleet of indigenous warships, submarines, survey vessels, missile ships, patrol vessels, and advanced maritime surveillance systems is significantly strengthening India's maritime capabilities.



Under the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine, India has also deepened maritime security cooperation with friendly nations, promoting regional peace, security, and stability.



Akashteer Air Defence System

The Akashteer system represents the Indian Army's next-generation Air Defence Command and Control System.

It integrates multiple radars, sensors, missile systems, and air defence weapons through a unified digital network, enabling rapid threat detection and coordinated responses to aerial attacks.

Akashteer is expected to become a critical pillar of India's future multi-layered air defence architecture.

Expansion of the Pinaka Rocket System

The indigenous Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) has become one of the Indian Army's most powerful long-range artillery systems.

Capable of launching multiple rockets within seconds over a wide area, Pinaka provides highly effective battlefield firepower. Additional regiments are being inducted, while more advanced variants are currently under development.

The growing export potential of the Pinaka system also opens new opportunities for India's defence industry.



“Under Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, India's defence sector has advanced through indigenous manufacturing, record exports, military modernization, technological innovation, and strategic partnerships, strengthening national security and self-reliance.”

Defence Start-ups and the iDEX Initiative

The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) programme has sparked a new era of defence innovation in India.

Hundreds of Indian start-ups are developing cutting-edge technologies in artificial intelligence, cyber security, drones, robotics, autonomous vehicles, smart sensors, electronic warfare systems, and defence software.

Through iDEX, these start-ups receive financial support, testing facilities, collaboration opportunities with the Armed Forces, and access to international markets.



Joint military exercises, defence technology collaboration, maritime security partnerships, intelligence sharing, defence manufacturing, and defence exports have strengthened India's strategic influence worldwide.

Growing international interest in Indian defence systems—including the BrahMos missile, indigenous radars, and other advanced military platforms—reflects the country's rising defence capabilities.

Expansion of Global Defence Partnerships

India has significantly expanded defence cooperation with countries such as the United States, France, Russia, Japan, Australia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, the UAE, and Seychelles.

"The Road Ahead"

India is rapidly evolving beyond a nation focused solely on border security into a leading global centre for defence manufacturing, research, innovation, and exports.

Under the leadership of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the Ministry of Defence aims to position India among the world's foremost military powers in areas such as defence production, exports, artificial intelligence, cyber warfare, space security, indigenous weapons systems, missile technology, drones, and advanced military research.

Guided by the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India, India is not only strengthening its national security but also establishing itself as a trusted and influential partner in the global defence supply chain.



Young India



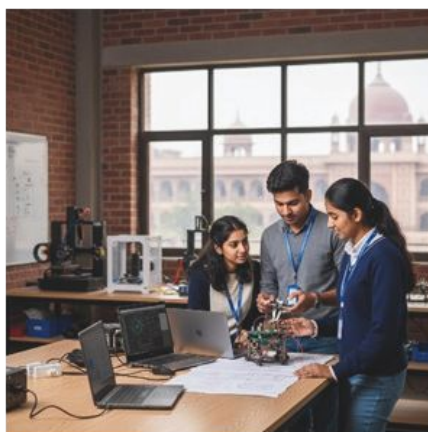
Pooja Agnihotri
P.hd Scholar

Aspirations, Opportunities and Challenges

India's greatest resource has never been its land, its capital, or its institutions. It has always been the relentless, renewable ambition of its people and right now, that ambition has never been younger. With over 65% of its population under 35 and a median age of 28, India holds one of the largest youth populations in the world. Few moments in modern history have placed this many young people at working age precisely when the ground beneath them was shifting fast enough to reward them for it. What this generation builds in the next two decades will determine whether 2047 is a milestone or just a number.

• Shift in Aspiration

Something has changed in what young India wants, and it has changed faster than most institutions have noticed. A government posting, a medical degree, a slow climb through a predictable organisation this still matter, still carry weight at the family dinner table. But they no longer exhaust the imagination of a 22-year-old who has watched peers in their own city build



businesses, audiences, and incomes that no recruitment drive could have offered them. This shift is not generational impatience. It is a logical response to a world that has genuinely opened. Affordable data made the internet something you live inside, not something you visit. The platforms that once required offices, staff, and capital now require a phone and a consistent point of view. An entire economy of livelihoods has grown up in the space between — content creation, freelance work,

e-commerce, independent instruction and millions of young Indians are inside it, building careers that would have had no name a decade ago.

India's startup ecosystem, now one of the third largest in the world, is the formal expression of something much larger and less formal. More interesting than the headline number is where it is happening. Cities that barely registered in the national entrepreneurship conversation a decade ago are producing founders who are competing nationally without ever relocating. The metro is no longer a prerequisite for ambition and that, more than any statistic, is the real story of young India's aspiration.

• Opportunities

The range of what is genuinely available to a young Indian today is unlike anything this country has seen before. Take UPI it is discussed primarily as a fintech achievement, but its deeper impact is on who gets to participate in the economy. A first-generation entrepreneur in a small

town can now collect payments, build a transaction history, and establish a credit identity without ever walking into a bank branch. That is not a minor convenience. It is a structural change in who gets to start something.



The formal economy has added its own layer of possibility. PLI schemes across electronics, manufacturing, and pharmaceuticals are generating employment at scale. India's entry into semiconductor fabrication, the rapid build-out of renewable energy infrastructure, and the emergence of a credible space-tech sector are together creating roles — in AI, electric mobility, green technology, advanced engineering etc that simply did not exist for the generation that came before. For a young Indian entering the workforce today, the range of viable, credible career paths is wider than it has ever been. That is not rhetoric. It is the straightforward consequence of a decade of deliberate economic construction.

