

UTTAR PRADESH

A Cross Comparative Analysis
on Key Development Indicators

**BIMARU
GDP**

LAW & ORDER

POWER RIOTS

AGRARIAN DISTRESS

CORRUPTION

DEVELOPMENT NRHM SCAM

WOMEN SECURITY

UNEMPLOYMENT POVERTY

HUNGER CRIME

JOB CRISES ILLITERACY

POLICY

By

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UTTAR PRADESH

A cross comparative analysis of Uttar Pradesh on key “Vikas” (development) indicators for the period 2011-2016

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Foundation, New Delhi



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***Disclaimer:** The sources used in this report are secondary sources and the foundation doesn’t take any responsibility.*

Acknowledgements

The empirical report on “**A cross comparative analysis of Uttar Pradesh on key “Vikas” (development) indicators for the period 2011-2016:**” is a compilation of trends, situational analysis and focus areas of Uttar Pradesh on key “Vikas” (development) indicators. Moreover, a cross-comparison against national averages, BIMARU group and all the other 29 states has been done to understand the relative performance of U.P vis a vis other states. It covers various dimensions like demography, economy, infrastructure, law and order and governance of Uttar Pradesh. To avoid any subjective bias, only credible statistical data collected from various government sources and research papers has been used for the purpose of this analysis. We are thankful to all who have extended help in various stages of the work. A special thanks to Dr Anirban Ganguly, Director-Syama Prasad Mookerjee Foundation for crystalizing our approach and providing whole hearted support throughout the process.

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Introduction



■ In India, every 6th person hails from the state of Uttar Pradesh. Not surprisingly, UP with a population of 20 crore is the most populous state in the country. Covering about 243,290 Kms² of area, Uttar Pradesh is organized into 17 administrative divisions (Census 2001), 71 districts (Census 2011), 312 tehsils (Census 2011) and 820 development blocks (Census 2001). There are 52002 (Census 2001) village Panchayats in the state covering 1.06 lakh (Census 2011) inhabited villages. The majority of villages in UP are small with an average population of around 2500 per Panchayat (Census 2001).

■ Despite being a land of rich cultural and historical heritage, this Hindi heartland of U.P even after 70 years of independence, continues to lag behind in most of the “Vikas” (development) indicators. As a result of which low rates of unemployment, poor economic development, social backwardness, lack of infrastructure and chaotic state of law and order has resulted in large scale out-migration of millions of people from Uttar Pradesh.

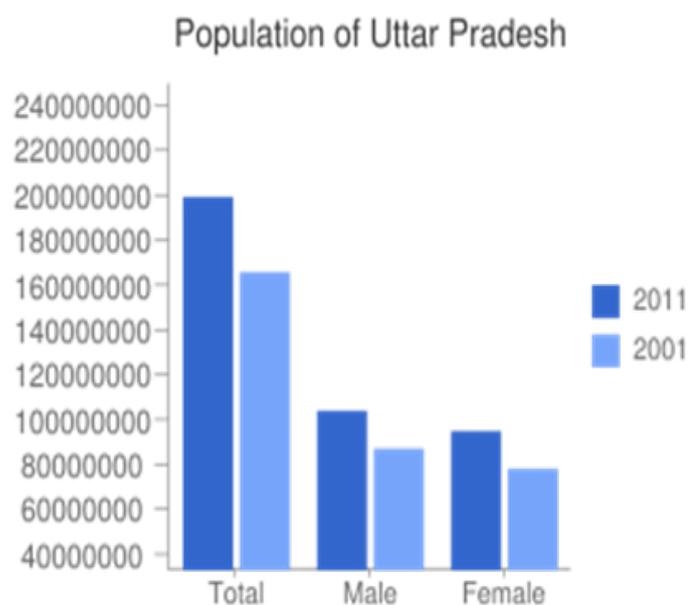
Section 1

Demographics

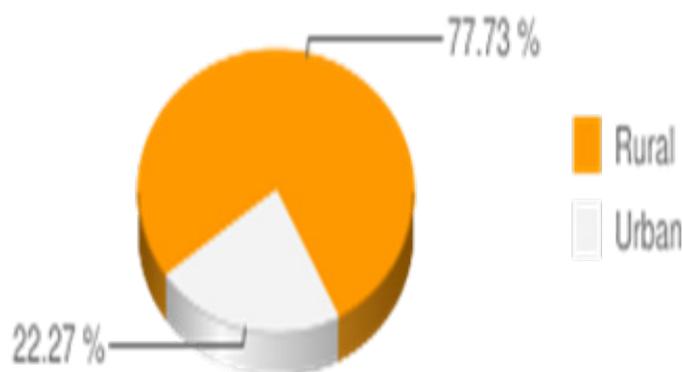
As per the census 2011, **U. P's population** is more than **20 crores**, which make it the most populous state in the country. (Census 2011). Detailed break up is as follows:¹

■ **Rural-urban distribution** is 77.7% and 22.3% thus making it a predominantly rural and agrarian state.

■ **Decadal rate of growth in population** over 2001-2011 has been higher for females, urban populations and Muslim communities as opposed to an average non-minority male residing in a rural area.



Rural Urban Uttar Pradesh



■ **Sex ratio** is skewed in favor of the male population, where in U.P there are 898 women for every 1000 men, as against a national average of 940:1000.

■ **Literacy ratio** in U.P stands at 67.6%. Of which male literacy is at 77.3% but women literacy is way down at 57.2%, thus reflecting a huge gender gap in access to education.

