

'ODOP spurred export growth by 28%, UP in nation's top 3'

Handicraft Export Big Boost

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Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh clocked an impressive 28% rise in exports over three years and bagged the honour of the third highest exporter among states, said chief minister Yogi Adityanath.

The chief minister was speaking at the launch of the seventh economic census of UP at a function in Lok Bhanu on Thursday.

The chief minister lamented

past governments neglected traditional handicraft products, triggering losses to the state coffers while his one-district-one-product (ODOP) scheme delivered a boost to cottage industry resulting in a spurt in exports.

He said while other states were showing export growth of 8%, UP's graph has propelled to 28% and ODOP played a key role.

"There is a need to introspect why the state's GDP nosedived to half the national average in the last decade while at the time of independence, our GDP was at par with national GDP.

The situation has dramati-

cally improved since 2017 and UP's economic progress is on the Centre's agenda, said the chief minister.

Uttar Pradesh had immense potential to turn into India's economic powerhouse and play a significant role in fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of making

India a \$5 trillion

economy.

Launching the economic census, the chief minister said the outcome would play a crucial role in policy formulation and giving direction to young entrepreneurs and businessmen to choose their business.

This time, the census was different from past six exercises as it's on a digital platform

and conducted through a special app, said chief minister, who laid emphasis on including economic activity in villages and in unorganised sectors and they should not be left out of this gigantic exercise.

With finance minister Surash Khanna sitting beside him, Yogi lamented there were areas in the rural belt where GST registration was yet to take place and should be conducted at the earliest.

The economic census is a nationwide exercise launched by the chief minister to enumerate even the smallest economic activity in unorganised sector would be completed in next three and half years and submit its report to the Centre.

7TH ECONOMIC
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