• **Initiatives Powering the Generation**

The policy response to this generation has been, by any measure, the most concentrated youth-directed effort India has assembled. The National Youth Policy being refreshed as NYP 2024, building on the 2014 framework — sets the ten-year direction across five areas: education, employment and entrepreneurship, youth leadership, health and fitness, and social justice. It is the architecture within which the rest sits.

• **Skilling and Education**

The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana has, since its 2015 launch, trained over 1.64 crore candidates across 35 sectors through 13,715 active training centres. Now in its fourth phase, its improving industry alignment is reflected in a 2025 NITI Aayog evaluation where 94% of surveyed employers said they would hire more PMKVY-trained candidates. The National Education Policy 2020 works further upstream restructuring curricula, introducing vocational learning at the school level, and building multiple pathways through higher education so that a non-linear career is a choice, not a failure.

• **Internships and Workplace Exposure**

The PM Internship Scheme, launched in October 2024, is targeting one crore paid internships across India's top 500 companies over five years. The pilot drew over 6.5 lakh applications for 1.27 lakh opportunities across 745 districts.



Phase 2 expanded to 327 companies across all 735 districts. Participants receive a monthly stipend of Rs 5,000, split between government and corporate CSR funds. The numbers matter less than what they signal a recognition that the gap between a degree and a first real job is costing this country more than it can afford to ignore.

• **Entrepreneurship and Capital Access**

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana and Stand-Up India have together done something significant they have given formal credit access to a class of first-generation entrepreneurs who previously had no institutional pathway to capital. Mudra's three tiers, Shishu, Kishor, and Tarun, have funded millions of small enterprises that began with an idea and a loan, not a family name or collateral. Startup India has cleared some of the regulatory undergrowth income tax exemptions, a Fund of Funds corpus, fast-track patent examination making the decision to build a company somewhat less daunting than it used to be.

Youth Leadership, Sport and Inclusion

The Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan operates through over 8,900 Kendras and 31 lakh youth club members across 36 states and union territories.

It is building civic participation and leadership instincts in young people in smaller towns and villages who will not appear in any startup ecosystem report. Khelo India has given sport a legitimate career pathway, building infrastructure and talent pipelines in districts where physical ability was previously a gift with nowhere to go.

PM-YASASVI keeps students from OBC, EBC, and DNT communities in school at the Class 9 and 11 level which sounds administrative until you consider how many young lives pivot on whether someone can afford to stay enrolled at fifteen.

• Challenges

None of what has been built changes the central arithmetic. Over one crore young Indian enter the workforce every year. The formal economy is not absorbing them not at the volume, not at the quality, not at the pace the moment demands. The result is not an unemployment crisis in any dramatic sense. It is something quieter and, in many ways, more damaging: underemployment. Capable, qualified young people whose education has not yet found its matching economic expression — through no failure of their own, but through a system still catching up to its own ambitions.

The sector-level paradox makes this harder, not easier, to resolve. The industries driving the most excitement — technology, space-tech, AI, green energy are capital-intensive and relatively lean on headcount. They create wealth faster than they create jobs. India needs sectors that can employ millions, not thousands, and it needs them at a pace that one crore annual entrants make genuinely urgent. The National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme is the most direct policy response placing young people inside workplaces in paid apprenticeships where learning happens through doing. Its current reach, while growing, remains modest relative to the scale of the challenge it is trying to meet.

Education is where the consequences are most severe and most durable. NEP 2020 is a serious, ambitious framework. The Periodic Labour Force Survey consistently records graduate unemployment running higher than unemployment among those with lower formal education. It is a counterintuitive finding that points to the same structural truth every time: the degree has not kept its promise for too many of the people who worked hardest to earn it.

Mental health is the challenge that India has only recently begun to acknowledge and is nowhere near adequately addressing. This generation is the most connected in the country's history, and that connectivity is not neutral. Constant exposure to other people's curated success algorithmically sorted, endlessly available has produced a widespread and largely invisible anxiety among young Indians about pace, income, and whether they are keeping up.

For young women, the distance between what is available and what is accessible carries an extra dimension that workforce statistics do not fully capture. Female labour force participation is rising genuinely, measurably but the barriers that keep it lower than it should be are not administrative. Safety shapes where women can work and when. Social expectation around marriage, mobility, and household responsibility shapes what choices feel available regardless of qualification. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and women-specific Mudra loan categories have made a real difference at the margins. The structural shift required goes beyond what any scheme can deliver on its own — it asks something of culture, not just policy.

Digital access has reduced some of the distance, but it has not dissolved it. Quality higher education, professional networks, early capital, the informal mentorship that quietly accelerates careers: these remain concentrated in a small number of cities. Young people in smaller towns and villages are more ambitious and more connected than any previous generation in those places but the ecosystem around them has not kept pace with their aspirations. The risk is not that India leaves some young people behind. The risk is a two-speed country, where one geography captures the dividend and another watches its ambition go unrealised not for want of effort, but for want of the conditions

that turn effort into something you can build a life on cities. Young people in smaller towns and villages are more ambitious and more connected than any previous generation in those places but the ecosystem around them has not kept pace with their aspirations. The risk is not that India leaves some young people behind. The risk is a two-speed country, where one geography captures the dividend and another watches its ambition go unrealised not for want of effort, but for want of the conditions that turn effort into something you can build a life on.

