'Saifai syndicate' controlled UP recruitment before 2017

Hans News Service
Lucknow

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said that a "Saifai syndicate" controlled recruitment processes in the state before 2017, accusing the Samajwadi Party and the Congress of promoting corruption, nepotism and irregularities that deprived deserving candidates of government jobs.

The CM also asked the current and previous generation to "never forgive them", alleging wrongdoings by the Samajwadi Party and the Congress in the past. He was speaking at a programme here for the distribution of appointment letters to 1,146 newly selected Junior Assistants in the Revenue Department and financial assistance of Rs 215 crore to 4,300 beneficiaries under the Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana.

"Before 2017, there was a kind of anarchy in Uttar Pradesh. All the recruitment commissions and boards had become paralysed. A syndicate operated in the state -- the 'Saifai syndicate' -- which had taken control of them," he alleged.

Saifai is the native place of SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav. Without naming SP president Akhilesh Yadav, Adityanath targeted him while referring to a statement by the "chief of the recruitment syndicate" questioning the government's announcement on distributing appointment letters to one lakh young people. Taking a dig at the former chief minister, Adityanath said, "If he knows how to count, he should start counting. And if he does not know how to count, he should keep Shivpal Yadav with him as a tutor. He has old experience in counting.

He is an experienced leader and has spent his entire life counting." He further said the former CM appeared to be unaware of appointment-letter distribution programmes (being done in morning) because "he might be asleep when such events are held". "Also, this is Diwali festive time, thoda jua to ho jaata hai (he might have had some gambling sessions) with friends till late night, so he wakes up late in the day," Adityanath said without naming Yadav. He also made a reference to the hit Hindi film "Munna Bhai MBBS", drawing a parallel between its plot and alleged irregularities in recruitment under previous governments. "Before 2017, there were 'Munna Bhais' sitting in the government as well as in the recruitment process. Someone else would take the examination and someone else would walk away with the appointment letter," he alleged. Adityanath said such practices had harmed both candidates who paid money to secure jobs and those who prepared for examinations through hard work. "Those who bought jobs by paying money and those who prepared for examinations through hard work both were cheated. The person who took money would deposit it in foreign banks and accumulate properties in different countries, while the youth of Uttar Pradesh were left cheated at every level," he alleged. He said candidates who faced irregularities had to approach courts, resulting in stays on recruitment processes, while the state suffered from a shortage of personnel.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also asked the current and previous generation to "never forgive them", alleging wrongdoings by the Samajwadi Party and the Congress in the past



Cong launches Punjab Mangda Insaaf' campaign

The moment is aimed at connecting with the people of Punjab and raising issues concerning farmers, youths, drugs, law and order and other public concerns: Leader of Opposition in the State assembly Partap Singh Bajw

Hans News Service
Chandigarh

THE Punjab Congress on Wednesday rolled out 'Punjab Mangda Insaaf' campaign to reach out to every section of society and raise their concerns effectively ahead of the state polls. Punjab Congress president Pargat Singh and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the state assembly Partap Singh Bajwa launched the campaign at the party headquarters here.

'Punjab Mangda Insaaf' is aimed at connecting with the people of Punjab and raising issues concerning farmers, youths, drugs, law and order and other public concerns, according to the party. Speaking to reporters here, LoP Bajwa said that under this campaign, the Punjab Congress leadership will visit different parts of Punjab and raise issues concerning all sections of society.



"We will speak about the fraud with government employees and pensioners by the AAP government, the old pension scheme not being implemented, the law and order situation and the poor financial health of the state," he said.

Bajwa claimed the AAP government has failed on all fronts. "AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal had promised Rs 54,000 crore funds per annum for setting up colleges, medical colleges, new infrastructure including roads, bridges. Not even a single penny was given. We will ask Kejriwal where that money has gone," he said.

"They did nothing for farmers, women or traders," he claimed. Asked about Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi's cycle yatra, which will commence on November 12, Bajwa said it is also part of the party's programme.

