

# Uttar Pradesh's Yogi Administration: Growth Via Discipline

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## Abstract

Uttar Pradesh is on the rise to see the new era of development. In this paper the researcher has attempted to trace the factors that led to the phenomenal growth in UP. An attempt is also made to understand the role of law and order during the administration of Yogi Adityanath Nath. The story of development cannot continue without peace, law and order, strong control over anti social or criminal elements. This paper also brings the current political landscape's functioning and implementation of government policies into debate.

**Key words**-Development, UP, Yogi Adityanath

## Introduction

During his tenure, the chief minister Yogi Adityanath has tried to assert his authority over the state aggressively, while also presiding over a large council of ministers. Adityanath's ministry is larger than that of his predecessor, Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi party, which had 41 ministers. Despite having two deputy chief ministers, he has mostly relied on his team of officers to run his key projects rather than the ministers. The development is preconditioned with two aspects. First is political stability with Prime Minister Modi's idea of 'less government, more governance'. Second, law and order along with general discipline amongst the residents of the state. Yogi government has been able to achieve both within a short span of 6 years. The success story of the first term was revalidated in 2021 assembly election, in which BJP got 255 seats. However, a glance at the situation and challenges before Yogi Government when it took oath in March 2017 will help us to understand this journey more critically.

## History of UP Politics

Uttar Pradesh is located on sacred ground that has witnessed the rise and fall of various important chapters in Indian history. Over the years,

Uttar Pradesh has seen a flux of political entities, leaders, trends, and issues in modern India. Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant of the Congress Party was the first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh to lead an elected Assembly in 1951, followed by Sampurnananda, Chandra Bhanu Gupta, and Sucheta Kripalani. With the support of Ram Manohar Lohia and Raj Narain, as well as Jana Sangh's Nanaji Deshmukh, Chaudhary Charan Singh formed the first non-Congress government in 1967, leading the SamyuktaVidhayak Dal (SVD), a coalition that included the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Bharatiya Janata Sangha (BJS), as well as the Swatantra Party, Republican Party of India. The next few decades saw a resurgence of the Congress party (which had six Chief Ministers from 1980 to 1988! ), followed by the Janata Party experiment.

### **Brief Review of Politics and Governance in UP**

Crime, corruption, and negative attitudes all contribute to a negative perception of any state and its government. The link between crime, corruption and an unfavourable popular culture has pushed Uttar Pradesh significantly backward. The development process and priorities, as well as law and order, were subordinated to the local political culture (Almond 1967). The entry of sincere and dedicated people into political politics was hampered by leaders who pursued their own self-serving, power-seeking objectives. They also backed notorious criminals and mafias, as well as ex-dacoits. These greedy, anti-social, and anti-development organisations began to participate in elections. They were elected to the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha in large numbers, and some of them became ministers.

This political drama, tinged with caste and religious politics, harmed public institutions, encouraged corruption, and lowered the standard of healthcare, education and other offices in charge of providing public services. Between 1970 and 2017, development and discipline in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar became synonymous with crime, corruption, unemployment, poverty, poor educational standards, poor health care systems and so on. Despite having many rivers and lush terrain, the state has remained behind on all development indicators. People began sending their children to cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore for employment and education.

### **Mandal-Masjid politics**

In the 1990s, the caste equation practise became a focal point of SP and BSP politics. SP's backbone was made up of the Yadavs, an affluent

Muslim class, and socialist-leaning politicians. The Other Backward Castes faction backed Mulayam Singh, siding with the Mandal Commission's enthusiasm. On the other hand, the Dalits, who form the backbone of the BSP, advanced with the help of the underprivileged Muslim class. Even after 30 years, the Congress is still exiled from power in the UP. In the 1980s, the Bharatiya Janata Party was formed. However, due to its initial involvement in casteism, it was unable to enter UP politics. Following this, the BJP altered their strategy. The BJP tried to tackle challenges of post Mandal commission caste fragments, with Hindutva by launching the Ram Mandir movement in the 1990s. The Hindutva agenda weakened the political clout of the caste system. On the one hand, long-serving Congressmen were exhibiting signs of laziness, while the young competitors for leadership were giving it their all.

### **Emergence of Yogi Era after 2017**

The first Dalit-OBC coalition took power in UP in 1993, with Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mayawati allying to form the government. In 1995, the latter became the first Dalit Chief Minister to be sworn in. Over the next few decades, governments led by Kalyan Singh (BJP), Ram Prakash Gupta (BJP), Rajnath Singh (BJP), Mayawati (BSP), Mulayam Singh Yadav (SP), and Akhilesh Yadav rose and fell (SP). Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charisma, the BJP's caste arithmetic of wooing non-Jatavs, non-Yadav OBCs, and upper castes, as well as the reverse polarisation of Hindu votes due to the SP and BSP's excessive wooing of Muslim voters, the BJP's smart and aggressive social media campaigning, infighting within the Samajwadi fold, and a divided opposition helped the BJP. Instead of state bigwigs like Rajnath Singh, Uma Bharti, or Keshav Prasad Maurya, the BJP chose Yogi Adityanath, a politically powerful Sanyasi from Gorakhpur in eastern Uttar Pradesh, as its Chief Minister.