Already at Work

India's youth are not waiting to be discovered. Across every district of this country, they are already building the version of India that 2047 will be measured against. The policy is present. The ambition is undeniable. What this generation now needs and what India owes them is for the systems built in their name to be as serious, as consistent, and as far-reaching as they are.

Pooja Agnihotri P.hd Scholar



Dr. Surya Kant **Appointed as** **Member of the COPD** **Guideline Committee**



Dr. Surya Kant

Professor & Head, Department of Respiratory Medicine,
KGMU, Lucknow.

Dr. Surya Kant, Professor and Head, Department of Respiratory Medicine, King George's Medical University, Lucknow, has been nominated as a Member of the Technical Expert Group (TEG) constituted by the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, for the development of the National Guidelines for Prevention and Management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

According to the Office Order issued by the Government of India, senior experts from leading medical institutions and professional organisations across the country have been included in this Technical Expert Group. The Group will formulate evidence-based and practical national guidelines for the prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and management of COPD, with the objective of ensuring improved healthcare services for patients across India.

Dr. Surya Kant stated that approximately 60 million people in India are affected by COPD, and nearly 500,000 deaths occur annually due to this disease.

COPD is the second leading cause of mortality in the country. He emphasised that COPD has emerged as a major public health challenge in India and that comprehensive national guidelines are essential for its effective prevention, control and management. He expressed confidence that the proposed guidelines would significantly improve the quality of care for COPD patients and help reduce the overall disease burden in the country.

Dr. Surya Kant further explained that tobacco smoking is the major risk factor for COPD; however, the increasing level of air pollution has also become one of its principal causes. In rural areas, prolonged exposure to smoke generated from biomass fuels such as cow dung cakes, firewood, charcoal and traditional mud stoves used for cooking also contributes to the development of COPD. In addition, occupational exposure to dust, smoke and other airborne pollutants in various industries and workplaces across India has been a significant factor in the rising prevalence of the disease.

It may be noted that Dr. Surya Kant has authored a book on COPD and has also developed training modules on COPD

KGMU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sonia Nityanand **Congratulates Dr. Surya Kant**

and Asthma for Government Medical Officers in Uttar Pradesh. He has trained physicians across Uttar Pradesh as well as thousands of doctors from different parts of the country. He has also served as President of several prestigious professional organisations working in the field of respiratory diseases, including the Indian Chest Society, the National College of Chest Physicians (India) and the Indian College of Allergy, Asthma and Applied Immunology.

Prof. Sonia Nityanand, Vice-Chancellor, King George's Medical University, congratulated Dr. Surya Kant on this important national responsibility and conveyed her best wishes for his continued success. She stated that this recognition reflects Dr. Surya Kant's expertise, dedication and remarkable contributions to the field of respiratory medicine. She further remarked that his inclusion in this prestigious Technical Expert Group is a matter of great pride for both KGMU and the State of Uttar Pradesh.



Dr. Sudhir Verma of KGMU Awarded Gold Medal in DM Hepatology

Dr. Sudhir Verma, from the Hepatobiliary Unit of the Department of Medicine at King George's Medical University (KGMU), Lucknow, has been awarded the Gold Medal for outstanding performance in the DM Hepatology examination. He earned his DM Hepatology degree from the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), New Delhi.

The award was presented during the 10th Convocation Ceremony of ILBS by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda, and Delhi Health Minister, Pankaj Singh.

Congratulating Dr. Verma on this remarkable achievement, KGMU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sonia Nityanand and Dean Academics & Head of the Department of Medicine, Prof. Virendra Atam, wished him a bright future. They stated that this accomplishment reflects the academic excellence of both KGMU and ILBS and will inspire young doctors to pursue excellence in research and patient care.

Dr. Sudhir Verma dedicated the honor to his mentor Prof. S. K. Sarin, his parents, family members, and all his well-wishers. He said that the recognition would motivate him to continue working towards excellence in patient care, medical education, and research in the field of liver and biliary diseases.

Faculty members, doctors, residents, and students of both KGMU and ILBS expressed their happiness over Dr. Verma's achievement and extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.



Mehandipur Balaji



Acharya Shri Rajkumarji Maharaj

The Mysterious Temple of Faith, Devotion, and Divine Healing

Among India's countless spiritual destinations, Mehandipur Balaji occupies a unique place. Situated in the Dausa district of Rajasthan, this revered temple is not only a center of devotion to Lord Hanuman but is also widely known for its association with spiritual healing and the removal of negative energies. Every year, millions of devotees from across India and abroad visit the shrine seeking divine blessings, protection, and relief from physical, mental, and spiritual afflictions.

Mehandipur Balaji is unlike any other temple in the country. The atmosphere, rituals, traditions, and unwavering faith of devotees create an experience that is both spiritually powerful and deeply fascinating. For believers, it is a place where divine intervention manifests itself in extraordinary ways.

Historical Background

The origins of Mehandipur Balaji are shrouded in mystery and legend. According to local traditions, the idol of Balaji (Lord Hanuman) was not sculpted by human hands but emerged naturally from a rock formation centuries ago. It is believed that the deity revealed Himself in a dream to a saint, instructing him to establish worship at the site.

Over time, stories of miraculous healings and divine blessings spread throughout northern India.

The temple gradually evolved into one of the most significant Hanuman shrines in the country, attracting devotees from all walks of life.