"Channi saab is our brother. With his programme, the message of the Congress will reach Punjab. We will do it together. We all will go there (cycle yatra) tomorrow as well," he said. There will be different programmes in Majha, Malwa and Doaba regions. The effort is to reach out to maximum people, the LoP said. "The message has to be clear. Which party fights for 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan'? Which party can bring peace in Punjab and save the youth?" said Bajwa. Channi, the Congress' campaign committee chairman, has planned the 'Jawani Sambhal, Jatta' cycle rally, which will reach out to people across different assembly constituencies.

HP cops trace 1,172 missing persons in 9 months

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Shimla

THE Himachal Pradesh Police traced 1,172 of the 1,328 persons reported missing across the state between January 1 and September 30, 2026, achieving a tracing rate of 88.7 per cent, in compliance with Supreme Court directions, officials said on Wednesday.

A total of 893 missing-person cases involving 1,328 individuals were registered during the nine-month period.

Those traced included 722 adults and 470 children. Around 20 per cent of the missing persons were traced within 24 hours of their disappearance, while 20.9 per cent were located within 24 to 72 hours.

The remaining 47.9 per cent were traced after 72 hours, they said. In a press statement, Director General of Police Ashok Tewari said the state had strengthened its mechanism for registering, investigating and tracing missing-person cases following the Supreme Court's May 22, 2026, directions in the case of G Ganesh vs State of Tamil Nadu and Others.



"The court had emphasised that an FIR must be registered immediately upon receiving information about a missing person, without insisting on any mandatory waiting period," he said. Tewari said comprehensive instructions were issued to all field units on June 6, directing immediate registration of FIRs, prompt search operations, special attention to cases involving missing children and regular supervisory monitoring.

He said police had placed greater emphasis on swift search operations, timely dissemination of information, effective use of technology and coordination among police stations, districts and neighbouring states to improve the tracing of missing persons.

Ardh Kumbh 2027

Trash boom interceptor to be installed in Ganga



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Dehradun

A trash boom interceptor will be installed in the Ganga River in Haridwar ahead of the Ardh Kumbh 2027 to prevent solid waste from polluting the river, officials said. Over 100 metric tonnes of waste were removed from the Ganga during the 18-day closure of the Upper Ganga Canal this year, the Haridwar district administration said. The technology, currently being used in hydropower projects in Uttarakhand, will be deployed in the Ganga for the first time in the state. The interceptor will be a permanent installation and is proposed to be set up at Amrapur Ghat and Jatwara Ghat, officials added.

Nandan Kumar, commissioner for Haridwar Municipal Corporation, said a tender had been floated for the installation of the interceptor, which is expected to be operational before the Ardh Kumbh 2027. "The trash boom interceptor is a floating barrier which intercepts all kinds of waste disposed of in the river, like flowers, clothes, plastic waste and other solid items. The technology works in such a way that across the canal, a boom barrier is set up and the boom shifts the waste towards one of the banks. When the waste is accumulated near the bank, it is shifted to the conveyor belt," Kumar said.

Kedarnath, Yamunotri shrines closed for winter

Over 27.97 lakh pilgrims visited this year

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Rudraprayag/Uttarkashi

THE portals of the Kedarnath and Yamunotri shrines were closed for the winter season on Wednesday following prescribed rituals and the chanting of Vedic mantras. While the Kedarnath shrine was closed at 8.30 am, the portals of Yamunotri were shut at 10.28 am. More than 19.13 lakh pilgrims visited Kedarnath, and over 8.84 lakh visited Yamunotri during this year's pilgrimage season.

The process for closing the portals of Kedarnath temple began at 4 am with special prayers and religious ceremonies. All rituals were performed in accordance with traditional customs before the temple portals were closed at the auspicious time of 8.30 am.

After the closure, the ceremonial palanquin carrying the deity of Lord Kedarnath was taken around the temple complex before beginning its journey to the Omkareshwar Temple in Ukhimath, the deity's winter abode. According to the schedule, the palanquin will halt overnight at Rampur on Wednesday before proceeding to Guptkashi on November 12. It will reach the Omkareshwar Temple on November 13.



