

Youth should become job creators, innovation drivers: Adityanath

**GORAKHPUR, AUG 29:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said the state government has created an ecosystem to provide youth opportunities in education, skills, entrepreneurship and industry, and urged them to become job creators and innovators rather than merely seek employment.

"The double-engine government has created a strong ecosystem" for young people to learn, pursue opportunities and undertake entrepreneurship, Adityanath said. "Opportunities for youth to progress today are no longer limited to government jobs," he said, listing education, skill development, startups, MSMEs, industry, the digital economy, research and innovation among the avenues available to them.

Addressing the fifth foundation day ceremony of Mahayogi Gorakhnath University Gorakhpur (MGUG), the CM said UP has vast potential in its young population, agriculture, entrepreneurship and natural resources, and a strong foundation for transformation has been laid over the past nine years.

He said improved infrastructure and connectivity have created investment opportunities, while investment has expanded industry and employment.

Digital infrastructure, MSMEs, the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative and the startup ecosystem have also created platforms for youth and local



artisans. CM said education should not be limited to obtaining degrees but should equip students to understand real-world problems and develop solutions.

He called for linking classroom learning with the needs of society and industry and said the journey should progress from education to skills, capability, opportunity, innovation, entrepreneurship, employment and economic growth.

He also called for India's traditional knowledge to be connected with modern science and technology, particularly in Ayurveda, yoga, medicinal plants and traditional agriculture. "Ayurveda should be linked with modern diagnostics and clinical research, while medicinal plants should be connected with biotechnology and pharmaceutical research," he said.

Referring to MGUG's courses in traditional and modern medicine, nursing, pharmacy and agriculture, Adityanath said these disciplines should be treated as an integrated knowledge and innovation ecosystem rather than separate streams. "Their convergence," he said, "could generate new research, startups and employment."

He highlighted the potential of artificial intelligence-based diagnosis, telemedicine, digital health, medical devices, biotechnology and genomics in healthcare. In agriculture, he mentioned precision farming, drones, soil technology, smart irrigation, agri-processing and climate-resilient farming as areas where technology can improve productivity and incomes. He also stressed research databases, quality testing, modern manufacturing and evidence-based val-

idation of traditional treatments.

Calling Gorakhpur "a gateway to the potential of Uttar Pradesh", the CM said the city could emerge as a regional knowledge and economic hub for education, healthcare, agriculture and innovation.

He said university research should move beyond campuses and reach farmers, hospitals, industries and startups. Agricultural research should raise farm incomes, medical research should improve rural healthcare and pharmacy research should contribute to new medicines and healthcare innovation, he said.

Adityanath urged students to become "future-ready" and asked them to consider not only what they could do for themselves but also what they could contribute to society and the country.

He proposed a four-way partnership among the government, universities, industry and youth, with the government creating an ecosystem, universities generating relevant research, industry providing markets and opportunities, and youth driving innovation and enterprise. "Universities should not become islands unto themselves," he said, stressing that they should address society's needs and help youth become job creators rather than job seekers.

Varsity Vice Chancellor Lt Gen Dr Bhupesh Kumar Goyal said the university had increased its courses from 12 to 53 within five years. (PTI

'Meri Rasoi Yojana' - A Support For Families

**CHANDIGARH, AUG 29:** The Punjab Government has launched 'Meri Rasoi Yojana' with an aim to strengthen food and nutritional security of the needy and economically weaker families of the state.

In this current era of inflation, this scheme has emerged as a meaningful step to keep the household budget of families stable and reduce anxiety. Started from village Bhalwan in Sangrur district under the leadership of Chief Minister of Punjab, Mr. Bhagwant Singh Mann, the main objective of this public welfare scheme is to reduce household expenses of common citizens and provide them with financial relief.

Under this important scheme, free ration kits are being distributed on a quarterly basis to 40 lakh needy families of Punjab. According to the Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Lal Chand Katarachak, more than four and a half lakh food kits have been com-



pletely delivered to the beneficiaries at the ground level under this program so far. Each ration kit includes essential food items for daily use, which include 2 kg dal (pulses), 2 kg sugar, 1 kg salt, 200 grams turmeric powder and 1 litre pure mustard oil. The Punjab Government has clarified that these ration kits are completely separate from

the wheat already being given to eligible beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act.