The temple complex is dedicated primarily to Balaji Maharaj, a powerful form of Lord Hanuman. Alongside Balaji, devotees also worship Pret Raj Sarkar, considered the king of spirits, and Bhairav Baba, regarded as a guardian deity. Together, these divine forces are believed to protect devotees from evil influences and negative energies.

The Spiritual Significance of Balaji

In Hindu tradition, Lord Hanuman is revered as the embodiment of strength, courage, devotion, and unwavering faith. He is considered the ultimate protector against fear, evil forces, and obstacles in life.

At Mehandipur Balaji, devotees worship Hanuman as a divine healer capable of freeing individuals from unseen afflictions. The temple's unique identity stems from the belief that Balaji Maharaj possesses extraordinary powers to liberate devotees from negative influences and spiritual disturbances.

While such beliefs are rooted in faith and tradition, the temple remains a profound symbol of hope for millions who seek comfort and divine protection during difficult times.



Unique Rituals and Traditions

One of the most distinctive aspects of Mehandipur Balaji is its unique set of rituals. Unlike conventional temples where devotees primarily offer prayers and perform worship, the practices here are centered on spiritual cleansing and devotion.

The temple is especially famous for the offering of "Arzi," "Savamani," and various traditional prayers dedicated to Balaji Maharaj. Devotees often participate in collective chanting of Hanuman prayers, including the Hanuman Chalisa and Bajrang Baan.

Visitors frequently observe intense expressions of devotion within the temple premises. These practices have contributed to the temple's reputation as one of India's most mysterious and spiritually charged religious sites.

The temple administration also follows several traditional guidelines. Pilgrims are generally advised to maintain purity of thought and conduct, avoid carrying food items out of the temple premises, and follow the customs that have been observed for generations.

Architecture and Temple Layout

Unlike many grand temple complexes known for elaborate architecture, Mehandipur Balaji is relatively modest in design. Its significance lies not in monumental structures but in the immense spiritual energy associated with the shrine.

The main sanctum houses the sacred image of Balaji Maharaj. Nearby shrines dedicated to Pret Raj Sarkar and Bhairav Baba form an integral part of the pilgrimage experience. The narrow lanes leading to the temple are lined with shops selling religious offerings, sacred threads, devotional literature, and traditional sweets.

The atmosphere is vibrant, with the continuous chanting of prayers, ringing

of temple bells, and the constant flow of devotees creating an unforgettable spiritual environment.

Faith and Miracles

Stories of miracles have long been associated with Mehandipur Balaji. Devotees often share accounts of personal transformation, recovery from distress, and fulfillment of prayers after visiting the shrine.

While many of these experiences are matters of personal belief and cannot be independently verified, they have significantly contributed to the temple's enduring popularity. For devotees, the temple represents a living testament to the power of faith.

Religious scholars often note that pilgrimage centers like Mehandipur Balaji serve not only as places of worship but also as sources of psychological comfort, social support, and spiritual reassurance for people facing life's challenges.

Festivals and Celebrations

The temple witnesses massive gatherings during major Hindu festivals, particularly Hanuman Jayanti, which celebrates the birth of Lord Hanuman. Thousands of devotees participate in special prayers, devotional singing, and religious ceremonies.

Tuesdays and Saturdays are considered especially auspicious for Hanuman worship, drawing exceptionally large crowds throughout the year. During these days, the temple resonates with chants of "Jai Balaji Maharaj" and "Jai Hanuman."

The festive atmosphere reflects the deep bond between devotees and the deity, transforming the temple into a vibrant center of collective devotion.

Pilgrimage and Accessibility

Mehandipur Balaji is located approximately 100 kilometers from

Jaipur and is well connected by road. The nearest major railway stations include Bandikui and Dausa, while Jaipur International Airport serves as the closest air gateway.

The temple remains open throughout the year, and facilities for accommodation, food, and transportation are available in and around the pilgrimage town. Due to the large number of visitors, pilgrims are advised to plan their journey carefully, especially during weekends, festivals, and peak religious seasons.

Cultural Importance

Beyond its religious significance, Mehandipur Balaji occupies a prominent place in India's cultural landscape. It represents the enduring strength of popular faith and the continuing relevance of traditional spiritual practices in contemporary society.

The temple attracts people from diverse backgrounds, transcending barriers of region, language, and social status. Its popularity demonstrates the powerful role that sacred spaces continue to play in shaping India's spiritual identity.

Mehandipur Balaji is more than just a temple—it is a symbol of faith, hope, and devotion. Whether viewed through the lens of spirituality, culture, or tradition, the shrine offers a unique glimpse into the profound relationship between belief and human experience.

For millions of devotees, a visit to Mehandipur Balaji is not merely a pilgrimage but a deeply personal journey toward inner peace, divine protection, and renewed faith. Standing amidst the Aravalli landscape of Rajasthan, the temple continues to inspire countless seekers with its enduring message of courage, devotion, and trust in the divine.

BY MANISH MISHRA



27 Years of Creating Awareness, Inspiring Hope & Saving Lives.

• Introduction: Understanding Cancer

Whenever we hear the word cancer, most of us become apprehensive because of its perceived seriousness and uncertainty. Cancer is a life-threatening disease that not only affects an individual's physical health but also takes a significant toll on their mental and emotional well-being. When a person is diagnosed with cancer, the entire family often faces emotional, physical, and financial challenges. Therefore, the best approach is to remain vigilant, adopt preventive measures, and make health a priority, because timely precautions can prevent unnecessary suffering and save lives.