¹ Census 2011 RGI-SRS

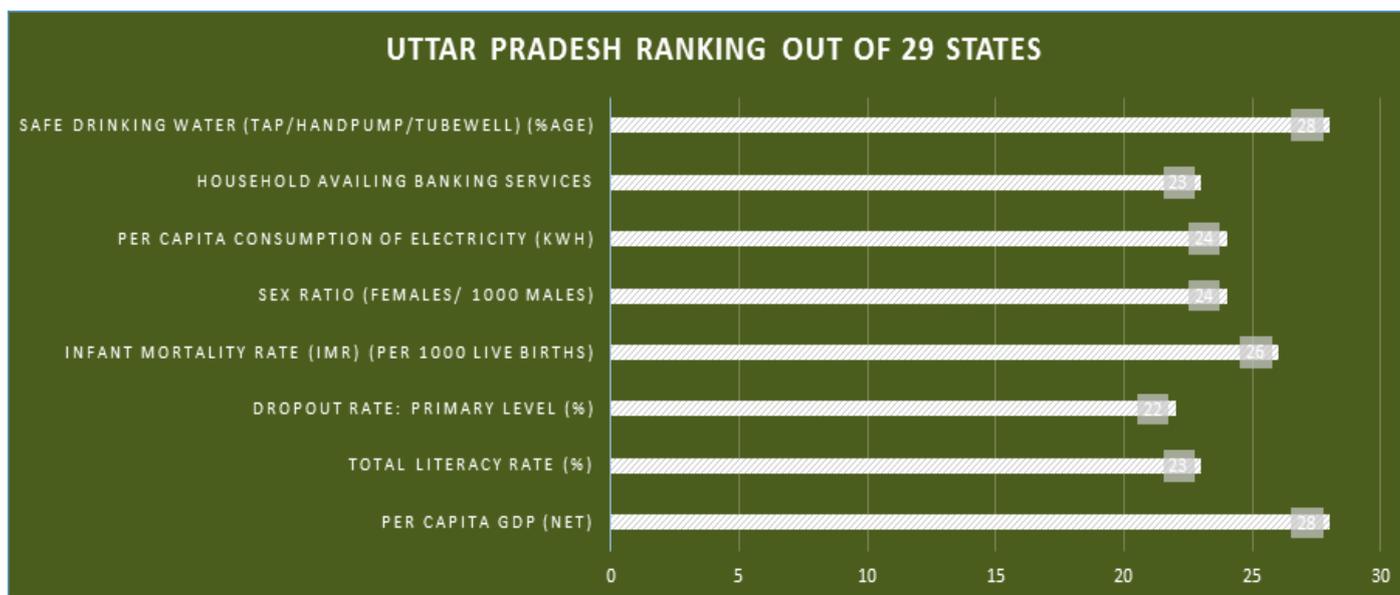
Section 2

Uttar Pradesh ranks consistently at the bottom on key “Vikas” (Development) indicators against 29 states

Based on credible data resources like Census 2011, Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Sample Registration System (SRS) and NSSO, NITI Ayog has ranked all the 29 states on key *indicators of “Vikas” (development)*.² These indicators cover all the major areas of socio-economic development and are as follows:

1. **Economic:** Net GDP per person
2. **Education:** Literacy rates and drop-out rates
3. **Health:** Infant mortality rates
4. **Infrastructure:** Per person consumption of electricity & safe drinking water
5. **Financial Inclusion:** No. of households availing banking services

Based on the most important list of indicators, results show that out of possible ranking of 1-29, **U.P has consistently ranked between 22nd - 28th rank across all the sectors.** Detailed ranking for each sector is displayed below:



² Major Socio-economic Indicators from 2011 to 01.08.2014 - State-wise ranking, Niti Ayog-State Statistics, <http://niti.gov.in/content/>

Section 3

Uttar Pradesh's GDP Growth is the poorest even within the BIMARU states

■ Owing to its poor economic performance and a predominantly agrarian economy, Uttar Pradesh along with Bihar, Rajasthan and M.P has been classified as a **BIMARU (meaning “sick”)** state by the developmental economists. This means that like other BIMARU states, U.P has been faring poorly as against other performing states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. This is despite the fact that the erstwhile Planning Commission and Finance Commission have been giving large chunks of “special packages” to U.P for the purpose of development. Still U. P has continued to lag behind not only against the better performing states but also against the national average. For example, UP's per capita net state domestic product (NSDP) at constant prices (removing the effect of inflation) is only Rs 19,233 per person against the national average of Rs 39,904 per person.³ Which in effect means that on an average, the standard of living for **a person in U.P is only half that of India's national average!**

■ To analyze the relative performance of BIMARU states, ASSOCHAM conducted a 9-year study to analyze and compare the rates of economic development, agriculture and industry between the various BIMARU states like: Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and UP, for the period 2004-2005 to 2012-2013.

■ Results show that out of all BIMARU states- **U.P has fared the worst** amongst all the states as validated by the data collected over these nine years. **This correlates with the time when BSP and SP government have been in power.** Let us analyze these results in each of the sectors like overall GDP growth, agriculture, industry and service sector.

A. GDP growth:

● With the slowest compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of about **6.9 %** in terms of gross state domestic product, Uttar Pradesh fares the lowest among the traditional BIMARU states (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and UP) during the period 2004-05 and 2012-13.

● This trend has also continued in the latter half of the SP regime where data from the state statistics shows that GDP growth rates for U.P (GSDP) have consistently dipped since the S.P government has been in power from 2011-2014.⁴

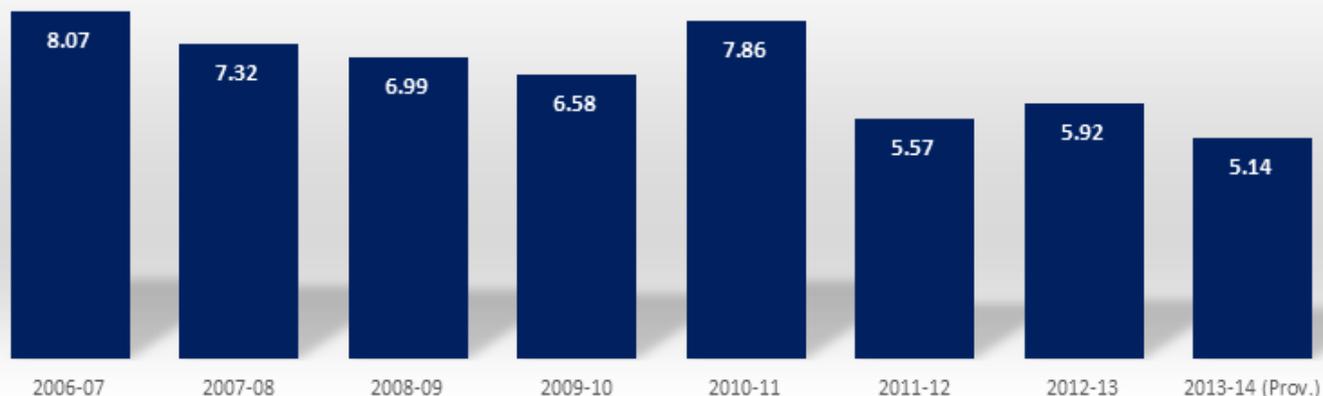
B. Agriculture:

On the agriculture and allied sector front, UP has grown at the slowest growth rate- CAGR

³ Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments, and for All-India --Central Statistics Office, 2013-14

⁴ Growth rate, GSDP at constant prices 1997-1998 to 2013-2014, State Statistics, Niti Ayog

Dipping rates of GDP under S.P government



(Compound Annual Growth Rate) at **2.9%** well below the national growth rate of 3.7 %. Moreover, the share of agriculture and allied sector in UP's GSDP has dipped from 29.7 % as of 2004-05 to 21.9 % as of 2012-13. (ASSOCHAM)

C. Industries:

On the industrial sector front, UP has registered 6.9 % growth rate during the said period while India clocked 7.4 % CAGR in the industrial sector. This is when the New Infrastructure & Industrial Investment Policy of Uttar Pradesh under SP government had set an ambitious target of 11.2% industrial growth per annum during the Twelfth Five Year Plan, which they clearly haven't achieved.

D. Service sector:

In the services sector too UP has clocked slowest growth rate of 9 % during 2004-05 and 2012-13 which is not only below other BIMARU states but also the national average of 9.6 % (ASSOCHAM report). Moreover, most of the service sector related jobs are concentrated around the urban areas of Lucknow and Noida, in a state where 70% of the population resides in rural areas. ⁵

⁵ "Analysis of BIMARU states"- ASSOCHAM study (2004-2013)

Section 4

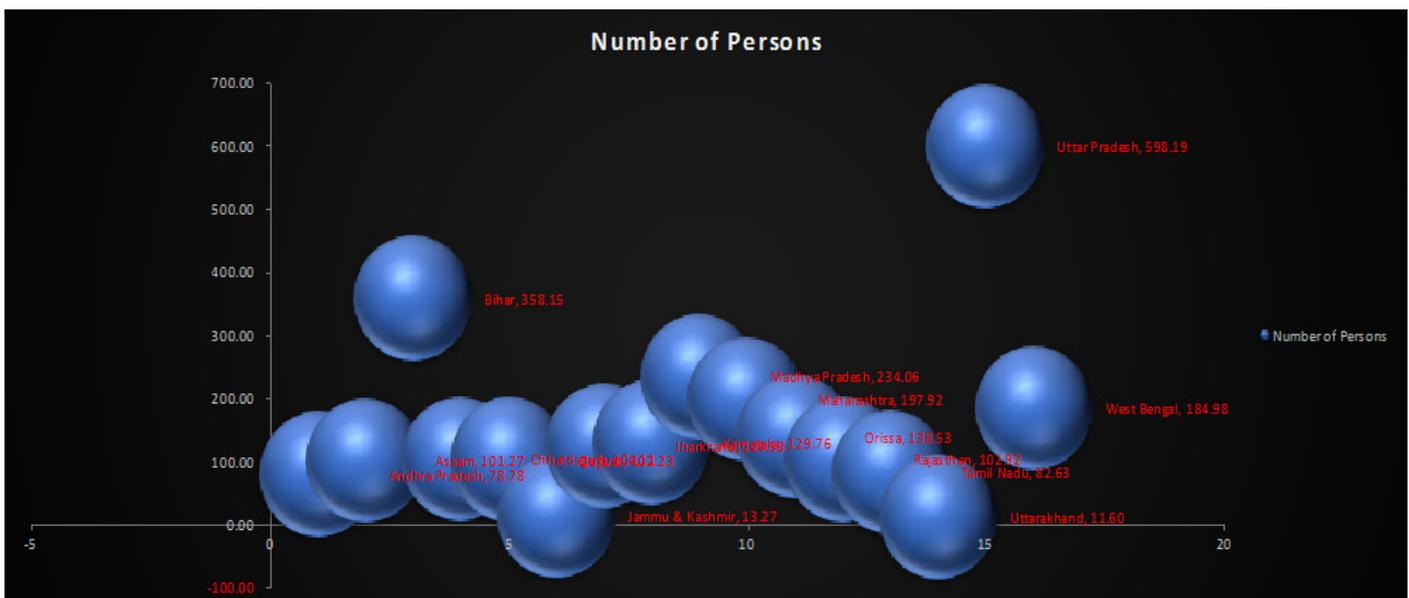
CRISIS AREAS IN U.P

I. Poverty- UP adds the largest number of poor people in the entire country

- High rates of unemployment, lack of industrial development, corruption in public systems and absence of competence based leadership, has all added up to making U.P one of the most backward and poor states in the country.
- As a result of which, a large number of laborers who do not find employment opportunities in U.P, out migrate to more prosperous states like Maharashtra and Gujarat. This further weakens the human resource pool in U.P, leading to a loss of social and cultural fabric for those who out-migrate and puts a pressure

on the social and physical infrastructure of the states that they in-migrate to.

- As per the data provided by the RBI, out of 20 crore people, nearly 6 crore (5,98,19,000) people or about 1/3rd (29.4%) of the population in U.P is below the poverty line thus living on less than 31 Rs per day in urban areas and less than 26 Rs per day in rural areas.
- As shown in the figure below, U.P contributes the highest number of poor people to the country, as compared to all the other states. To remove the bias, we have excluded smaller states like those in North East, Punjab, Goa & Kerala. Units for the number of persons is in lakhs.⁶



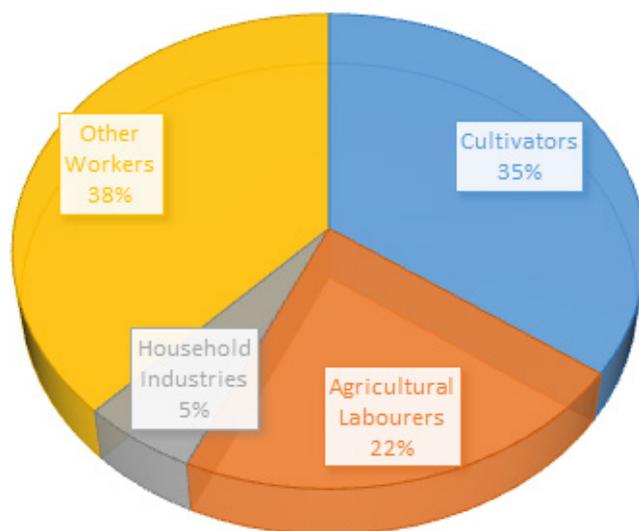
⁶ "Number and Percentage of Population below Poverty Line". Reserve Bank of India. 2012.

