

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Under Yogi, UP is at top spot in law, or order: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, MIRZAPUR, AUGUST 1

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah on Sunday said the Yogi Adityanath-led government has taken Uttar Pradesh to the "top spot" in terms of law and order and claimed that the Opposition parties should be "mentally prepared for another massive defeat" in the Assembly elections due early next year.

Addressing a function after laying the foundation stone of the Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Sciences in Lucknow, Shah said that the state government has done a "great job" by making Uttar Pradesh "top in 44 development schemes".

"In 2017 (Assembly polls), the BJP promised that we will make UP a developed state and also revamp its law and order. Today in 2021, I can say with pride that Yogi Adityanath and his team have taken UP to the top spot in terms of law and order," Shah said.

Calling Adityanath yashasi (glorious) and safal (successful), Shah credited him for effectively implementing development and welfare schemes in the state.

"In every sector, UP, under the leadership of Yogi Adityanath, has done a very good work. The economy of the state grew from Rs 11 lakh crore to Rs 22 lakh crore in four years, and has become number two in the country," he added.

Shah also praised the UP government for its management of the pandemic, and underlined that the maximum number of vaccinations and tests were done in the state.



Home Minister Amit Shah is greeted by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Deputy CM K P Maurya at a function in Lucknow on Sunday. PTI

"Under the leadership of (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji, the BJP governments are working towards public welfare with sensitivity, and UP is ahead of all. I believe that for this transformation, the great public of UP had given an opportunity to the BJP to administer by giving more than 300 seats," he said.

"We had promised that the government will not be for a particular caste or family, it will be for everyone. And, today, I can say that we have moved ahead significantly," Shah said.

Hitting out at the Opposition, Shah said, "They were not seen during the floods or Covid crisis. At the time, when it was needed to waive off the loans of farmers, they were busy in mauj-masti (fun and frolic). They wear new clothes at the time of elections and come out."

Later in the day, Shah visited

Mirzapur where he laid the foundation of Vindhyaachal Corridor Project after performing puja at Maa Vindhyaasini Devi temple. There he accused the previous non-BJP governments of not carrying out development work at Hindu religious places. "I want to ask those who were in power earlier as to why the Ram temple was not constructed? Why was the development of the Braj region not undertaken? Why nothing was done for the development of Chitrakoot where Lord Ram spent over 11 years? Why was the corridor of Maa Vindhyaasini not built?... Because you were afraid of vote-bank politics," he said.

"The BJP does not practise vote-bank politics, hence its government gave a tangible shape to the development of these religious centres," Shah said. —WITHPTIINPUTS

FOR FARMERS

WITH FARMERS up in arms against three contentious farm laws, the government is trying to woo them ahead of the assembly elections in key states next year. One of such move is transfer of the Rs 2,000 crore instalment under PM-KISAN on time. Over 9.5 crore beneficiaries may get their next instalment for August-November soon. It is learnt that the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is preparing to transfer the amount to all beneficiaries at one go on August 9. The last instalment was transferred on May 14 for April-July period.

CONFUSING SIGNALS

BJP RAJYA Sabha MP Suresh Gopi has been giving confusing signals to his party leadership for some time. During the recent assembly elections in Kerala, in which he himself was a BJP candidate, the actor-cum-politician had said that the Congress-led UDF's candidate should win the Guruvayoor seat. His statement had provoked CPI(M) leaders to make allegations about a Congress-BJP secret understanding in the state. In the latest instance, which has annoyed the BJP national leadership, Gopi last week attended a meeting of the standing committee on Information Technology, which was boycotted by other BJP members on the panel. Ahead of the panel meeting, the party had called its members, which he apparently missed. So while other party members boycotted the IT panel meeting, Gopi walked in some time after it had started and sat through the meeting.

LANGUAGE BARRIER

IN ORDER to make their protests against the Pegasus spyware issue more interesting, the opposition parties in Rajya Sabha last week decided to play the national integration card — by shouting the slogans in different languages. But soon they realised they did not have enough to chant slogans in Gujarati, Oriya and Telugu among others. Although the opposition leaders tried to prompt the BJD and YSRCP members, both parties continued to sit on the fence. Even for those who were present, they made some faux pas. When Tamil slogans were raised, many could not pronounce them properly, leading to DMK's T Siva complaining that it sounded contradictory. Siva then requested fellow MPs to first learn the pronunciation before trying it out in the Well of the House.

Doors of SP open to all small parties: Akhilesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LUCKNOW, AUGUST 1

SAMAJWADI PARTY chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday said that the doors of his party are open to all small parties for an alliance ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls next year, and added that he will try that all such political outfits come together to defeat the BJP. He also said that the Congress and the BSP, which have been attacking the SP on various issues, "should decide whether their fight is with BJP or SP".