Pilgrims can offer prayers to Lord Kedarnath at the Omkareshwar Temple during the six-month winter period. The ceremonial palanquin of Goddess Yamuna, led by Shani Dev Maharaj, departed from Yamunotri for Kharsali, the deity's winter abode, amid traditional rituals and folk music.

Har to allot licences for 2,651 vacant ration shops



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Chandigarh

THE Haryana government has decided to allot licences for 2,651 vacant fair price shops (FPS) across the state to improve access to subsidised foodgrains for eligible families and strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS), officials said on Wednesday.

The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department has extended the deadline for submitting online applications for the shops to November 25, 2026. The earlier deadline was November 10. An official spokesperson said that the initiative would particularly benefit residents of remote and underserved areas, where existing ration depots are located at considerable distances. The allocation of new fair price shops would make essential food supplies more accessible while creating self-employment opportunities for eligible applicants, the spokesperson said. He said 33 per cent reservation had been provided for women in the allotment process to promote their economic participation and entrepreneurship at the grassroots level. Eligible applicants can submit their applications online through the Haryana Antyodaya SARAL Portal till November 25, the spokesperson said.

3 wanted criminals held in police encounters

Hans News Service
Meerut

THREE wanted criminals, including a man carrying a reward of Rs 25,000, were arrested in two separate police operations here, with firearms, ammunition, stolen jewellery and motorcycles recovered from them, officials said on Wednesday.
In the first incident, Anas alias Bhoora, a resident of Mirzapur village in the Rohta area, was arrested in connection with thefts at two houses in Rasna village in Sarurpur, Circle Officer (Sardhana) Ashutosh Kumar said. He said Anas, carrying a reward of Rs 25,000 announced by Rohta police, was intercepted during a cordon-and-search operation on the intervening night of November 10 and 11.
The accused allegedly fired at the police team and attempted to escape.
However, during the chase, his motorcycle skidded, leaving him with an injury to his left hand, following which he was arrested,
Kumar said. Police recovered stolen jewellery, Rs 22,000 in cash, a stolen motorcycle, a .315-bore country-made pistol, two live cartridges.

Demonetisation led to ocean of corruption, says Akhilesh

Hans News Service
Lucknow

SAMAJWADI Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday accused the BJP of turning demonetisation into an "ocean of corruption", claiming that the 2016 decision pushed India's economy backwards and acted like a "slow poison" over a decade.

He also challenged the ruling party to a debate on its claim of making India a developed nation by 2047, saying the impact of demonetisation had set the country back to its economic position at the time of Independence in 1947.

"Perhaps, such a big corruption in the name of demonetisation has never happened anywhere in the world as it happened in India under the BJP," Yadav said. He alleged that the decision was taken to sink banks and described it as one of the "most corrupt decisions in economic history". "The truth is that this decision of the BJP proved to be an ocean of corruption," he said.

Yadav said none of the stated objectives of demonetisation had been achieved and alleged that its impact had worked like a "slow poison" over the past decade. "Farmers, labourers, the middle class, salaried people, professionals, small shopkeepers, traders, street vendors and those running small businesses were all victims of demonetisation.

They have still not been able to recover fully," he said. The Samajwadi Party (SP) chief claimed that several factories had shut down following demonetisation and had failed to reopen despite subsequent government policies.

Samajwadi Party president also challenged the ruling party to a debate on its claim of making India a developed nation by 2047, saying the impact of demonetisation had set the country back to its economic position at the time of Independence in 1947



Recalling the introduction of the Rs 2,000 currency note, Yadav referred to the birth of a child named Khajanchi during the demonetisation period, saying the two had come into existence around the same time.

Khajanchi, who was also present at Wednesday's press conference, was born at a bank in November 2016 when his mother had gone there to exchange currency notes following the demonetisation announcement. Akhilesh Yadav named the child Khajanchi. The SP has since marked his birthdays and referred to his story while criticising the BJP over demonetisation.