

States Focus



NAIDU DIRECTS OFFICIALS TO LEVERAGE AI, DATA INTEGRATION

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday directed officials to make online Government services more convenient by leveraging technologies including AI. During an RTGS review meeting at secretariat, the chief minister enquired with officials about the performance and progress of various departments and directed all departments to improve their efficiency and work towards providing quality services. "We should leverage technologies such as AI Assistant, Digi Verify, Data Lake to make online Government services more convenient and ensure that people can access services without having to visit Government offices," Naidu said.
 (PTI)



J&K CM OMAR REVIEWS PLAN TO UPGRADE 714 HIGH SCHOOLS

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday reviewed a comprehensive roadmap to strengthen access to senior secondary education and improve the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the higher secondary level in the Union Territory. Abdullah chaired a meeting of the School Education Department during which a phased plan to upgrade 714 high schools into K-12 composite schools was discussed, an official spokesperson said. The plan focuses on requirements of teaching and non-teaching staff, infrastructure, laboratories and other essential facilities, he said. Other senior officers of the School Education Department were also present.
 (PTI)

3 Bambiha gang fugitives deported from Malaysia

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

India has advanced in its efforts to combat organised crime and transnational gangs. On Monday, the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, announced that three members of the Bambiha Gang had been deported from Malaysia. Jaspreet Singh, Ajay Singh and Pawandeep Singh were apprehended with the assistance of Indian agencies, returned to India and then handed over to the Punjab Police.

The Pioneer was the first to report the repatriation of three gangsters from the Bambiha Gang in its August 20th edition, titled "Punjab Police nets three key Bambiha gang operatives in major deportation from Malaysia".

The three men were wanted for serious crimes such as extortion, arms smuggling, drug trafficking, and a failed grenade attack in Ludhiana. Their arrest is another step in breaking up gang networks that organise crimes in India from other countries.

The Home Minister's office tweeted that "Indian authorities have caught three absconding Indian gangsters in Malaysia, deported them to India and handed them over to the police" and also stated that "under Modi Ji's vision of a safe and secure India, our agencies have arranged for the deportation of 51 hardened criminals in 2026 alone".

This success comes from stronger diplomatic and intelligence cooperation with other countries, especially



in Southeast Asia. In recent years, many members of India's underworld have tried to escape justice. The Bambiha Gang has been connected to violent extortion, drug cartels, and arms trafficking routes that cross the India-Pakistan border and other regions.

Law enforcement agencies say these groups use other

countries as safe havens and run their operations through encrypted messages, staying out of reach of Indian police. Tracking and deporting Jaspreet Singh, Ajay Singh, and Pawandeep Singh show that real-time intelligence sharing and cross-border cooperation are now working more effectively.

People involved in the

operation said the three men still threaten public safety in Punjab and nearby areas. Their attempt at a grenade attack in Ludhiana has raised concerns about the gang's willingness to use more violence. Now that they are back, investigators can question them closely, which may uncover new details about other associates and financial networks still operating from abroad.

The Union Government's current efforts focus on bringing fugitives to justice, making it harder for gangsters and terrorists to avoid prosecution abroad. Deporting 51 people in 2026 alone shows these efforts have grown, thanks to diplomatic pressure, legal extradition, and coordinated deportations that follow local immigration laws. These measures

deter criminal activity and indicate that going abroad does not guarantee safety.

Since some areas in Punjab have been affected by gang violence and drug trafficking, the return of these three men is likely to bring some relief. While the accused go through the legal process, the public will keep an eye on the evidence already gathered as well as any new information the men may provide.

Home Minister Amit Shah's statement shows the Government's commitment to finding anyone who threatens India's security, wherever they are. The teamwork between Indian and Malaysian authorities demonstrates that international cooperation can yield tangible results in combating organised crime across borders.

Assam CM Himanta meets Amit Shah, discusses flood response, rehabilitation

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday evening met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the national Capital and briefed him on the flood situation in Assam and the damage caused by the recent floods, besides discussing several other important matters concerning the State.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister apprised the Union Home Minister of the scale of the damage and the steps being taken by the state government for relief, rehabilitation and restoration.

Shah acknowledged the scale of the flood damage and assured the Assam Government of the Government of India's unequivocal support for rehabilitation and restoration



efforts in the affected areas.

The Chief Minister said the Union Home Minister had remained in constant touch

with the state Government throughout the floods.