During the budget for the year 2026-27 in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema had announced that a budget of Rs 900 crore has been kept for the robust implementation of this scheme. Chief

Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann believes that ensuring nutritious food for every citizen and child of the state is not just a promise but basic moral duty of the government. MARKFED has been designated as the nodal agency to run this scheme smoothly and maintain the distribution system properly. The Department of Food and Civil Supplies is ensuring that there is no compromise on the quality of the food items being distributed, under any circumstances. Strict instructions have been issued by the government that if any complaint of substandard items being found in the kits is received, strict legal action will be taken against the concerned responsible persons without any delay. Thus, 'Meri Rasoi Yojana' of Punjab Government is giving a new shape to public welfare efforts while safeguarding interests of every section of society and is proving to be a strong support for lakhs of families in the state.

11-member Indian team arrives in flood-hit Nepal to assist in relief operations

**KATHUMANDU, AUG 29:** An 11-member Indian team arrived in Nepal on Saturday to assist local authorities following flash floods that killed more than 500 people and left nearly 2,000 others missing.

The team, which includes medical personnel and tunnel rescue experts, was sent at the request of the Nepal government, according to Indian embassy sources.

The team is being sent to areas affected by the flash floods in the Himalayan nation, where rescue and relief operations are being carried out on an immense level.

Massive flash floods swept through Rasuwa and other parts of central Nepal on Wednesday, killing over 500 people and causing widespread damage to settlements, roads, bridges and hydropower infrastructure.



On Friday, Nepal said it wants to "prioritise" maximum deployment of its own security forces, which are familiar with local environmental conditions and rugged terrain.

However, Foreign Minis-

ter Shisir Khanal said the government is ready to take international assistance in difficult cases, where special technical skills are required for extremely complex physical structures.

Nepal had requested In-

dia and China to help construct 42 Bailey bridges to resume transport services in the flood-hit areas.

The portable bridges are designed for fast assembly without heavy machinery or special tools.

Maratha activist Jarange begins fast, presses govt for certificates based on 58 lakh records

**CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, AUG 29:** Quota activist Manoj Jarange launched an indefinite hunger strike on Saturday, demanding that the Maharashtra government immediately issue caste certificates based on the 58 lakh Kunbi records identified earlier and asserted that the community will not grant any further time.

Speaking to reporters at Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district, Jarange warned that this would be his "final agitation" and accused Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis of bearing a "grudge" against the Maratha community and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde of quietly supporting him.

He also demanded the elimination of the caste verification committee, and threatened to march to the Chief Minister's residence in Mumbai if the government fails to resolve all pending quota issues.

"Devendra Fadnavis is deliberately bearing a grudge against the Maratha community, and Eknath Shinde is giving him covert support through Social Justice Minister Sanjay Shirsat. If they



do not resolve our issues, we will march to the 'Varsha' bungalow (the CM's official residence in Mumbai). We will speak to the government delegation if they come to negotiate, but they must arrive with concrete solutions," he said.

Jarange has led several agitations demanding that eligible Marathas be recognised as Kunbis, an agrarian community that enjoys reservation benefits in education and government jobs under the Other Backward Class (OBC) category.

"The government should issue the caste certificates to the Maratha community based on 58 lakh Kunbi records immediately. The community will not give the government more time for

this," he said.

activist urged the state government to issue reservation based on the Satara Gazette, withdraw all police cases registered against quota protesters across Maharashtra, and provide government jobs and financial compensation to the families of those who died during the previous agitations.

He also called for the creation of a dedicated state portfolio for the Maratha and Kunbi communities with immediate staff appointments, disbursal of interest on loans extended through the Annasaheb Patil Arthik Vikas Mahamandal, the release of pending SARTHI student scholarships, and the immediate issuance of appointment letters to candidates se-

lected under the SEBC and EBC quotas.

Alleging systemic bias, the activist said, "This government does not want the Maratha community to grow. I have told our people that while valid historical records have been found, the authority to issue certificates remains with officials who are jealous of the community's progress."

Jarange further alleged that authorities were arbitrarily rejecting valid claims and demanded the abolition of the caste verification committee.