• The Foundation of Caring Souls

With the vision of creating awareness about cancer and extending support to cancer patients, Late Shri Anurag Awasthi (Founder), Mr. Manish Mishra (Chief Operating Officer), and Dr. Kailash Chandra (Honorary Director) came together to establish the Caring Souls Foundation in 1999. United by the belief that no cancer patient should face this journey alone, they laid the foundation of an organization dedicated to spreading awareness, reducing the burden of cancer, and providing compassionate care and support to those in need.

Today, the organization continues to move forward under the dedicated leadership of its General Secretary,



Mrs. Ritu Awasthi, whose commitment has further strengthened the Foundation's mission of serving society through awareness, education, and patient support.

• Our Journey and Impact

Since its inception, the Caring Souls Foundation has conducted cancer awareness programmes in more than 1,000 schools, creating awareness among lakhs of students, promoting preventive healthcare, and encouraging healthy lifestyle practices.

Today, the Caring Souls Foundation has established a pan-India presence, with 85 Counselling and Information Centres across more than 15 states.

These centres are led by dedicated professionals whose unwavering commitment has strengthened

the Foundation's mission. Among them are Mrs. Sangeeta Ferro (Margaret Lease Memorial School), Mr. Aravind Sami (Sahakar Vidya Mandir, Buldana), Mrs. Charu Chaturvedi (Jodhpur), and Mrs. Rajni Dutta (Chandigarh), whose leadership and service continue to inspire communities and promote cancer awareness across the country.

• Our Mission: Awareness, Early Detection, and Patient Support

The Caring Souls Foundation works tirelessly towards the mitigation of cancer through awareness, early detection, and patient support.

We educate young minds about the seriousness of cancer, its impact on individuals and families, the importance of healthy dietary and



lifestyle habits, and the value of early detection. Our objective is not to create fear but to empower students with accurate knowledge so they can educate their families and communities, contributing to a healthier society.

Creating a Ripple Effect Through Education

We believe that educating one young mind can inspire many others. Every informed student becomes an ambassador of awareness, creating a ripple effect that reaches families, neighbourhoods, and communities, ultimately contributing to a healthier nation.

• Fighting Oral Cancer Through Awareness

Oral cancer is among the most common and preventable forms of cancer in India. Through our awareness programmes, we educate students about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and how it significantly increases the risk of oral cancer.



We also spread awareness about the causes, symptoms, risk factors, and early warning signs of oral cancer, encouraging timely medical consultation and early diagnosis. By discouraging tobacco use at an early age, we hope to protect future generations from preventable disease.

• Conclusion: Knowledge Saves Lives

Cancer awareness is not merely about understanding a disease—it is about saving lives through knowledge, timely action, and compassion. At the Caring Souls Foundation, we believe that every informed individual has the power to educate many others.



Together, we can replace fear with awareness, encourage healthier choices, promote early detection, and build a future where more lives are protected through education, prevention, and hope.

• Message from Our Chief Operating Officer



Cancer should never be feared as much as it should be understood. Awareness, timely action, and a healthy lifestyle are our strongest weapons against this disease. Early detection through regular check-ups and recognising the warning signs can save countless lives.

With this belief, Caring Souls was founded 27 years ago. Since then, we have worked tirelessly to spread awareness and educate communities across India. Our collaborations with schools have helped us reach thousands of young minds and families.

The journey has been filled with challenges, but every obstacle has strengthened our resolve. We remain committed to promoting prevention, early diagnosis, and hope. Our vision is to reduce the burden of cancer through awareness, education, and compassionate support.



Mr. Manish Mishra

Chief Operating Officer

Char Dham Yatra 2026

CHAR DHAM YATRA

Safe Helicopter Operations Set a New Benchmark Takes a Major Leap Towards

The Char Dham Yatra is not merely a religious pilgrimage; it is a symbol of faith, devotion, and spiritual fulfillment for millions of devotees. For pilgrims traveling to Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri in the remote Himalayan region of Uttarakhand, helicopter services have long served as a vital support system. However, difficult geographical conditions, changing weather, and limited flying windows make these operations among the most challenging aviation missions in the country. In this context, the safe and successful helicopter operations during the first phase of the 2026 Char Dham Yatra have established a new benchmark.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation expressed satisfaction over the success of the first phase, which began with the start of the pilgrimage in April 2026 and concluded on 26 June 2026. During this period, approximately 400 helicopter flights were operated daily. A total of 12,032 shuttle flights facilitated the travel of 67,064 pilgrims, while 2,065 charter



flights served 11,715 passengers. These figures demonstrate that with better planning, modern technology, and effective coordination, safe and reliable air services can be delivered even in the most difficult conditions.

Safe Travel in Line with the Prime Minister's Vision

Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu attributed this success to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that the government's top priority is to ensure that every pilgrim receives a safe, smooth, and dependable journey. He said that preparations had begun several months before the pilgrimage started, in close coordination with the DGCA, the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA), the India Meteorological Department (IMD), helicopter operators, and the Uttarakhand government. The active support of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami also played a significant role in making these preparations effective.

Success Amid the Challenges of the Himalayan Region

Helicopter operations in the Char Dham region are far more complex than regular aviation services. High mountains, narrow valleys, rapidly changing weather, limited visibility, and restricted operational windows make every flight challenging. Despite these conditions, the safe operations during the first phase this year stand as proof that with comprehensive planning and strict safety standards, such challenges can be successfully managed.