Yogi was a well-known figure who had served as a Member of Parliament from Gorakhpur for five terms in a row. He was a disciple of Mahant Avaidyanath, who was a disciple of Mahant Digvijay Nath, and he took up the mantle of the Gorakhnath Math as well as pursuing an assertive Hindu brand of politics from Gorakhpur. He sparked outrage in some sections of the population and the media, with Amnesty International claiming that "Adityanath has been one of Uttar Pradesh's most polarising politicians." However, many people across the state believed that if anyone could throw UP into disarray under the SP's Yadav factions, it had to be the Mahant from Gorakhpur.

## Change in mode of governance

Crime is one of the most debilitating factors that has hampered Uttar Pradesh's growth and development over the years. According to data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in late March 2021, the state's crime situation has significantly improved. Uttar Pradesh saw a decrease in rape cases from 59,445 in 2018 to 49,385 in 2020, with a charge sheeting rate of 77.1% in 2020 and one of the highest conviction rates for such crimes today. This is due to the Yogi government's proactive measures, which include women helpdesks, a night security cover scheme, the UP-122 India App, anti-Romeo squads, and pink booths. Murder and cybercrime have also decreased dramatically in the state. According to the NCRB, the state government has also recorded a high rate of charge sheeting for cyber-crime at 49.9%, despite the fact that the number of cases has increased from 6,280 in 2018 to 11,097 in 2020. Police disposition of IPC crime cases has been positive, with a total of 2,81,162 cases charge sheeted (with a charge sheeting range of approximately 77%), and 3,65,628 cases disposed of in 2020. From 2016 to 2020, there was a nearly 20% decrease in murder cases in Uttar Pradesh. In 2020, 3,904 weapons were seized from anti-national elements. In 2020, there were approximately 1.6 murder cases per 1 lakh population.

According to NCRB data, the state reduced the number of violent crimes from 65,155 in 2018 to 51,983 in 2020. While the overall crime rate against Scheduled Castes (SCs) was 30.7% in 2020, charge sheeting was proactive, with a rate of charge sheeting of 84.3% in 2020.

To reduce crime in the state, the government has prioritised strict law enforcement (75 police districts and 75 AHT units by 2020) as well as legal, administrative, and awareness-building activities. Transparency in postings and the establishment of stable tenures for personnel are two major positive changes in the way the state government has handled police operations. Previously, Gundas and Bahubalis (strongmen) wreaked havoc across Uttar Pradesh, and while they remain a threat, some drastic measures have helped to reduce their influence. The number of people arrested under the National Security Act (NSA) in August 2020 was the highest in four years. Corruption has also been dealt with forcefully, with 105 cases charged in 2020.

Corruption has also been dealt with harshly, with the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Vigilance, and Lokayukta charging 105 people in 2020 under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and related sections of the

### Indian Penal Code.

This is despite the fact that the number of reported corruption cases increased briefly from 84 in 2018 to 134 in 2019, before declining to 62 in 2020. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recently stated that the state administration had attached criminals' properties worth over 1,800 crores and demolished illegal encroachments. Certain infamous gangster-politicians in Uttar Pradesh, such as Mukhtar Ansari (Bahujan Samaj Party) and Atiq Ahmed, have been relentlessly prosecuted (Samajwadi Party).

According to police reports, approximately 90 members of Atiq Ahmed's gang have been apprehended, and properties associated with him worth 325 crores have been seized and frozen. While 244 members of Ansari's gang have been prosecuted and 194 crores in property seized. As a result, the entire ecosystem surrounding these gangster-politicians has been demolished, rendering them inoperable and eliminating the possibility of them operating their extortion rackets and other criminal syndicates.

### **Enterprise, Economy, and Employment**

Uttar Pradesh suffered from a variety of systemic issues, including misgovernance and corruption (the Comptroller and Auditor General of India reported that the Akhilesh Yadav government allowed irregularities totalling 97,000 crores across various departments between 2014 and 2017), which resulted in a lack of industrial and business contributions and investments thriving in the state. It was ranked 14th in the country for 'Ease of Doing Business.' According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (Government of India), it is now second in the rankings and third in the list of states with the highest Gross Domestic State Product (GSDP), with a nominal GDP of 17.05 lakh crore.

The state government has made a number of policy decisions in recent years to attract investment to the state, the most important of which is to create an investor-friendly environment. This is closely related to the state's crackdown on law and order issues. In 2017, a consultation with various investor-friendly states such as Gujarat and Karnataka was held to develop a coherent business policy, which was followed by various sector-specific policies. An Investors' Summit in UP also significantly aided this drive. Over the last 4.5 years, over 17.05 lakh crore has been invested in the state, with half of it said to have materialised and the rest still in the works.