"The government is trying to deny us certificates by rejecting documentary evidence even when it matches. There should be no caste verification process in the state. In other states, Tehsildars and Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) hold authority, so why do we need a separate verification committee here? The law must be uniform," he said. He further appealed to members of the community to step out and support the movement, urging anyone facing delays or rejections in obtaining caste certificates or validity documents to gather at the protest site in Antarwali Sarati.

SC To Hear Plea Seeking Mandatory Disclosure Of Ethanol Content In Petrol On Aug 31

**NEW DELHI, AUG 29:** The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a petition on August 31 seeking a directive to the Centre and others to ensure mandatory and uniform labelling on every dispensing nozzle at petrol pumps, disclosing the exact percentage of ethanol in petrol.

According to the apex court's causelist of August 31, the plea would come up for hearing before a bench comprising Justices M M Sundresh and Prasanna B Varale. The petition, filed by Narendra Kumar Goswami, has also sought a direction that every fuel invoice should specifically and legibly state the percentage of ethanol in the petrol sold. "Direct the respondents (Centre and others) to prepare and pub-



lish within a stipulated time an official, public, vehicle-searhable by manufacturer, model, engine type and year of manufacture, indicating the suitability or otherwise of

various ethanol blends for each vehicle," the plea said.

It has also sought constitution of an independent expert committee comprising representatives from the ministries of petroleum and

natural gas, road transport and highways, the Bureau of Indian Standards and others, including independent automobile engineers, to examine and submit a public report on real-world vehicle compatibility of E20 across the existing fleet. South Asians & Diaspora

The plea said the committee should also submit a report on the impact on fuel efficiency, engine longevity and maintenance costs, warranty and insurance implications, the net environmental footprint, including tail-pipe emissions and water consumption associated with ethanol production, and food-security and feed-diversion concerns allegedly arising from the blending programme.

UK warns against Israel removing it from Gaza ceasefire center, other news in Middle East

**DUBAI, AUG 29:** The United Kingdom warned against any attempt by Israel to remove British officials from the Gaza ceasefire coordination centre on Friday, after reports that Israel was considering expelling UK officials.

Meanwhile, an Israeli airstrike in Gaza killed three people despite a fragile ceasefire; thousands of sailors remain stranded in the Persian Gulf due to the Iran war; and Iran has condemned the latest economic measures from the United States as it tries to force an end to the monthslong conflict.

Here's a look at the latest developments Friday in the Iran war and the wider Middle East. Full coverage can be found here.

The UK government said on Thursday that it remains committed to imple-

menting the 20-point Gaza peace plan, and any move to remove its officials would "undermine shared efforts."

The comments came in response to reports that Israel is considering expelling officials from Britain and other European nations from the monitoring centre.

The Netherlands on Thursday said Israel was removing two Dutch diplomats from the ceasefire centre. Israel's Foreign Ministry said the decision was in response to a Dutch ban on the trade of Israeli products from the occupied West Bank and other "anti-Israel measures."

Two brothers and another relative were killed on Friday in an Israeli strike on the family's home outside Khan Younis, officials at Nasser Hospital said. Is-



rael's military said it was not aware of a strike in Khan Younis.

The three deaths were the latest in

Gaza since an October ceasefire deal attempted to halt a more than two-year war between Israel and Hamas.

While the heaviest fighting has subsided, Israeli forces have carried out repeated airstrikes, killing at least 1,303 Palestinians, according to health officials in Gaza. The agency's casualty records are generally considered reliable but don't provide a breakdown of civilians and militants.

The UN's maritime agency said Friday that 19 seafarers have been killed and at least 6,000 remain stranded on hundreds of ships unable to leave the region since the start of the Iran war on Feb. 28. There have been at least 70 attacks on international shipping in the Persian Gulf, according to the International Maritime Organisation.

IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez urged practical solutions and renewed cooperation to restore

freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

About 20 per cent of the world's traded oil and natural gas passed through the vital commercial waterway at the mouth of the Persian Gulf before the war.

Iran's Foreign Ministry on Friday condemned a new round of US economic measures against the country, calling them "economic terrorism" and saying Tehran would use all available means to counter them.

The ministry said the sanctions violated international law and called on other countries to refrain from implementing them. It accused Washington of using the US dollar to pressure other countries into complying with its policies.