II. Unemployment and the Job crisis

SP government and in particular the CM, owed a large majority of their victory to unemployed youth which voted for this regime in the hope of jobs. SP regime's promise of providing jobs to educated youth have clearly not yielded results. This is validated by the fact that the NSSO 66th round has calculated that **by the year 2017, U.P will ADD over 1 crore unemployed people in the age group of 18-35. This is in addition to a backlog of 37 lakhs unemployed youth** waiting in the queue from before.^{7,8}

- Uneven unemployment generation across different sectors has been one of the biggest flaws of the current and the past government. Traditional cropping patterns without pushing for market reforms and productive up linkages innovations like agro based industries, has led to meagre incomes in the agricultural sector. Industries anyways employ less than 12% of the workforce due to lack of industrial development and mass employment generation.
- Though, 38% of the population is being employed by the service sector, it hides the underlying reality that service sector jobs are mostly concentrated around English speaking, skilled, urban population

DISTRIBUTION-MAIN WORKERS IN U.P



which in all constitute only 30% of the entire population.

- Instead of focusing attention on setting up large number of industries and providing a conducive investment climate, the government has instead chosen to divert the attention of the youth from the real issue of lack of mass employment to one-off lolly-pops like “Berozgari Bhatta” or unemployment allowance. The name itself is the **biggest acknowledgement by the government of its incapacity to generate “real jobs”**.

⁷ 66th NSSO round, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (mospi.nic.in - India)

⁸ UP to have 1cr unemployed youth by 2017: National Sample Survey Organisation, Times of India, Arvind Singh Bisht, July 17, 2013

● It is very important that we analyze whether these employment exchanges had any impact on the job market or not. State data shows that almost **7.5 million unemployed youth registered** for these employment exchanges when the SP government came into power. Out of which **less than 1% (46,000 youth) got placement of any sorts!**⁹ Thus further prompting the youth to lose trust in the government's ability to provide basic employment.

● Another instance of the job crisis in U.P was highlighted in 2015, when the state secretariat opened its **368 posts for peons- to which over 23 lakh candidates, including 2.22 lakh engineers and 255 Ph.D. holders applied with the hope of an unappreciable salary of Rs 20,000 per month.** Thousands of candidates with Master's Degree in Commerce, Humanities and Sciences were also among the applicants, something which indicates the gravity of the unemployment situation in the State. Thus showing that the job market in U.P has virtually

come to a standstill.¹⁰

● Also in government jobs, during the present SP regime, recruitment for the following positions has been stopped, thus further worsening the public job market:

- *72825 Primary teachers*
- *29333 Junior teachers*
- *Professors in senior secondary schools*
- *Village development officers*
- *Lekhpal (Land Records officer)*
- *PCS and PCS-J officers*
- *Police constables*
- *Health Worker*

⁹ "7.5 million youth registered with UP employment exchanges, Govt discontinued the scheme of making fresh allocation of SP's promised unemployment dole," Business Standard, Virendra Singh Rawat | Lucknow, November 10, 2014

¹⁰ 23 lakh apply for 368 peon posts in Uttar Pradesh, Mohammad Ali, the Hindu, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 02:21 IST

III. Law & Order crisis and Women Security

With the coming of SP government, the rates of local crime and loot have increased, especially in the country side. Most of these anti-social elements have either familial or political connections with the family members of the ruling party. At least two children have been reported to be shot dead in Sambhal-Jhansi (2012) & Shamli (2016) during the local celebratory firing of SP party alone. The following records from the National Crime Records Bureau Data (2015)¹¹ confirm our suspicions that Uttar Pradesh has graduated into a “**Goonda Raj**” and is thus the “**most unsafe place to live**” amongst all the other states:

- Uttar Pradesh reported the **highest number of cases of violent crimes** accounting for 12.1% (40,613 cases) of total violent crimes in the country (33, 05, 901 cases)
- Uttar Pradesh reported the **highest number of cases of murder** accounting for 14.7% (4,732 out of 32,127 cases) of total murder cases and the highest cases of culpable homicide not amounting to murder accounting for 42.1% (1,338 out of 3,176) of total such cases during 2015.

A special concern by activists has been raised in connection with the situation of **Women Security and Safety in Uttar Pradesh**. A lot of young college going girls have complained of “unsafe environments” and hooliganism by local leaders connected to the SP government, thus leading to

a large drop-out ratio in schools and colleges. The same attitude has been displayed earlier by the party supremo, Mulayam Singh who while defending four men who committed the horrific act of raping a woman, in 2014 had said in a rally- “that ‘boys will be boys... they commit mistakes’”. Also opposing women’s reservation Bill in 2012 he had remarked in rally that ““Only girls and women from affluent class can go forward...remember this. You (rural women) will not get a chance...Our rural women did not have that much attraction” Such misogynistic attitudes of the party’s leaders towards the vulnerable sections of the society like women and Dalits has led to UP recording the **highest number of crimes against the vulnerable group**:

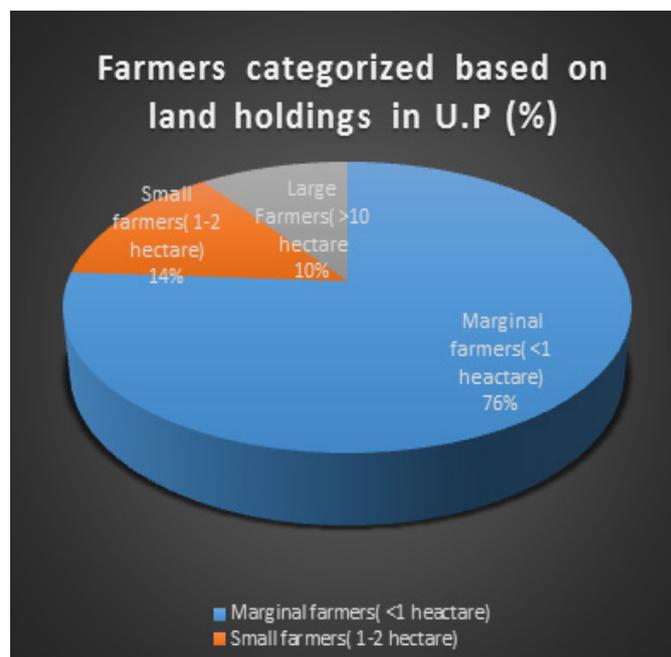
- Uttar Pradesh reported **highest cases of crime against women**, contributing to 10.9% (35,527 out of 3, 27, 394cases) of total cases of crimes against women in India.
- Uttar Pradesh reported **highest cases of crime against Scheduled Castes (Dalits)**, accounting for 18.6% (8,358 out of 45,003 cases) of total crimes in India
- Also Uttar Pradesh has reported the highest number of cases such crimes (60 cases) relating to offences **promoting enmity between different groups** (section 153A & 153B-IPC).