Taking to X after the meeting, Sarma said, "Today

in New Delhi, I had the privilege of meeting Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji and briefing him on the #AssamFloodResponse, along with several other important matters concerning Assam."

"Throughout the #AssamFloods, he remained in constant touch with us. In today's meeting too, he acknowledged the scale of damage caused by the floods. He assured the Government of India's unequivocal support for rehabilitation and restoration," the Chief Minister said.

Sarma further said he came away from every meeting with Shah "enriched by his meticulous attention to detail, and his unwavering commitment to a secure and stable Assam".

"Grateful, as always, for his guidance and steadfast support," the Chief Minister added.

BJP hits back at Congress over space sector reforms

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The BJP on Monday hit back at the Congress for accusing the Modi Government of pursuing an "aggressive privatisation agenda" in the space sector, asserting that India's space programme has expanded from a predominantly Government-led initiative into a growing ecosystem comprising ISRO, private industry and hundreds of startups.

The remarks came after Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh accused the Government of "strangling and emasculating" the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and pursuing an aggres-

sive privatisation agenda for the space programme just as it has for nuclear energy.

Ramesh claimed recent reports about ISRO's future role in India's space programme raised "legitimate concerns", given the capabilities built by the organisation over six decades.

Responding to the Congress leader, BJP national spokesperson and national media co-in-charge Pradeep Bhandari said opening up the space sector has enabled private companies and startups to move from being suppliers to developers of rockets, satellites and complete space systems.

"From a largely government-driven programme to



BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari

an emerging national space ecosystem. That is not the weakening of ISRO's legacy. It is the expansion of India's space ambition," Bhandari said in a post on social media.

Citing data, he said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the space sector has expanded signifi-

cantly, with the number of foreign satellites launched by ISRO rising from 35 before 2014 to 399 by January 2026.

The number of space startups, he added, has risen from one in 2014 to around 440 by August 2026, while private investment in the sector increased from \$100.5

million in 2021-22 to \$618.5 million by March 2026.

Bhandari also highlighted the increase in revenue of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), from ₹321.77 crore in 2021-22 to around ₹3,000 crore in 2024-25.

He cited the Chandrayaan-3 mission's soft landing near the Moon's south polar region and the development of launch vehicles such as LVM3 and SSLV as other milestones in India's space programme.

He cited Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 reaching orbit in July 2026 as an example of the growing role of private players in the sector.

"Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 reaching orbit in July

2026 as India's first privately developed orbital rocket to do so is a powerful example of this new era. ISRO gave India a formidable technological foundation over decades. The Modi Government's reforms have sought to build on that legacy by enabling ISRO, private industry, startups and investment to grow together," he added.

Bhandari said the expansion of the space sector is "not the weakening of ISRO's legacy" but an expansion of India's space ambitions.

"Jairam ji, I understand your frustration with India's remarkable journey in space. But the numbers tell a story that is difficult to ignore," he said.

US envoy visits Tata-Lockheed plant

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The production in India of critical structures for the C-130J military transport aircraft is a strong example of the growing defence cooperation between the US and India, and such efforts are set to advance the shared vision for a free and secure Indo-Pacific, US Ambassador Sergio Gor said on Monday. The envoy made the remarks after visiting the Tata-Lockheed Martin Aerostructures Ltd's manufacturing facility in Hyderabad.

Established in 2010, the joint venture focuses on complementing India's 'Make in India' objectives and has the distinction of being the single global source of C-130J empennage assemblies included on all new Super Hercules aircraft produced in the US.

The Tata Advanced Systems and Lockheed Martin joint venture is now eyeing to address India's requirement of around 80 Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) under a multi-billion dollar procurement programme.

Lockheed Martin's C-130J, Embraer Defence and Security's C-390 Millennium and Airbus Defence and Space's A-400M aircraft have emerged as top contenders for the mega contract. The IAF is currently operating 12



C-130J aircraft.

During the visit, Ambassador Gor toured the production line that manufactures empennages for the C-130J Super Hercules. "The decades-long economic partnership between the United States and India continues to grow stronger through innovation, shared security interests and economic cooperation," Gor said.

"The production in India of critical structures for the C-130J, a platform operated by both our nations, is a strong example of the growing industrial and defence cooperation between the US and India. Partnerships like these support high-skilled jobs, strengthen resilient supply chains, and advance our shared vision for a free, open and secure Indo-Pacific," he said.

