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Adopt constructive approach, shun trade union methods: CM

Lays emphasis on dialogue over confrontation while pressing their demands

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
Gorakhpur

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday asked Shiksha Mitras to adopt a positive and constructive approach and abandon trade union-style thinking and negative attitudes. He emphasised dialogue over confrontation while pressing their demands.

Addressing a felicitation ceremony organised in the honour of Shiksha Mitras in Gorakhpur, Chief Minister Yogi said that while their concerns were genuine, the approach needed to be constructive. He said, "If teachers or Shiksha Mitras remain fixated only on demands and carry a negative mindset, they will not only weaken the foundation of children but also harm society and the nation." "For years, you had demands, but instead of allowing them to progress naturally, they were often pursued through confrontation. We must move towards resolution through dialogue," he said. The Siksha Mitra Samman Samaroh was held to mark the increase in honorarium, from Rs 10,000 to Rs 18,000 per month, of all 1.43 lakh Siksha Mitras working in the primary schools run by the Basic Education Department in the state.

. Chief Minister Yogi criticised the governments that ruled before 2017 for making "irregular and unlawful" attempts to recognise Shiksha Mitras as assistant teachers without adhering to rules and regulations.

Due to this mistake, the Supreme Court ordered the termination of services of all Shiksha Mitras, creating a major challenge before the government, he pointed out.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attends the Shiksha Mitra Samman Samaroh in Gorakhpur. PTI

"We faced a serious challenge as nearly 1.5 lakh families were at risk of losing their livelihood. Many Shiksha Mitras had served for 18-19 years. At that stage in life, where would they go?" he said. The chief minister said his government decided against terminating their services and instead raised their honorarium significantly.

"In 2017 itself, the government increased the honorarium of Shiksha Mitras from Rs 3,500 to Rs 10,000. Now it has been further enhanced to Rs 18,000 per month, which has also been implemented from April onwards,:" he pointed out. "All Shiksha Mitras will be provided annual cashless health coverage of Rs 5 lakh. Those who may have been left out will also receive this facility. Instructions have been issued to the Basic Education Council to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are covered immediately," he said, adding that a grand ceremony will soon be organized to distribute the health cards to everyone."

The chief minister said the Basic Education Council had been instructed to ensure that bank accounts of all Shiksha Mitras were opened immediately so that honorarium payments couls be transferred directly into their accounts. He pointed out that the government has also arranged postings for Shiksha Mitras within their districts and nearby schools. In particular, married women Shiksha Mitras will be provided the facility of mutual transfers to schools near their parental or marital homes, he added.

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The chief minister urged Shiksha Mitras to intensify the 'School Chalo' campaign as soon as schools reopen in the first week of July. "Every child must reach school," he said.

He advised teachers to arrive half an hour early and visit at least 25 households to interact with parents. He emphasised teaching children with affection and never resorting to physical punishment. "Teachers should inspire children through good stories, poems and examples. Parents should also be made aware of the proper use of uniforms, sweaters and other facilities provided to students," he added.

Protection of dev works also citizens' responsibility: Yogi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
Gorakhpur

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said that along with the rapidly progressing country and state, Gorakhpur was also moving ahead with fast development.

"After 2017, an extensive chain of development has been created in Gorakhpur. To ensure that the benefits of enhanced facilities due to development continue for a long time, citizens must also take responsibility for the protection of development works," he said.

Chief Minister Yogi was addressing the inauguration of the two-lane bridge built over the water body in the Taramandal area on Tuesday afternoon.

He inaugurated the bridge by cutting the ribbon and unveiling the plaque, dedicating this bridge built at a cost of Rs 14.33 crore to the public.

After inspecting the bridge, while addressing the programme, the chief minister discussed the transformation brought by development in Gorakhpur and said that before 2017, the image of Gorakhpur was associated with insecurity.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the inauguration of the two-lane bridge in Taramandal, Gorakhpur. PTI

"People were troubled by mafia and mosquitoes. People used to fear hearing the name of Gorakhpur. No one came to invest here," he said.

He added, the youth here struggled for identity, had to wander for jobs, and even had to hide their identity.

"But now, there is no need to wander or hide identity. At present, more than 50,000 youth have got jobs and employment through industries in GIDA alone,|" he pointed out.

The chief minister said, "Today whoever comes to Gorakhpur feels amazed and delighted seeing the changes here. There is four-lane and six-lane connectivity in all directions. AIIMS has been established here. The fertiliser plant and the sugar mill in Pipraich have started functioning again. Excellent educational institutions, AYUSH University, zoo, the excellent tourist destination Ramgarh Tal, several hotels and many other facilities have expanded."