¹¹ Statistics of Uttar Pradesh- National Crime Records Bureau Data (2015)

IV. Agrarian Distress and lack of jobs in the Industrial sector - rise of low paying casual work

With more than 50% of the workforce employed in agriculture, the mainstay of U.P's economy is agriculture. Within which the total cultivators are composed of- 76% of the marginal farmers, 14% of the small farmers and 10% of the big farmers. Thus due to continuous decrease in the size of landholdings, U. P's agriculture is marked by a **majority (78%) of marginal workers with land measuring less than 1 hectare.**

- In 2005, the State Government introduced a new **State Agriculture Policy 2005** with a vision to ensure the food and nutritional security and to bring about qualitative improvement by ensuring economic growth and prosperity. In this backdrop, it was expected that socio-economic status of the agricultural workers would be improved and their problems and challenges would be reduced.
- Instead NSSOs 66th round showed that in U.P the number of **agricultural workers actually declined** by a whopping 49 lakh, from 403 lakh in 2004-2005 to 354 lakh in 2011-12 during BSP regime.¹²
- This trend has continued in the SP government where agriculture has grown at less than 3 percent.



The reasons for Farmer's crisis is:

- Rising cost of fertilizer & seeds,
 - Poor irrigation facilities
 - Lack of linkages with the agro-industry sector
 - Shift of agricultural workers from agriculture to lesser paying MGNREGA wages.
- These assessments about the current state of agricultural crisis have been substantiated by recent research survey conducted in U.P(2016) , which found that quite contrary to the claims of the government, **agricultural situation in U.P in the past 10 years has actually worsened.**¹³

¹² 66th NSSO round, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (mospi.nic.in - India)

¹³ World Journal of Agricultural Sciences, Problems and Challenges of the Farmer-Agricultural Workers in Uttar Pradesh, Gyaneshwar Singh, 2016).

Lack of Farmer reforms

● As many as 75 districts have been reported to face varying degree of **draught**. Unsystematic irrigation planning, has led to drying up of water reservoirs. **Bundelkhand** has faced the worst form of agrarian distress with many farmers committing suicide.¹⁴

● Moreover during the entire period of 5 years, the current regime did not implement any crop insurance schemes, only to launch a symbolic bima yojna right before the elections in December 2016.

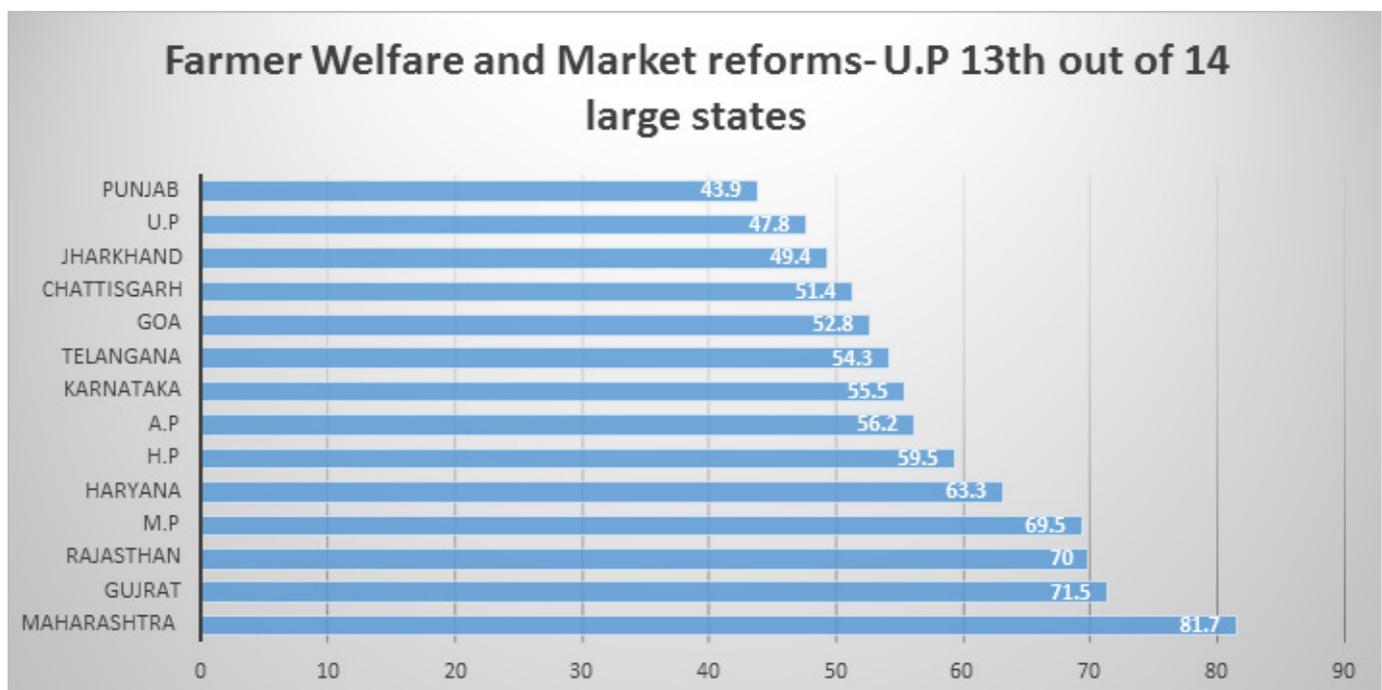
● Even **Western Uttar Pradesh's sugarcane farmers**, a once prosperous group, are up in arms. With about 50 million farmers employed in this sector, U.P is facing one of the largest sugarcane crisis in history due to non-payment of cane dues to poor farmers. The magnitude of pending payments runs in thousands of crores with the 2015 figures standing at 6051 crore (calculated at 240 rs/quintal).¹⁵

● Government of India has formulated an **index**

called as Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI). The index is based on actions taken by each state and UT to improve the **“ease of doing agribusiness”** and range of choices and options granted to producers to sell their produce.¹⁶

● **U.P has ranked 13th out of 14th amongst all big states** and scores only 47.8% **on agricultural reforms** with Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan topping the chart with over 70% reforms.