Special Emphasis on Comprehensive Safety Preparations

This year, the ministry did not limit itself to routine reviews but carried out a detailed assessment of every aspect of operational safety. The Civil Aviation Minister personally chaired several high-level meetings to review safety preparedness. In addition, a high-level safety framework was finalized under the joint chairmanship of Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha and Uttarakhand Chief Secretary Anand Bardhan. Weekly review meetings were institutionalized throughout the pilgrimage season, ensuring timely resolution of any operational issues.

Safety System Strengthened Through Modern Technology

To further enhance safety during the pilgrimage, modern technologies were extensively deployed. The Airports Authority of India developed dedicated

To further enhance safety during the pilgrimage, modern technologies were extensively deployed. The Airports Authority of India developed dedicated K-Routes for helicopters, making movement through the valleys more organized. Air Traffic Control services were introduced at Sahastradhara and Sersi, while significant progress was also made toward developing permanent ATC infrastructure at Badrinath and Kedarnath.



UCADA installed 33 advanced PTZ cameras and set up two Integrated Command, Control, Communication and Coordination Centres (ICCCCs) at Sahastradhara and Sitapur. These centres continuously monitored helicopter movements in real time, along with helipad operations and weather conditions.

Weather Monitoring and Communication Systems Receive a Major Boost

Weather in the Himalayan region can change at any moment. Keeping this in mind, five Automatic Weather Observation Systems (AWOS) and ceilometers were installed at Sitapur, Kedarnath, Badrinath, Jhalla, and Kharsali in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department. Air Traffic Control officials continuously provided helicopter pilots with updated weather information. Tracking devices were installed in every helicopter, and additional VHF communication sets were made available to strengthen communication systems.

DGCA's Strict Oversight and New Standards for Pilots

To ensure safety, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) deployed special inspection teams at key helipads. These teams conducted regular safety audits, surprise inspections, and airworthiness checks. Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) for pilots was monitored daily to eliminate fatigue-related risks.

The qualification standards for pilots were also made more stringent than before. Every pilot flying for the Char Dham Yatra was required to have at least 750 hours of mountain flying experience, a minimum of 100 hours of mountain flying in the previous year, and at least 10 successful takeoffs and landings at Kedarnath.

Passenger Safety Remained the Top Priority

The ministry placed passenger safety at the highest priority by limiting helicopter occupancy to 70 percent of the maximum permitted capacity. The number of charter flights was also regulated, and warning markers and special balloons were installed on high-tension power lines to improve visibility for pilots. A uniform ground handling and crowd management system was implemented at all helipads, ensuring safer and more orderly passenger movement.

Zero-Tolerance Policy Strengthens Confidence

The ministry placed passenger safety at the highest priority by limiting helicopter occupancy to 70 percent of the maximum permitted capacity. The number of charter flights was also regulated, and warning markers and special balloons were installed on high-tension power lines to improve visibility for pilots. A uniform ground handling and crowd management system was implemented at all helipads, ensuring safer and more orderly passenger movement.

The successful helicopter operations during the first phase of the Char Dham Yatra 2026 are an excellent example of India's growing civil aviation capability, the effective use of modern technology, and strong administrative coordination. Despite the difficult Himalayan conditions, the successful operation of safe flights shows that the government is fully committed to adopting world-class aviation standards while placing the safety and convenience of pilgrims above all else. In the years ahead, this model is likely to set a new direction and benchmark not only for the Char Dham Yatra but also for helicopter operations in other mountainous and remote regions of the country.



Neeraj Singh

The Emerging Face of BJP's New-Generation Leadership

In Indian politics, leadership is often shaped not only through electoral victories but also through years of dedicated organizational work. Among the emerging leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Neeraj Singh has steadily built his reputation as a committed organizational strategist and grassroots leader. His appointment as Vice President of the Uttar Pradesh BJP in June 2026 marked a significant milestone in his political journey and reflected the party's emphasis on promoting experienced organizational leaders ahead of future electoral challenges.

Early Life and Education

Neeraj Singh belongs to one of India's prominent political families. He is the younger son of Rajnath Singh, India's Defence Minister and one of the BJP's senior-most leaders. Growing up in a politically active environment gave him an early understanding of governance, public service, and party organization.

He pursued higher education at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom, where he studied management. Despite having international academic exposure, Neeraj Singh chose to dedicate himself to public service and organizational politics in India rather than pursuing a corporate career.

Beginning of His Political Journey

Although Neeraj Singh gained wider public attention only recently, his association with active politics dates back more than two decades.

His political involvement began during the 2002 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, when he actively participated in the campaign of Rajnath Singh from the Haidergarh Assembly constituency in Barabanki district. Since then, he has remained closely associated with election management, grassroots outreach, and party organization.

Unlike many politicians who enter public life through electoral contests,

Neeraj Singh spent years working behind the scenes, focusing on strengthening the BJP's organizational structure and supporting party workers at various levels.

Organizational Contributions to BJP

Neeraj Singh is widely recognized within the BJP as an organization-oriented leader. Over the years, he has played an important role in coordinating between senior leadership and grassroots workers.

His contributions include:

- Strengthening booth-level organization.
- Coordinating with district and regional party units.
- Managing election campaigns and organizational logistics.
- Leading membership drives.
- Building stronger communication between party workers and leadership.
- Supporting election strategy and public outreach initiatives.

His ability to work quietly yet effectively has earned him the trust of both party leadership and grassroots workers.

Active Public Engagement in Lucknow

As Rajnath Singh continued to represent the Lucknow Lok Sabha constituency, Neeraj Singh became increasingly active in addressing public concerns across the constituency.