Gor's reference to the Indo-Pacific comes amid rising global concerns over China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the region.

Sukaran Singh, Chief

Executive Officer and Managing Director of Tata Advanced Systems Limited, said: "Tata Advanced Systems' partnership with Lockheed Martin has proven over time to supply world-class aerostructures for their key programmes including the C-130J."

"This partnership has now extended to MRO, which will be operational soon. Additionally, both parties are expanding cooperation on full platforms for Make in India, should we get the opportunity."

The Tata Advanced Systems' MRO opening is planned for December this year, with aircraft arrival slated for Spring 2027. Trish Pagan, vice president of Air Mobility and Maritime Missions at Lockheed Martin, said: "Through our collaboration with Indian industry, we have established world-class aerospace manufacturing capabilities that directly support the global network of C-130J operators."

Opposition, Adhikari lock horns on JU face-off in West Bengal

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Kolkata

The Bengal Opposition parties have strongly criticised Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari for "taking sides" and not taking action against the ABVP students for vandalism and assault on the students during a midnight raid inside the elite Jadavpur University campus last week.

Trinamool Congress leader Kunal Ghosh said that "if the Chief Minister thinks that the JU students and not those belonging to the ABVP were guilty, he should immediately take steps without... but if the story is different then also he should act neutrally."

Srijan Bhattacharya, a national-level leader of SFI, the students' arm of the

CPI(M), too on Monday attacked Adhikari for "taking sides" of the ABVP goons, asking whether he would use the "anti-goonda" laws that his Government had recently enacted. The law, which was passed in the State Assembly, was, however, awaiting the presidential assent.

Bhattacharya also objected to the composition of the enquiry committee, saying the Chairman of the committee had a controversial past.

Clashes took place between two groups both inside and outside the campus on last Wednesday and Thursday, leaving several persons injured. Despite CCTV footage, the police have till Sunday, failed



to arrest anyone.

The Chief Minister, however, remained firm on his stance, saying he would "not allow any kind of anti-national activities inside the campus."

Accusing the "anti-national elements: inside the campus for the recent clashes inside the University, he said he would not allow

anything inside the campus that was against "Rastrabad" (nationalism).

"A lot of anti-national activities are going on inside the campus... but we will not allow this... we will ensure that nationalism thrives both inside and outside Jadavpur (campus)," Adhikari said warning those "who are crying for the JU on social

Reservation a constitutional right, cannot be scrapped: Chirag

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief and Union Minister Chirag Paswan on Monday said caste-based reservation cannot be scrapped as it is a constitutional right, even as the Opposition alleged that the ruling party was seeking to amend the Constitution to end quotas.

"These people see politics in everything. After all, aren't the Sangh, the BJP, and our party all part of the NDA? Is reservation something that can be abolished just because someone says so? It is a constitutional right," Paswan told reporters on the sidelines of a national conclave.

Reservation, he said, is not "charity handed out to anyone" but a constitution-



al right that "no power on earth can ever abolish". Those who speak of scrap-

ping it under the garb of "review" or "reform", he added, "likely do not even understand why reservation is necessary."

Referring to the treatment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Paswan said people still casually question why they need reservation, even as caste-based discrimination continues in society. He cited the recent controversy over

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, asking pointedly whether the stage was "purified" after he left it.

He also pointed to instances where Dalit grooms are stopped from taking out wedding processions, and where temple premises are washed with "Gangajal" after visits by prominent leaders, as evidence that untouchability persists.

VISION INDIA

FAIR REPORT | 04

BEFORE LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS, AAKYA-RAJVI MEETING CHANGES POLITICAL EQUATIONS IN BJP

Aakya called Rajvi his elder brother and guardian, said they will contest elections together under the leadership of MP CP Joshi, Rajvi and the organisation; targeted Jadawat with strong allegations

■ FAIR REPORT
CHITTORGARH

Before the local body elections, the political situation in Chittorgarh appears to be changing for the BJP. After the Assembly elections, there were reports of differences between former MLA Narpat Singh Rajvi and Independent MLA Chandrabhan Singh Aakya. Their meeting has now started a new discussion in political circles. After the meeting,