● Areas where state government has still not acted upon are: Setting up market in private sector, Direct Marketing, Farmer-Consumer market, contract farming, joining e-NAM and putting fruits and vegetables out of APMC acts. In effect **a farmer in U.P still does not have access to a dynamic agromarket for effective uptake of farmer produce at higher market prices.**



¹⁴ Why Akhilesh Yadav's poor record as CM signals a rocky year ahead for UP, Scroll In, December, 2016

¹⁵ Uttar Pradesh's sugar industry faces its worst crisis, Business Standard, March 14, 2015

¹⁶ Study Report on Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Across Indian States and UTs, Prepared by Ramesh Chand and Jaspal Singh October, 2016, NITI Ayog

No employment outlet in the industrial sector either!

According to NSSO 66th round, U.P with a population of 20 crores, can **boast of only about 86 lakh workers in the manufacturing sector**. currently employed across the entire state, thus encompassing less than 13% of the total workforce.

Only a minute proportion amongst these (9.72 %) have any job security with decent incomes. With such a large human resource pool and widespread poverty, successive governments from 2005-2016 have **not been able to provide mass employment** to its people. We have already seen how in other states like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, it is the manufacturing sector which holds the promise of providing mass employment to the youth in the context of over-crowded agricultural sector and capital/skills intensive service sector. As a result of which U. P's current industrial situation which is

growing at a **meager 1-2%** is marked by:

- Isolated islands of industrial units
- Poor investment climate due to law and order crisis
- Irregular power supply and weak infrastructure
- Excessive red tapism and corruption in bureaucracy
- Weak ability of the leadership to attract large scale investments

More often than not labour of poor is concentrated in **low-paid casual daily wage work**; most own little or no land or productive assets and they lack marketable skills. Service sector jobs are already concentrated in urban areas of Lucknow and Noida. All in all, most of the productive work-force lives a **“hand-to-mouth existence”** in U.P

V. Power Riots

Mismatch between the demand and supply for power in Uttar Pradesh regularly results in a “power crises”. This gap is at least above 15% and in peak hours supply lags the demand by over 20-30%. For example, in S.P govt.’s regime in 2013-14, the state’s projected demand for summer 2013-14 was 15,839 MW thus showing a gap of 6,832 MW. This not only hampers day to day activities of individuals but also discourages industrialists from investing in U.P.

- U.P faces the **largest gap in power shortage at 11.6%** as against a national average of only 2.3% based on the figures released by Central Electricity Authority in 2015.¹⁷
- **“Power riots”** broke out in 2014 in the eastern UP districts of Gorakhpur and Gonda and in the western districts of Meerut and Agra which saw people out on the streets threatening to ransack local offices.¹⁸
- Despite power shortages in the state, **U.P government has refused to buy cheaper power**

from the center at the rate of Rs 2 per unit. This is when center in the past has also sold electricity at the rate of 8-10 Rs/unit.¹⁹

- The present SP regime has favored **selective power distribution** to political constituencies around Etawah. Whereas rural areas in **Bundelkhand and Eastern U.P face anywhere near to 12-14 hours of power cut.** Thus on an average day in U.P there are long power cuts especially in the rural areas during morning times.
- In 2009 UP reported **distribution losses** of about 38%, which are higher than the national average T&D loss of 25.4%.²⁰
- **Populist tariffs and corruption in the UP Power Corporation Limited** has led to mushrooming of **big rackets of power brokers** which connive with corrupt officials to get favorable supply of electricity or reducing penalties for theft of electricity in return for political and monetary favors.

¹⁷ Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Monthly Executive Report, March 2015.

¹⁸ Riots, stirs over power cuts in Uttar Pradesh, Times of India, June 8, 2014,

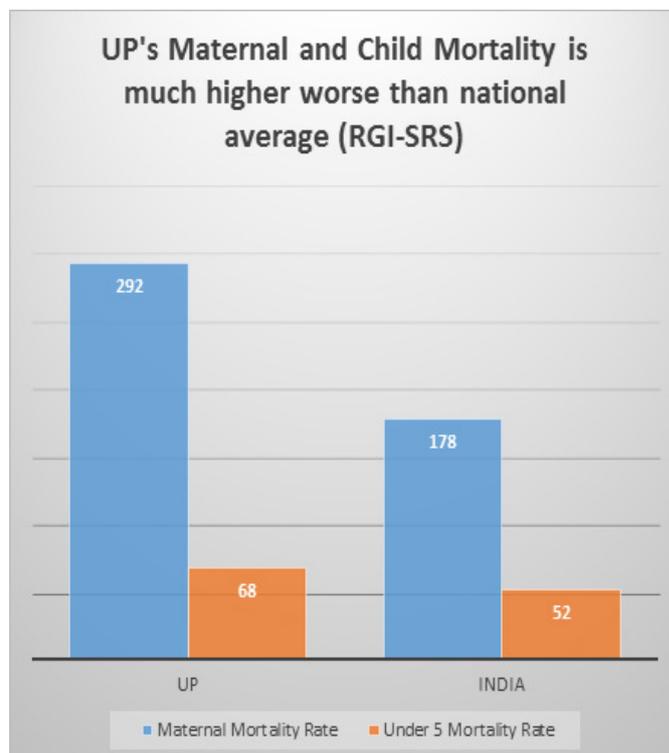
¹⁹ Uttar Pradesh Government not ready to purchase power, The Economic Times, 27 June 2016

²⁰ As summer sets in, UP scrambles for energy to meet demand, Business Standard, Lucknow, April 23, 2015