He added, the development of Gorakhpur is the result of work done with a spirit of community and it is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that no one damages development works and facilities.

Chief Minister Yogi said, "About 20 years ago, people did not dare to live in the Taramandal area. After the flood of 1998, people were leaving this area. On one side there was the filth of Ramgarh Tal and on the other side there was a lack of basic facilities. But today, due to development, land in this area has become the most expensive. With the construction of the two-lane bridge over the water body, internal connectivity in the entire area will become stronger. As a symbol of prosperity, this area is now considered the most posh colony." He added that Ramgarh Tal has become a major centre of tourism, and directed officials to develop the water body, like Ramgarh Tal, including boating and recreational facilities for families and children.

MP Ravi Kishan praised the chief minister's leadership and said Gorakhpur had become a model of planned urban development.

During the inspection, Yogi also interacted with labourers involved in the construction of the bridge and posed for photographs with them.

Green 'Bada Mangal' push gathers pace in Lucknow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Lucknow

Faith, food and a growing environmental consciousness came together in Uttar Pradesh's capital on Tuesday as the first *'Bada Mangal'* saw nearly five hundred community feasts organised across the city, with authorities and citizens jointly pushing for eco-friendly celebrations.

According to the Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC), as many as 470 bhandaras (community feasts) were pre-registered this year, with arrangements made for waste segregation at each site and water supply ensured through 79 tankers across the city. Those unregistered could be way more, according to officials.

Observed on Tuesdays of Hindu calendar month of *Jyeshtha* and dedicated to Lord Hanuman, *'Bada Mangal'* is marked in Lucknow and surrounding areas with large-scale distribution of food. While traditional offerings such as *puri-sabzi*, *'sharbat'* and *boondi* continued to dominate, organisers in recent years have expanded menus to include items like kadhi-chawal, chhole-chawal, sweets, sharbat and even paneer dishes.

From Hazratganj and Aliganj to Gomti Nagar, Indiranagar, Vikas Nagar, Chowk, Rajajipuram, Alambagh and Charbagh, thousands of devotees thronged these 'bhandaras' through the day. In some locations, organisers also served kulfi and ice cream, reflecting the evolving scale and variety of the celebrations.

Amid the festive atmosphere, a parallel emphasis on sustainability was visible. The civic body ran a "zero waste bhandara" campaign, urging organisers to avoid single-use plastic and adopt eco-friendly alternatives such as leaf plates and earthen cups.

"Special arrangements were made at all 470 registered sites for wet and dry waste segregation, and awareness drives were conducted to promote cleanliness and environmental protection," a senior municipal official said, adding that sanitation teams were deployed across all eight zones to ensure post-event cleanliness.

Municipal Commissioner Gaurav Kumar directed officials to maintain strict monitoring and appealed to residents to register upcoming bhandaras through the civic helpline or mobile application to facilitate better management.

Adding momentum to the campaign, environmental activist popularly known as 'Water Woman' Shipra Pathak distributed around 55,000 eco-friendly leaf plates across key venues, including Hanuman temples and public spaces.

"Plastic plates used in such large gatherings end up polluting drains and rivers like the Gomti. If we do not act now, future generations will suffer," Pathak said, urging organisers to switch to biodegradable alternatives.

She said her organisation would continue the initiative every Tuesday and appealed to social groups and citizens to join the effort to make Lucknow plastic-free.

Earlier, Uttar Pradesh Minister of State for Social Welfare (Independent Charge) Asim Arun had also appealed for a "clean, plastic-free and green Bada Mangal", linking devotional service with civic responsibility.

"When we serve devotees, it is equally our duty to protect the environment. Service and cleanliness go hand in hand," Arun said, calling on organisers to stop using plastic and thermocol items and ensure proper waste disposal at feast sites.

He added, "Bada Mangal reflects Lucknow's unique culture of harmony and service. Let us celebrate it in a way that also safeguards our environment."

Officials said feedback was also being collected under the Swachh Survekshan initiative, while awareness messages were broadcast through sanitation vehicles across the city.

Boy killed in leopard attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Lakhimpur Kheri

A 14-year-old boy died following an attack by a large cat, described by villagers as a leopard, while he was cutting fodder for his cattle along the Sharda river in Ramnagar Kalan, officials said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on Monday evening while Sandip Kumar of Ramnagar Kala village under Bhira police limits, was injured by the animal and rushed to the neighbouring Bijua community health centre, where he died during treatment.