

# Express Adda



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**SANJAY BHUTANI**  
MD, INDIA & SAARC, BAUSCH & LOMB INDIA PVT LTD

**In spite of infrastructure development, home buyers in Noida and Greater Noida haven't got possession of around 40,000 home units.**

When our government came to power, we had meetings with builders and buyers. Because of the wrongful working method of the previous governments, buyers had to wait for 8-10 years. But within a year, we were able to ensure that more than one lakh buyers got their homes. Then the Supreme Court released some directives and appointed a list of agencies, which have to take this forward. The state government is cooperating.



**NIKHIL HAWELIA**  
MD, HAWELIA GROUP & NATIONAL HEAD, LABOUR WELFARE COMMITTEE, CREDAI YOUTH WING

**In spite of a labour cess being collected, there hasn't been much improvement in the workers' social status. Why does this money remain unavailable to promote labour welfare?**

We gave *bharan-poshan bhatta* (maintenance allowance) to every registered labourer during the pandemic and gave allowances to the unregistered workers from our state budget. We are making Atal Awasiya Vidyalaya for labourers' children. There, we are developing facilities for their food and lodging, apart from education and skill development, as the registered workers are always on the move. We are also using the cess money for the wedding of the workers' daughters.



**SANJAY PUGALIA**  
EDITOR, THE QUINT

**Talks have resurfaced to divide UP into three parts, to make the state smaller. In the wake of the upcoming state election, what do you have to say about that?**

There is no such proposal to divide UP. We have come to unite, not divide. The whole of UP, as one force, will not only work for 24 crore people's safety and prosperity, but is also striving towards upgrading their lives.



**VIKAS MADHOGARIA**  
CHAIRMAN, VIKAS GROUP OF INDUSTRIES

**Where do you see India and Indians in the next 10 years?**

I believe that under the Prime Minister's guidance and vision, India is heading towards becoming the world's biggest economic power. And UP will collaborate and contribute towards this vision for India.



(Clockwise from left) UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group and Ravish Tiwari, National Bureau Chief and Political Editor, *The Indian Express*



**HUMA HASSAN**  
INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR AND FACULTY, PLUTUS IAS

**What has the government done for the education of women, an area where there still hasn't been much development?**

We have started Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana. The scheme starts when a girl is born and continues till she becomes independent. A package of ₹15,000 is given at different stages. The state is offering financial aid even for her wedding. In UP, for 20 years, there was an unsafe environment. We've created anti-Romeo squads and Mission Shakti, wherein 1,535 police stations have women help desks. Under the Safe City Project, we have started a women helpline.



**NEELKANTH MISHRA**  
CO-HEAD, APAC STRATEGY & INDIA EQUITY STRATEGIST, CREDIT SUISSE

**Your budget noted that UP had 15 medical colleges in 2017 and you are planning to increase that to 61 by 2025. While this is a positive step, how would you ensure quality control for these? Also, UP has become the second electronics cluster in the country. How do you plan to attract FDIs to the less developed regions?**

From 1947 to 2016, there existed only 12 medical colleges in UP. And between 2017 and 2021, we are making 30 new government medical colleges. We have started recruitment and training simultaneously so that along with quality education, good medical facilities can be provided. With that, super-speciality training and skill development are also happening. It is the result of this that UP is close to successfully controlling the second wave.

UP is becoming an electronics hub and it's true that most investment is in the NCR. But in eastern UP, Bundelkhand, and central UP, whether through land banks or incentive-oriented policies, these are all part of our policy to encourage investment. Investors are taking interest. IT parks are coming up too.



**SUBHO RAY**  
PRESIDENT, PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM OF INDIA (PAFI)

**What is that one strong message that you would want to give to the present and future investors?**

UP is the best destination for investments. I can say it is the best environment for safety and ease of doing business. UP's ranking at No 2 further proves that if India is the best destination for investment in the world, then within the country, UP holds that title. We either already have or are developing infrastructure along with safety. We have land banks, and we are giving a complete guarantee of protection to every industrialist and investor. Nobody can exploit or cheat them.

## 'Citizens can question government but can't take law into their hands'

At the e.Adda last week, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath spoke on four years of his government, the second wave of Covid-19, and the use of the National Security Act (NSA) in the state

### On his roadmap for Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh is the largest state by the country's population, hence, naturally, our challenges are big as well. We have been facing those daunting challenges with robustness and today, the results are in front of us. You all saw the kind of state we had inherited. About four-and-a-half years ago, what the country and the world thought about UP, I don't think that's hidden from any of you. But I'm certain those assumptions about UP have changed now. In 2016, it ranked 16th on the 'ease of doing business' list, today it's at No. 2. The state's economy was sixth in the country, today it's second. We have prepared a roadmap and are following the Prime Minister's vision and I am sure that will make us the No. 1 economy in the country.