VI. Hunger, Mortality and NRHM scandal

Uttar Pradesh during the BSP regime witnessed one of the largest scams in the health sector called the “NRHM scam” where top politicians and bureaucrats were implicated for having siphoned off nearly crores of money from the National Rural Health Mission,. At least five people are said to have been murdered in an attempt to cover up large-scale irregularities. Several former ministers of then ruling party, Bahujan Samaj Party are being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation. In the biggest scam in the history of health department, following were the disgraceful highlights of NRHM scam:

- **Rs 9000 crores** has been alleged to have been looted by the BSP government in this scandal
- **Chief Medical Officers of 72 districts** joined hands with corrupt contractors to loot funds meant for serving poor patients
- Central Bureau of Investigation **arrested 149 persons**, with 350 people as accused in 82 cases of corruption, cheating, forgery and conspiracy registered
- The CBI makes the charge that in 2009, the then **Family Welfare Minister**, in order to lay hands on a major share of the funds, had conspired with the then **Principal Secretary, an MLA and four private supplies** to bifurcate the Department of Health and Family Welfare so that the funds could be placed



directly under the charge of the Department of Family Welfare. Only those persons were posted as District Project Officers who allegedly facilitated in the award of contracts to chosen suppliers.

Even after being pulled up by the CBI for the NRHM scandal, U.P continues to lag in all most all **the health indicators: Nearly 97% of the surveyed people** during the Annual Health Survey conducted in UP **reported to have been dealing with some acute or chronic health condition** and seeking medical treatment for the same.²¹

²¹ Annual Health Survey 2013 (Government of India)

Let us analyze the facts which might answer **why?**

- Uttar Pradesh contributes to the **largest burden of disease and disability** across all states.
 - Mothers, infants and children are much more likely to die due to child birth or malnutrition in UP than other developed states.
 - Within the U. P's child population, 62% children are stunted and 45% are underweight and about 40% not vaccinated. Thus reflecting that the health department has not even been able to take care of young children.²²
 - About **42% mothers don't even access for facility based delivery** (either public or private) and thus end up delivering at home.
 - Detailed comparison for rates for **Maternal and Child Mortality** in U.P vs India average as displayed in the above exhibit shows how U.P is faring way worse than the national average.²³
- Whereas **only 5% reported to have used any form of government health services** for the same.
 - Reason for that is that a **third of the rural population in the state has been deprived of primary healthcare infrastructure**, according to the norms of the Indian Public Health Standards.
 - The state requires 31,037 sub centers, 5,172 public health centers and 1,293 community health centers to meet the healthcare demands of its population. But the state is 33 per cent short of sub-centers and public health centers and 40 per cent short of community health centers.²⁴
 - Resultantly the average **cost of treatment** at sub-centers and public health centers in Uttar Pradesh is Rs 660 per person, **more than double the national average** of Rs 312 per person, according to the ministry of statistics report.

²² Clinical, Anthropometric and Bio-chemical (CAB) survey in 2014 as the part of Annual Health Survey.

²³ Sample Registration System- Registrar General of India-2013

²⁴ Rural Health Statistics-2015 data

VII. Symbolic Infrastructure projects coupled with Corruption

Inauguration of the **6 lane highway between Agra to Lucknow** by the present CM is being hailed as a poster project for the 2017 Vidhan Sabha elections. The total cost of the project as quoted by the Principal Secretary, Sehgal is “Rs 9056 crore”. This means per km money being spent in the construction of the road will be **Rs 30 crore** approximately.²⁵

- As per Central Government’s National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), the cost of construction of per kilometer of the 302 km long, six-lane road is **Rs 18 crore** clearing indicating a **gap of “extra” 12 crores that have been spent by the government under the pretext of highway development.**

- A member from the CAG board, Mr. Surya Pratap has recently claimed that if the cost of land acquisition of UP government is added to the figures, the per km cost of the road comes out to be approximately Rs 60-70 crore. **Such a costly road has never been constructed in the entire world.** He was quoted as saying “I am currently trying to understand that what will golden plating the one-kilometer road cost. My team is calculating the figures. I believe that **gold plated road will be cheaper** than this road.”

- Developmental experts have noted that this highway will fetch **very little economic returns to the state** in terms of interlinkages with local industries and economic productivity. Nor is it linked to any economic freight corridor. Considering the amount of investment that has been made- it will be **the most irresponsible dream project built in the history of India.**

- Highway runs precisely through the **political constituency** of the SP government (area around Etawah) **instead of serving lesser developed areas in need of road infrastructure like the Bundelkhand and Poorvanchal, thereby adding to the list of populist measures taken by political governments in the past.**