He has regularly interacted with citizens, coordinated with government officials to resolve local issues, and participated in social, religious, and community events. During emergencies, natural disasters, and public welfare initiatives, he has remained actively involved in relief and assistance efforts.

This consistent public engagement has helped him establish a strong grassroots presence, particularly in Lucknow and the Awadh region.

Role in BJP's Organizational Expansion

Neeraj Singh has been entrusted with several important organizational responsibilities over the years.

He played an active role in the BJP's nationwide membership campaign and was appointed Co-Incharge of the Awadh Region during the party's 2024 membership drive. He has also campaigned extensively across Uttar Pradesh during parliamentary and assembly elections, helping strengthen the party's organizational network.

His expertise in election management, booth coordination, and volunteer mobilization has made him a valuable organizational asset for the BJP.

Appointment as Uttar Pradesh BJP Vice President

In June 2026, the Bharatiya Janata Party appointed Neeraj Singh as Vice President of the Uttar Pradesh BJP,

marking his first major formal organizational position within the state unit.

The appointment came at a strategically important time as the BJP began preparations for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. Political observers viewed his elevation as recognition of his long-standing organizational work and his ability to connect with party workers across the state.

As Vice President, he is expected to contribute to strengthening the party organization, expanding grassroots outreach, coordinating with district leadership, and supporting election preparedness.

Leadership Style

Neeraj Singh is known for his low-profile yet effective leadership style. Rather than seeking media attention, he has focused on organizational discipline, teamwork, and consistent grassroots engagement.

His leadership is characterized by:

- Strong organizational management.
- Accessibility to party workers.
- Effective coordination with administrative officials.
- Focus on public service.
- Consensus-building within the organization.

This approach has helped him earn respect among both senior leaders and grassroots cadres.

Political Significance

Neeraj Singh's political rise reflects the BJP's growing emphasis on nurturing leaders with extensive organizational experience. While he comes from a well-known political family, his progression within the party has largely been associated with years of behind-the-scenes work rather than immediate electoral prominence.

His appointment also signals the BJP's

"With an eye on the future, Neeraj Singh's expanding responsibilities underline his emergence as one of the BJP's key organizational leaders in Uttar Pradesh."



strategy of combining experienced leadership with a younger generation capable of strengthening the party's organizational framework in Uttar Pradesh.

Looking Ahead

With his new organizational responsibilities, Neeraj Singh is expected to play a more prominent role in the BJP's political strategy in Uttar Pradesh. His experience in election management, grassroots coordination, and public engagement positions him as one of the emerging leaders within the state unit.

Political analysts believe that his future responsibilities could expand further depending on the party's organizational requirements and electoral strategy.

Neeraj Singh's political journey illustrates that leadership is built through sustained organizational commitment as much as through electoral success. From working quietly behind the scenes for over two decades to becoming the Vice President of the Uttar Pradesh BJP, his rise reflects the importance of dedication, discipline, and grassroots engagement in contemporary Indian politics.



YOGI GOVT'S MARRIAGE GRANT SCHEME

Brings Major Relief to OBC Families

Benefits Over 5,000 Daughters



Target to cover
1.05 lakh
beneficiaries
under the scheme
in 2026-27



Eligible families
receive
₹20,000
assistance for
their daughter's
marriage



Marriage Grant
Scheme emerges
as a financial
support for
daughters of
poor families



Priority in
applications
given to persons
with disabilities,
widows, and
landless families



KEY BENEFITS

- ✓ Financial assistance of ₹20,000
- ✓ Direct transfer to bank account
- ✓ For families with annual income up to ₹1 lakh
- ✓ Bride: 18+ years | Groom: 21+ years



“The scheme has become a major source of relief for needy families belonging to the Other Backward Classes. The financial assistance of ₹20,000 is being transferred directly to the applicant's bank account, ensuring transparency and timely support to beneficiaries.

– **Rajesh Kumar Singh**
Principal Secretary,
Backward Class Welfare Department



TOGETHER TOWARDS
**A STRONGER,
EMPOWERED
UTTAR PRADESH**

YOGI GOVERNMENT – COMMITTED TO
WELFARE, EMPOWERMENT & DEVELOPMENT
OF BACKWARD CLASSES

Yogi Govt's Marriage Grant Scheme Brings Relief to OBC Families Over 5,000 Daughters Benefit

Welfare schemes being implemented under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh are steadily emerging as a strong support system for the weaker and needy sections of society. In particular, the Marriage Grant Scheme for economically weaker families belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) has become an important source of financial assistance for the marriage of daughters. The positive impact of the scheme is already visible in the early months of the financial year 2026-27.

So far, more than 5,000 OBC daughters have benefited from the scheme. This reflects the government's success in ensuring that welfare initiatives are reaching beneficiaries at the grassroots level and providing timely financial assistance to deserving families.

For poor families, arranging a daughter's marriage has always been a major responsibility and financial challenge. In this context, the Yogi Government's Marriage Grant Scheme has proved to be a significant relief. The state government has set a target of covering 1.05 lakh beneficiaries under the scheme during the financial year 2026-27.

In the initial months alone, 5,032 beneficiaries have already received assistance. Among the total applicants, 4,178 had solemnized their marriages in March and submitted their applications during the same month. During the financial year 2025-26, more than 1.16 lakh applicants received assistance under the scheme.

Under the scheme, every eligible family receives financial assistance of Rs 20,000 for the marriage of their daughter. The amount is transferred directly to the beneficiary's bank account, ensuring complete transparency in the process. The scheme is available to families with an annual income of up to Rs 1 lakh. Eligibility also requires the bride to be at least 18 years of age and the groom at least 21 years old.