On possible alliances for the upcoming state polls, the SP president told PTI, "Doors of our party are open for all small parties. Many smaller parties are already with us. More will come with us." In an interview to PTI, he also lashed out at the Centre over the Pegasus spying row. "They (NDA) have over 350 seats in the Lok Sabha. The BJP is ruling in many states. Why and what was the government trying to find through snooping? They are helping videshi taketein (foreign forces) with this act," Yadav said. Asked about his uncle Shivpal Yadav's Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party, which is also preparing to contest the polls on all seats, Yadav said, "We will try that all parties unite to defeat the BJP".

On the "Bhagidari Morcha" led by Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) in which AIMIM leader Ashutoshin Owasai also took part, he said, "There have been no talks with them till now." About caste conferences, including Brahmin Sammelans, organised by BSP and other parties, Akhilesh Yadav said SP is also arranging such meetings. The SP leader also criticised the state government over its handling of the Covid-19 situation during the second wave.

Rlys working towards major turnaround under new minister

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

NEW WORLD class Vande Bharat trains, a new model for station redevelopment with private players, economy of scale in freight business and foray into global market with indigenous technology—these are some of the plans Indian Railways is working on for a major turnaround under new Railways Minister Ashwin Vaishnaw.

Officials said that under Vaishnaw, Railways has overhauled the Vande Bharat project, wherein the new trainsets that come in future will have technical specifications that are an upgrade on the current set of Vande Bharat—both in terms of passenger comfort and ride quality. There have also been talks of eyeing the global market for export. Officials said that India is only the ninth country in the world to make 180-kmph trainsets and at current prices, the Vande Bharat trainsets are cheaper than their global counterparts.

The ambitious station redevelopment project in partnership with private players is also being recast. The Model Concession Agreement for it might be redone with a view to make them more attractive for private players as well as for Railways, sources said. While only two players have come forward in the first ever tender to run private passenger trains, it has also been decided to overhaul the model completely for better success.

Asked Shah for central team to assess flood damage, says Bommai

RALPH ALEX ARAKAL BENGALURU, AUGUST 1

KARNATAKA CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said he has requested Home Minister Amit Shah to designate a central team to assess damage inflicted by floods in at least 13 districts. He said this after a review of the situation across the state.

Bommai then left for Delhi to hold consultations with the BJP central leadership on expansion of his cabinet, PTI reported. "Most probably there is a meeting tomorrow. I will meet our party president J P Nadda," he said.

Despite the rain receding over the last few days, the flood situation in Krishna basin districts has remained grim, with villages and agricultural land remaining inundated due to heavy discharge from reservoirs and swollen rivers.

According to a preliminary loss and damage report submitted by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, 1,134 houses have been completely damaged, while 7,547 have suffered partial damage.

The CM clarified that compensation of Rs 5 lakh for loss of house, Rs 3 lakh for partial damage, and Rs 50,000 for minor damages will continue to be released.

As many as 464 relief camps have been opened, housing 1,22,803 people. Belagavi continues to be the worst hit with 230 such camps operating.

In Delhi, former Manipur Congress chief joins BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

FORMER MANIPUR Congress chief and six-time MLA Govindas Konthoujam on Sunday joined the BJP at the party's headquarters in New Delhi.

Konthoujam, who resigned from the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee president's post last month, was handed over BJP membership by Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh at the party headquarters

Table with financial data: Financial Year, Profit (Standalone), Dividend, etc.

New hotline set up in Sikkim between Indian Army, PLA

UP: BSP MLA Sukhdev Raibhar retires from politics, son joins SP

Lucknow: In a blow to the BSP, five-time MLA and former Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Sukhdev Raibhar has announced his retirement from politics, and announced that his son would follow the leadership of SP president Akhilesh Yadav.

In a letter on Saturday, Raibhar said the Bahujan movement was weakening. "As you all know, I have been an active member of the BSP since the beginning... In today's changing time, I feel the voice of the oppressed, marginalised, Dalits and Backwards is being suppressed by the government. In these circumstances, the Bahujan movement is getting weak," wrote the 75-year-old.

His son Kamalant told The Indian Express, "He had several problems with the BSP. The old guard, which struggled with Babuji, is being neglected... Hence, I sought permission to join the SP, and he agreed." ENS

These hotlines in various sectors go a long way in enhancing the same and maintaining peace and tranquility at the borders," it said.

The statement said the inauguration was attended by ground commanders from both sides and a "message of friendship and harmony was exchanged through the hotline".

Such hotlines have been helpful in keeping things largely under control in eastern Ladakh, where the two armies are involved in the standoff. Nearly 1,500 messages have been shared at the two hotlines in eastern Ladakh, at Chushul and Daulat Beg Oldie, since the standoff began in May 2020.

The new hotline comes a day after the two sides held the 12th round of Corps Commander-level talks on the Chinese side of the Chushul-Moldo Border Personnel Meeting point on Saturday.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

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Table with columns: Name, Address and occupations of Directors, E. Names, addresses and occupations of Directors

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The above text of advertisement has been issued on the authority and in the name of the Board of Directors and has been approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting held on 20 July 2021 and copy of the same signed by Shri Rajeev Jain, Managing Director, who is authorized by the Board to sign on its behalf, has been delivered to the Reserve Bank of India for registration.