### On managing the second wave of Covid-19

We started with zero tests and now, we conduct about four lakh tests every day. People spread a lot of misinformation about the second wave. They said Covid-19 was out of control in UP. People were saying that the virus spread because of the panchayat elections but we, however, have clarified that the elections took place because the Allahabad High Court had decreed. There were stories about bodies floating in Ganga and Yamuna even when people who live along the rivers explained that burying bodies and/or immersing them is their custom. But no one was ready to talk about it. Many experts had declared that UP would have a disaster on its hands by the end of May. Today is June 23 and we detected only 208 new positive cases. It was predicted that by May-end and June, there will be more than three lakh daily new cases in UP. The state has only 3,666 active cases today.

### On the lack of communication from the leadership during the second wave

The Prime Minister had spoken to the chief ministers on March 21, 2020, and ever since, every week through weekly video conferencing or over telephone. He has also addressed the general public. In spite of all this, if someone says there is an absence of dialogue, I feel it's to hide their own shortcomings.

## QUICK QUESTIONS

**That one achievement that makes CM Yogi very proud?**

The safety of every citizen of UP and the state's prosperity.

**Vidur, Chanakya or Amit Shah — who do you think is India's best political strategist?**

If we look at the time period of the *Mahabharata*, then Vidur was a necessity for those times. If we consider the later period, Chanakya was necessary. And, in the changed times now, amid the talks of pivoting the country in a new direction, then Amit Shahji is playing the role of the political Chanakya for today's day and age.

**If Vidur were to be alive today, what advice would he give to Rahul Gandhi?**

He would have advised him to sit back and relax, which I think will be beneficial for the Congress party.

**And what advice would Vidur have given to you ahead of your election?**

He would have said, "You are doing very good work, and the BJP should get the next 25 years in UP, because that is in the interest of both the

state and the country'.

**Who will be your biggest adversary in next year's polls — Akhilesh Yadav or Mayawati?**

I don't consider anyone an antagonist. Both sides (the government and Opposition) are the essence of a democracy.

**UP model or Gujarat model?**

We are working with Modi's model — one India, best India — and moving ahead.

**One personal regret which will remain for the rest of your life?**

I never regret what has happened. I think before acting, and that's why there are no regrets. If there were regrets, would I have become a hermit?

**What is that one lesson for the BJP from the loss in the recent West Bengal election?**

You can't call it a loss for the BJP because the seat tally has jumped from 3 to 77. We touched 77, the second wave of the pandemic pulled the brakes on the BJP's campaign, but I believe that the BJP will return there in the times ahead.

educate ourselves more about the particular strain of the virus which was so virulent and infectious. We need to accept that truth. If we start playing with faith and targeting constitutional institutions, it will be injustice. This is a pandemic, one of the biggest of this century, and we need to fight this together. Our PM is leading us in this fight. We need to be responsible and participate in this collectively.

### On labour reforms

The well-being of the industry is directly related to the well-being of labour. I don't think there is a problem in labour reforms as long as we are protecting the rights of the labourers under the labour laws. We cannot

benefit the labourers by shutting down industries. We need to protect them, simultaneously upgrading the industries.

### On the use of the National Security Act against citizens

Local law enforcement bodies registered cases only against those who took the law into their hands. It's because we took such decisions that UP has not had any riots in the recent past. Look at what kind of activities were taking place during the anti-CAA protests. Everyone has a right to legal recourse and each citizen is eligible to question the government regarding their security. But no one can take the law into their hands.

### On filing sedition cases against journalists

That's not what we want but if someone is deliberately spreading fake news, communal hatred and encouraging anarchy along the way, we wish to act and prevent a riot that would harm people and infrastructure. We wish to unmask those people. The safety of 24 crore citizens is a priority and we are committed to that.

### On the constant invocation of 'love jihad'

The Kerala High Court has also made statements regarding this in 2009, where it said that 'love jihad' is a way to make the state an Islamic state. The Karnataka High Court, too, made a judgment. We presented all the facts and evidence to the court on how certain conspiracies were under way. We analyse the data that comes to us regarding law and order on a daily basis, and look at things district-wise.

Have we forgotten the incident of Meerut, where an individual named Abdullah becomes Amit, ensnares a Hindu girl, marries her, takes all her property and kills her and her daughter? We saw about 100 such incidents across districts. We organised teams to investigate those funding such incidents. To avoid riots and a feeling of insecurity, we felt the need for a stringent law. We got the ordinance, and, later we made it into an Act. It's applicable to everyone, not just one community. It will apply to whoever violates the law.

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