Aakya called Rajvi his elder brother and 'guardian'. He clearly indicated that BJP leaders and workers would leave their differences behind and contest the upcoming elections together with the organisation. Aakya said that MP CP Joshi, Narpat Singh Rajvi, the BJP district president and the entire BJP team would contest the Mu-

nicipal Council, Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad elections together. He said that the organisation has the right to distribute tickets, and all workers and leaders would support the candidate chosen by the organisation. He also said that it is not wrong to hope for a ticket, but it is not possible to give tickets to every aspirant. The organisation

would give responsibility after considering the ability of workers and their chances of winning the election. When asked about Rajvi's previous work and role, Aakya did not make any direct comment. He said that Rajvi is a senior leader and it would not be proper to comment on him. Aakya said that he had worked under Rajvi's leadership earlier and would continue to work with him in the future. Bassi Mandal president Bhanwar Singh Khariyawdi and Pradeep Kabra were also present at the meeting.

Allegations of corruption and extortion against Jadawat

Aakya strongly attacked former Congress MLA

Priority to general category candidates on general seats

Regarding ticket distribution in the local body elections, Aakya said that the party would give priority to candidates who could win. He said that candidates from the general category would be given priority on general seats. However, he also made it clear that if a candidate from another category was stronger and had better chances of winning, the organisation could also consider that candidate. The final decision would be taken by the organisation. When asked about the 2028 Assembly elections, Aakya said that he would contest if the party gave him the opportunity. However, his current priority was to form BJP boards in the Municipal Council, Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad. He said that the BJP would contest the elections together under the leadership of MP CP Joshi, Narpat Singh Rajvi, the district president and senior leaders. The meeting between Rajvi and Aakya, along with their statements after the meeting, is being seen as a message of unity in the BJP before the local body elections. At the same time, Aakya's direct attack on former Congress MLA Surendra Singh Jadawat indicates that the political contest in Chittorgarh may become more aggressive in the upcoming local body elections.

Surendra Singh Jadawat while replying to his statements. He said that before talking about development, Jadawat should present the account of his own tenure

before the people. Referring to several development works carried out during the BJP government, including the four-lane road, hospital, medical college, PHED pro-

jects and riverfront, Aakya said that the BJP had focused on development and the city's infrastructure. Aakya also accused Jadawat's tenure of corruption, loot, ex-

tortion and hooliganism. He claimed that money was collected through agents in the UIT and Municipal Council, and cases of land grabbing had also come to light. Aakya said that the people of the city were aware of the situation during that period. Aakya mentioned the incident of assault involving Congress district president Pramod Sisodia and hit back at Jadawat. He said that before questioning the BJP, Congress leaders should look at their own record. Aakya said that if there was any example of agents sitting in government offices and collecting money during the BJP government, it should be brought before the public.

National Sports Competition Begins at Sainik School Chittorgarh, 325 Cadets to Compete

Three-day event includes athletics, volleyball and basketball; quiz and debate competitions will also be held

■ FAIR REPORT
CHITTORGARH

The Group Level All India Sainik Schools National Sports Competition began at Sainik School Chittorgarh on Monday. Regional Transport Officer Chittorgarh Nemi Chand Pareek was the Chief Guest and Colonel Anil Dev Singh Jasrotia was the Special Guest. The guests took the salute of the march past and started the competition by lighting the sports

torch. The march past was led by School Vice Captain Cadet Karan Jhorad. He also administered the sports oath to all the players. School Vice Principal Lieutenant Colonel Isha Thakral, Senior Master Omkar Singh and Competition Coordinator Manjeet Singh welcomed the guests. A total of 325 participants, including 132 girls, from 10 Sainik Schools of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are taking part in the competition. Sainik Schools Rewa, Mainpuri, Amethi, Chittorgarh, Mathura, Govind Nagar, Prayagraj, Azamgarh, Mandsaur and Jodhpur

are participating. During the three-day event, competitions in athletics, volleyball and basketball will be held. Quiz and debate competitions will also be organised to test the students' knowledge, reasoning skills, communication and understanding of current affairs. The Chief Guest said that sports not only keep the body healthy and strong but also teach discipline, leadership, team spirit, confidence, patience and the ability to face challenges. He said these qualities are very important for Sainik School cadets, as many of them may take responsibility

for the country's defence and nation building in the future. The competition started with the Sub-Junior Girls 100-metre race. Cadet Bhanvi of Sainik School Mathura stood first, Cadet Chamrathi Stuti of Sainik School Rewa stood second and Cadet Madhavi of Sainik School Amethi stood third. In the Sub-Junior Girls 200-metre race, Cadet Rudrakshi of Sainik School Rewa secured first place, Cadet Shravani of Sainik School Mainpuri secured second place and Cadet Parkshi Gupta of Sainik School Mathura secured third place.

