

From Local to Global: How Uttar Pradesh's MSMEs Are Powering India's Growth Story



Every discussion about India's economic rise eventually arrives at the same question: **Where will the jobs come from?**

Large industries attract headlines. Billion-dollar investments dominate policy debates. Mega factories often become symbols of economic progress.

Yet, the real strength of India's economy is built far away from boardrooms and stock markets.

It is built in the carpet workshops of Bhadohi, the brass units of Moradabad, the perfume houses of Kannauj, the silk looms of Varanasi, and thousands of micro, small and medium enterprises spread across Uttar Pradesh.

On International MSME Day, Uttar Pradesh offers one of India's most inspiring development stories; one where millions of small enterprises are preserving tradition while driving economic growth.

Today, Uttar Pradesh is home to nearly **96 lakh MSMEs**, the highest number in the country. These enterprises contribute nearly **60% of the state's industrial output**, account for around **46% of its exports**, and provide employment to more than **1.65 crore people**. Their impact extends far beyond economics; they create livelihoods, strengthen local industries and ensure that growth reaches every district.

A Legacy Revived

Uttar Pradesh has always been a land of enterprise. Long before modern industrialisation, its artisans built global reputations for products such as Banarasi silk, Moradabad brassware, Bhadohi carpets, Kannauj perfumes and Lucknow's chikankari.

The skills survived through generations.

What often held these enterprises back was not talent, but limited access to finance, technology, markets and modern infrastructure.

Over the past decade, that gap has steadily narrowed.

Rather than replacing traditional industries, Uttar Pradesh has focused on strengthening them through a more supportive business ecosystem. Initiatives like **One District One Product (ODOP)** have helped district-specific products gain better branding, packaging, quality certification, design support, skill development and access to national and international markets.

Complementing this are reforms that have simplified digital registration, improved access to institutional finance, encouraged technology adoption and promoted entrepreneurship.

As Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** has noted, Uttar Pradesh recognised its traditional industries as one of its greatest strengths and built policies around them. Today, the state has the largest MSME base in India; a reflection of both its entrepreneurial heritage and a stronger enabling ecosystem.

Building an Ecosystem for Growth

Enterprise flourishes when the ecosystem around it is strong.

Over the years, Uttar Pradesh has invested significantly in expressways, industrial corridors, Dedicated Freight Corridors, airports, logistics infrastructure and digital governance. These

improvements have reduced transportation costs, improved connectivity and made it easier for MSMEs to access suppliers, customers and export markets.

For entrepreneurs, better infrastructure means faster deliveries, greater competitiveness and new business opportunities.

Combined with policy reforms and institutional support, these investments have helped create an environment where MSMEs can grow with confidence.

Taking Local Enterprise to Global Markets

Perhaps the strongest evidence of Uttar Pradesh's transformation is its export performance.

The state's exports have increased from around **₹86,000 crore** before 2017 to more than **₹2.01 lakh crore** in FY 2025–26, making Uttar Pradesh the leading exporting state in Northern India and among the top exporters in the country.

Nearly **46% of these exports** come from MSMEs.

This demonstrates how local enterprises, supported by better infrastructure, improved quality standards, branding, market access and logistics, are successfully competing in international markets.

The journey from **Local to Global** is no longer an aspiration—it is becoming the defining identity of Uttar Pradesh's MSME sector.

UP RAMP: Preparing MSMEs for the Future

As markets become increasingly technology-driven and globally competitive, MSMEs need more than financial assistance. They need stronger institutions, better skills, digital capabilities and sustainable business practices.

The **Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (UP RAMP)** Programme is helping address these needs by strengthening the state's MSME ecosystem.

Supported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the Government of India and the World Bank, UP RAMP promotes enterprise competitiveness through technology upgradation, digital transformation, cluster development, skill enhancement, market linkages, institutional strengthening and awareness of ESG and sustainable business practices.

By helping enterprises become more productive, resilient and future-ready, the programme is preparing Uttar Pradesh's MSMEs to compete confidently in both domestic and global markets.

The Road Ahead

India's journey towards **Viksit Bharat 2047** will depend not only on large industries but also on millions of MSMEs that create jobs, strengthen manufacturing, drive exports and encourage innovation.

Uttar Pradesh has shown how entrepreneurial talent, modern infrastructure, responsive governance and programmes like **UP RAMP** can together create an ecosystem where enterprises do more than survive, but they grow, innovate and compete globally.

Today, the state's MSMEs are turning the vision of "**Local to Global**" into reality while contributing to the broader goals of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.

Their products may begin in local workshops.

Their markets are global.

And their success is helping build a stronger, more self-reliant and developed India.