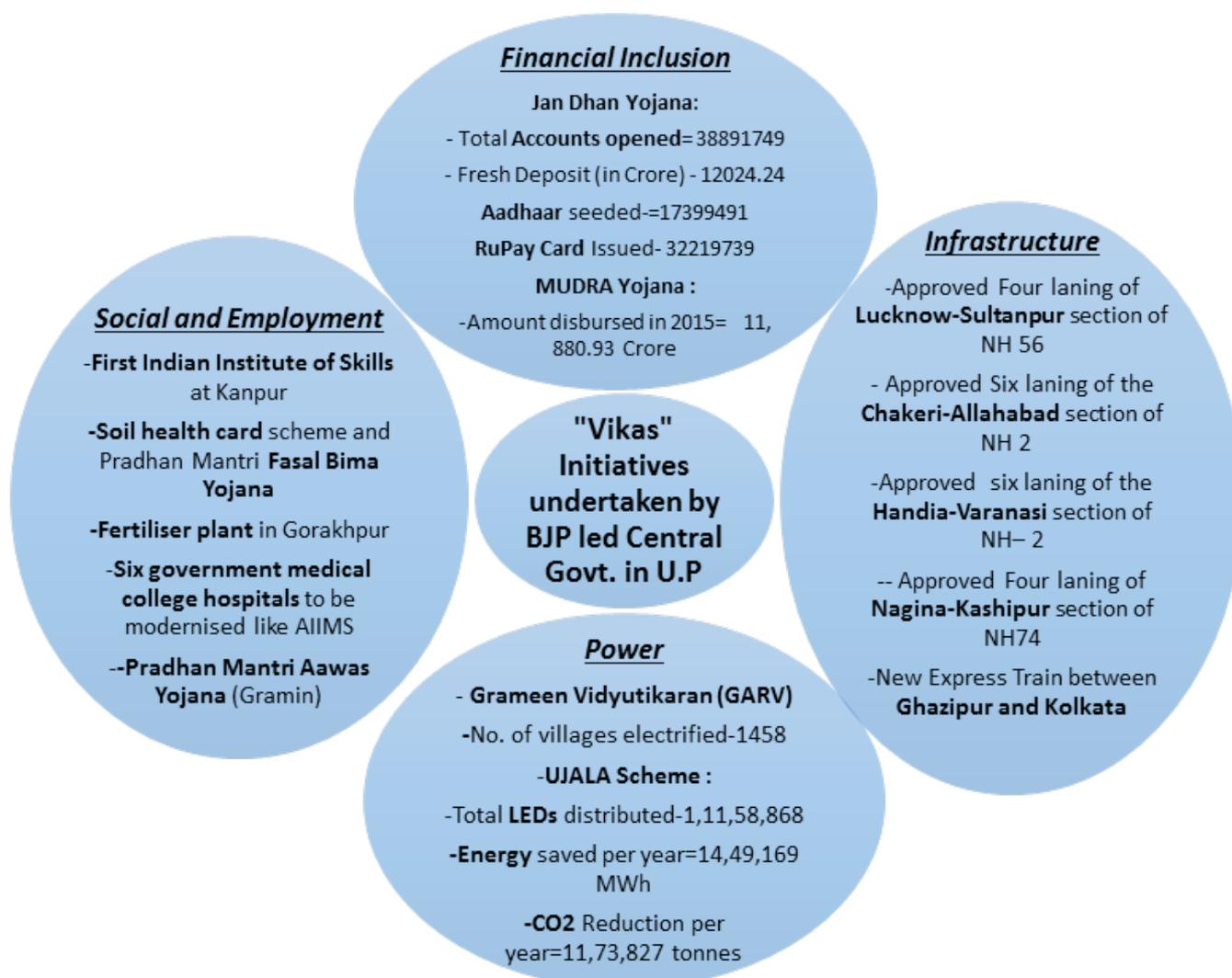
²⁵ Expressway of loot: 'Gold plated road cheaper than Navneet Sehgal's highway', Neha Manchanda, India Samvad, 19 September, 2016

Section 5

Initiatives undertaken by BJP led Central Government in UP over the past 2 ½ years

As a contrast to the dismal performance of the two previous regimes, the new Modi government at the center has already credited itself with the following achievements in Uttar Pradesh within a short span of 2 ½ years. With “Vikas” and “Good Governance” as its Motto, the central government

has given a special focus to U. P’s socio-economic development. Instead of focusing on populist announcements and harping on rhetorical promises, the central government has tangible figures and data (References in the end) to validate the progress it has brought about. **Let us see how:**



Conclusion

Well-functioning **institutions, good governance and strong leadership** are the most important determinants of economic and social development. (Beer & Clower, 2014; Nayyar, 2008). World Bank has already rated U.P (and also Bihar) as the most poorly governed state, earlier. World Bank says that the reasons behind UP's progressive deterioration in governance are fourfold:²⁶

- UP's continuing political instability
- Lack of accountability in administration as well as policy-making.
- Politicization of Administration thus eroding the stability of tenure and undercutting managerial authority
- Poor expenditure for combating poverty in the state.

Thus roots of poor progress on key Vikas (development) indicators lie in the flawed political culture of caste based politics which does not focus on competence based political leadership. Thus winning an election based on Sectarian vote banks becomes an end in itself. This creates such a political scenario where the ruling party once elected, avoids any strong policy actions for good governance, law and order and job creation in favor of identity based politics. Also **internal political war within the ruling SP party** in the recent times has further undermined the confidence of public in

political leadership. As a result of which, the present government has remained dysfunctional with a weak capacity to enforce law and order, regulate and guide the activities of the private sector, and design and implement programmes and projects effectively.

“**Divide and rule**” policy followed by regional parties of UP has generated a “dominant class” which has consistently resisted social and economic change. Which in effect has deepened class wars between amongst the members of the society thus eliminating the scope of “Sabka Vikas Sabke Saath” (collective interest) in Uttar Pradesh.

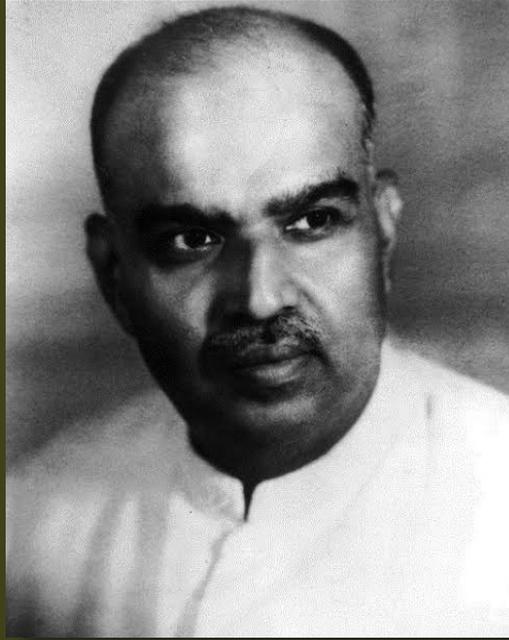
The result, therefore, suggests that increased resource allocation is not the only solution for U.P's multifarious problems. Instead progress in other states like Gujrat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and M.P shows that progress on “**Vikas**” indicators depends on *effective leadership, good governance, ease of doing business and provision of adequate social and physical infrastructure*.

Lack of all the above factors coupled with corruption, poor economic growth, weak infrastructure, law & order crisis and weak leadership have all contributed to the unfortunate reality of U.P where vast human population has continued to live poverty, illiteracy, hunger, unemployment and unsafe environments.

²⁶ World Bank (2002), “India Poverty in India, The Challenges of Uttar Pradesh” Report No.22323-IN, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Sector Unit South Asian Region, May 08, 2002.

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“The gignatic task of reconstruction, cultural, social, economic and political can be rendered possible thought coordinated efforts of bands of trained and disciplined efforts of bands of trained and disciplined Indians. Armed with the knowledge of Indian’s past glory and greatness, her strength and weakness, it is they who can place before their country a programme of work, which while loyal to the fundamental traditions of India civilisation will be adapted to the changing conditions of the modern world.”

-Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
*Convocation Address delivered at Gurukul Kangri
Viswavidyalaya, Haridwar, 1943*



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