Be Careful If You Get a Link to Check Your Name in the Voter List, Your Bank Account Could Be Empty With One Click

Cyber fraudsters may target voters, candidates and election staff before local body elections; fake links, OTPs, QR codes and fake videos may be used for fraud

■ FAIR REPORT
CHITTORGARH

Cyber fraudsters may target voters, election candidates, political workers and election staff during the upcoming local body and Panchayati Raj elections. Rajasthan Police has issued an advisory to protect people from cyber fraud and fake information. Chittorgarh Police has also appealed to people to be careful with election-related messages, links, OTPs and QR codes.

Cyber fraudsters may send WhatsApp or SMS messages such as 'Check Your Name in the Voter List', 'Your Polling Booth Has Changed' or 'Update Your Voter Card' with fake links. Clicking on such links can put personal and banking information at risk. Police advised voters to use only the official websites of the State Election Commission, Rajasthan and CEO Rajasthan for election-related information. Fraudsters may also call people by pretending to be election officers and ask for OTP, bank details, UPI PIN or other personal information in the name of voter card verification or updating. Police

said never share OTP or UPI PIN with anyone. Candidates and political workers have also been warned about UPI links and QR codes sent in the name of election donations or fund raising. Police said that a UPI PIN is never required to receive money. Check the transaction details before scanning any QR code or entering a PIN. Fake videos, audio clips, speeches and deepfake content using the names of political leaders may also be circulated during elections. Police advised people not to believe or forward such content without checking it through an official source. Candidates and political

workers have been advised to activate Two-Step Verification (2FA) on Facebook, Instagram, X and WhatsApp. They should use strong passwords and never share login details through unknown links. Admins of election-related WhatsApp groups have also been advised to allow only trusted members to post messages. The 'Only Admins' option can be used to reduce the spread of fake or objectionable content. Election staff should not share sensitive election data or EVM/VVPAT-related information through personal devices, unsafe networks or Public Wi-Fi. Unknown election-related emails, links or attachments should not be opened without verification.



Children look on at a Pookalam, floral rangoli, at the Kerala State Council for Child Welfare as part of Onam celebrations ahead of Onam festival in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on Monday

Fadnavis steps in as Marathi drive protest sparks panic

■ FAIR REPORT
Mumbai

Widespread fear amongst autorickshaw and taxi drivers over rumoured steep fines linked to a state government Marathi proficiency drive erupted into street protests in parts of Mumbai on Monday, forcing Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to step in and address the panic.

During protests, some drivers tried to prevent other members from transporting passengers, inconveniencing common people in the morning hours.

Some videos circulating on social media showed demonstrations being organised in suburban Kandivali,



Malad (West), Santacruz, Dahisar, Andheri and a few other locations.

A senior regional transport official at the Borivali RTO said they learnt that someone had spread misinformation among drivers that they would be fined ₹5,000 to ₹20,000 for not having working knowledge of Marathi.

ED raids nine locations in ₹9.63 cr bogus ITC case

■ FAIR REPORT
New Delhi/Lucknow

On Monday, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out a series of synchronised searches at several locations in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana as part of an inquiry into a major Goods and Services Tax (GST) fraud involving the false claim of input tax credit. The officials stated that teams from the central agency seized nine premises in Muzaffarnagar and Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, as well as further sites in Faridabad, Haryana.

The searches were conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and focused on alleged irregularities involving Jambudwip Exports and Imports. Investigators say the company is accused of creating and using fake input tax credits through forged invoices and e-way bills. These documents were reportedly generated without any actual movement of goods, allowing the company and its partners to claim tax benefits illegally.

GST authorities earlier estimated the fraudulent input tax credit at Rs 9.63 crore, which officials say is a direct loss to the Government. The Enforcement Directorate began its investigation after the tax department's findings, turning the GST offence into a money-laundering case. The company is accused of



engaging in circular transactions, moving funds through layers, and making repeated cash withdrawals through fake or non-existent companies. Investigators say these tactics are often used to hide the source of illegal money and bring it into the formal economy.