The Yogi Government has also ensured priority for vulnerable sections in the implementation of the scheme. Persons with disabilities, widows, families affected by natural disasters, and landless families are given preference during the application process.

Rajesh Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, Backward Class Welfare Department, expressed satisfaction over the success of the Marriage Grant Scheme. He said, "The scheme has become a major source of relief for needy families belonging to the Other Backward Classes. The financial assistance of Rs 20,000 is being transferred directly to the applicant's bank account, ensuring transparency and timely support to beneficiaries."

He added, "The scheme is providing significant financial assistance for the marriages of daughters from poor families. The Yogi Government remains fully committed to the welfare and development of the backward classes."

YOGI GOVT TO DEVELOP THE ORIGIN SITE OF THE GOMTI RIVER WITH ₹10.4 MILLION



Tourism Department initiative to create tourism facilities at the sacred origin of the Gomti River in Pilibhit district



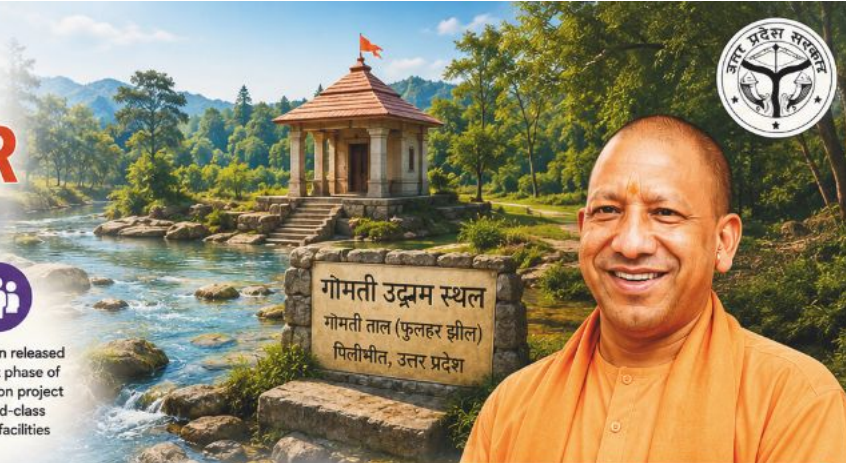
The Gomti River flows for **960 km** across Uttar Pradesh, preserving faith and cultural heritage



Development of the sacred origin of the Gomti River will open a new chapter in tourism: Minister Jaiveer Singh



₹7.8 million released in the first phase of ₹10.4 million project for world-class tourism facilities



Yogi Govt Approves ₹10.4 Million for Gomti River Origin Development

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh government is continuously taking significant steps to elevate religious and cultural tourism to new heights. Following the comprehensive development of major pilgrimage destinations such as Ayodhya, Kashi, Mathura, Naimisharanya, and Vindhya Dham, the state government has now decided to develop the sacred origin of the life-giving Gomti River into a world-class tourism and spiritual destination.

In this direction, the Tourism Department has approved a project worth ₹10.4 million for the development of the Gomti River's origin site, located in Kalinagar Tehsil of Purnapur Assembly constituency in Pilibhit district.

An amount of ₹7.8 million has already been released in the first phase. Upon completion, the site will emerge as a major attraction for religious, cultural, and nature-based tourism.

Uttar Pradesh Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said, "Human civilization has always flourished along riverbanks. The Gomti River, a lifeline of Uttar Pradesh and a symbol of the state's cultural and spiritual heritage, originates from Gomat Tal (formerly known as Phulhar Lake) near Madhotanda village in Pilibhit district. Revered in the Sanatan tradition, the river irrigates vast stretches of the state and serves as the source of livelihood and sustenance for millions of people."

He added, "The Tourism Department is developing the Gomti origin site into a prominent spiritual, cultural, and tourism destination."

The project includes the construction of modern infrastructure to enhance the experience of pilgrims and tourists. A multipurpose hall will be built at a cost of approximately ₹4.869 million, while a modern toilet block will be constructed for ₹1.344 million and a visitor shed for ₹945,000.

Additionally, interlocking pathways, landscaped gardens, beautification works, solar-powered amenities, and other visitor facilities will also be developed.

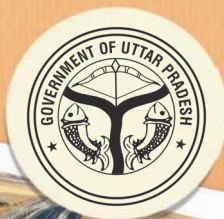
The Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (UPSTDC) has been entrusted with implementing the project.

The Gomti River holds a special place in the Sanatan tradition. It originates from the ancient Phulhar Lake (Gomat Tal) in the Madhotanda area of Pilibhit district.

Traversing nearly 960 kilometres, the river nourishes districts including Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Hardoi, Sitapur, Lucknow, Barabanki, Sultanpur, and Jaunpur before finally merging with the Ganga in Ghazipur district.

According to Hindu tradition, Lord Shri Ram took a holy dip in the Gomti River after his victory over Lanka. Naimisharanya, regarded as the sacred penance site of 33 crore deities, is also situated on the banks of the Gomti. For this reason, the river is considered a revered bearer of Uttar Pradesh's religious faith and cultural heritage.

Minister Jaiveer Singh said, "Under the guidance of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh is committed to giving its natural heritage a distinct global identity. The origin of Maa Gomti is not merely a geographical location but an important centre of Sanatan faith and traditional cultural life. Its holistic development will provide better facilities for pilgrims and tourists alike. Our endeavour is to ensure that every sacred heritage site of the state earns a place of honour on the global tourism map."



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