Microsoft, Britannia, Brahmos, Bharat Dynamics Limited, AB Mauri, and Samsung have set up shop in Uttar Pradesh, from Chitrakoot and Lucknow to Jhansi and Noida. In the MSME sector, Uttar Pradesh has used the intriguing One District One Product (ODOP) model under the Yogi government. The UP Government's One District-One Product Programme aims to promote indigenous and specialised products and crafts found nowhere else, such as the ancient and nutritious 'Kala Namak' rice, the rare and intriguing wheat-stalk craft, world-famous chikankari and zari-zardozi work on clothes, and the intricate and stunning horn-bone work, a nature-friendly replacement for ivory.

### **Department of MSME and Export Production**

According to reports, 90 lakh MSMEs have been established in the state, creating 5 lakh self-employment opportunities each year. Uttar Pradesh is said to export 89,000 crores or more, and the state ranks first in the country in food processing, handicrafts, ready-made garments, and carpets. Innovative initiatives, such as Greater Noida's multimodal logistics hub, will be critical in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

### **An Evocation of Equality**

Uttar Pradesh's growth story is not one of crony capitalism and the isolated development of specific sections or strata of society. The capital boom has reached every segment of the population, whether through development policies, direct debit, or infrastructure investments. Housing and welfare have been major areas of focus for the government. Yogi Adityanath recently stated that since taking office in 2017, his government has provided housing to 42 lakh people from economically disadvantaged sections of society.

4,000 crores have been allocated in the Assembly's final supplementary budget before the 2022 elections for the provision of assistance to unorganised sector workers. Given the movement of migrant labourers during the COVID lockdown, the government has decided to provide a monthly livelihood allowance of 500 to more than 3 crore unorganised sector labourers, including agricultural labourers, NREGA employees, and street vendors, in 2021. The government has also set aside 670 crores to increase pensions for the elderly and farmers. The seamless integration of schemes and policy directions has been one of the benefits of having the same party (BJP) in the centre and the state, with the state government successfully implementing 42 central government-

run schemes in the state. This includes the central government's crop insurance scheme and the Pradhan Mantri FasalBima Yojana (PMFBY).

The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh has also attempted to use a two-pronged approach of direct debit and job creation to help citizens access more opportunities and resources. The government is said to have provided more than 5 lakh crore to people through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme, while approximately 4.5 lakh state youth are said to have been employed in the last 4.5 years. Since the implementation of the Kanya Sumangala Yojana on 1 April 2019, nearly 11 lakh beneficiaries have benefited from this scheme, which provides a payment of 15,000 to a girl from the time of her birth until she enrolls in a graduation or diploma course. The government has more than doubled its citizens' per capita income, from 43,000 in 2015-2016 to 95,000 in 2021.

### **The political importance of UP**

The road to Delhi goes through Lucknow. With 24 crore people, Uttar Pradesh is India's largest state. With 403 VidhanSabhas, 100 Legislative Councils, 80 Lok Sabha MPs, and 31 Rajya Sabha MPs, it is brimming with political savvy. This state has produced seven prime ministers for the country. The enormous population and their needs are pressing against its neck. After independence, it produced some of the country's most powerful politicians, but there was a population-development imbalance. Geographically, it spans Western Uttar Pradesh, Purvanchal, Bundelkhand, and Rohilkhand with 75 districts. Each has 18 administrative divisions. Being connected to Delhi and Haryana provided opportunities for western Uttar Pradesh to advance in agriculture, industry, and education.

Many people from here commute to the city in search of work. It has been transformed into a postal economy. Life is difficult without the financial assistance of outside state earnings. Despite the suffering and destitution, the struggle for survival is the most intense here. During elections in Uttar Pradesh, it appears that voters are choosing candidates based on caste rather than MP, MLA, Pradhan, or Councillor. This force is so powerful that people will vote for the candidate of their caste and religion, assuming it is their fate, despite the fact that politicians and political parties have a criminal record, corrupt and weak characters, and little understanding of development issues. Political parties directly profit from this. Why squander time and resources on development and technical issues when you know that voters' decisions will be influenced

by caste, religion, and emotional factors? Even if one side has made development a campaign issue, the opposing party will win the election by sucking the opium of caste and religion. As a result, neither party would want to pass up this opportunity. Even after the Nehru era, Indira Gandhi continued to dominate UP politics. This was caused by the public's perception of the Gandhi-Nehru party, which provided independence to the Congress.

## **Conclusion**

The UP government, led by Yogi Adityanath, has effectively controlled the criminal elements and gangster-politicians in the state, while also directing a massive push in investments and growth that has benefited people from all walks of life in the state. The government must consider truly emulating Narendra Modi's sabkahaath, sabkavikas' - development and welfare without discrimination.

## **Reference**

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