The searches aimed to track the flow of money, find more people involved in the alleged fraud, and collect both paper and digital evidence to understand the full extent of the fake input tax credit network. Officials said the operation could lead to more information about other companies or individuals who may have been part of or benefited from the scheme.

Despite several attempts, we were unable to get a reply from Jambudwip Exports and Import. The company did not respond to requests for comment

while this report was being filed, and it has not issued any public statement about the ED's actions. This case highlights ongoing efforts by tax and enforcement agencies to curb input tax credit fraud, a long-standing issue in the GST system. Fake invoices and trading companies have often been used to claim refunds or reduce tax bills without any real business activity.

The ED's action under the Prevention of Money Laundering (PMLA) Act aims to recover the quantified loss and investigate whether the proceeds were used for further layering or investment. The officials stressed that the raids are part of a wider strategy to dismantle organised networks that exploit flaws in the invoice-matching and e-way bill verification systems.

The digital records collected during the searches will be forensically analysed to trace the transactions and find the final beneficiaries. The investigation is ongoing. The ED is expected to review bank accounts, property records, and communications linked to the company and its associates.

Offences relating to the GST, especially in cases where there is a significant loss of revenue and where sophisticated methods of diverting funds are involved. The authorities say that these measures serve as a deterrent and safeguard the integrity of the tax system.

Adityanath slams Akhilesh over dynastic politics remark

■ FAIR REPORT
Raebareli (UP)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath criticised Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday over his recent remark that

"dynastic politics" had helped keep the SP united. The chief minister said the SP believed that only its 'family syndicate' should be respected. Addressing a gathering,

Adityanath said Akhilesh's remarks showed that the party considered other MPs worthless and believed that only members of one family could become its MPs.

"Congress believes that only Congress should be honoured, while the Samajwadi Party (SP) believes that only its 'family syndicate' should be respected," he said.



Adityanath said this 'family syndicate' is such that any goon in your town, area, district or state finds himself

ideologically close to the SP. "Their work is to occupy the land of the poor, extort money from traders and compromise the safety of daughters," he alleged.

Yadav, at a press conference in Lucknow on Saturday, said the SP does not break alliances and that its fight is against the BJP. Asked about defections by MPs from various parties, he referred to the presence of several

members of his family among SP MPs and said, "Have you ever wondered why the entire party did not split? Because there are five MPs from the same family. We also have several Muslim MPs, and some staunch socialists, so our numbers would not decrease."

"Sometimes dynastic politics has its benefits," Yadav, leader of the third largest party in the Lok Sabha, had

said in a lighter vein. Taking a dig at the remark, Adityanath on Monday said, "They believe that the remaining MPs are worthless and that only members of one family can be MPs."

The SP currently has 37 Lok Sabha MPs from Uttar Pradesh, while the BJP has 33. Congress has six, RLD has two, Apna Dal and Azad Samaj Party one each of all 80 UP seats.



Delhi Govt plans ₹34 crore upkeep of historic Chandni Chowk stretch

■ FAIR REPORT
New Delhi

Delhi Government plans to hire a private firm to beautify and maintain the historically significant 1.3-kilometre stretch of Chandni Chowk, starting from Red Fort Junction to Fatehpuri Mosque, and five other lanes interconnected to this stretch.

"To improve the situation at the revamped stretch of Chandni Chowk, we plan to hire a facility management company for housekeeping, cleanliness, repair work, horticulture work, etc. The work will be given initially for three years," an official said.

In the past few years, the stretch has fallen into neglect, facing problems of sanitation and cleanliness due to a tussle between the Public Works Department (PWD) and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) over the maintenance of the revamped stretch.

"A tender has been issued to hire a company at the approximate cost of ₹34 crores; there will be penalties on the contractor if there are violations of the contract," the official said.

The identified areas

include the main Chandni Chowk corridor, Dewan Hall Road, Esplanade Road, HC Sen Marg, Rai Kedarnath Marg, Town Hall Chowk, Shanti Desai Marg and associated interconnected areas. Lal Jain Mandir and the Fatehpuri Mosque areas are also covered in the plan.

As per the scheme, security guards will be deployed, jet machines will be used for washing roads, toilet areas and public utility assets. Further, garbage disposal vehicles will transport collected waste to designated MCD disposal sites and horticulture work will also be undertaken.

"Security personnel will be deployed in three eight-hour shifts to provide continuous watch and ward at key locations," the plan states.