

Past govts kept UP backward, says Naik

'Nehru's Allahabad Is In Bad Shape Even Today'

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Lucknow: Rejecting the idea of UP's division for better administration and development, Governor Ram Naik on Wednesday attributed the backwardness of the state to the lack of vision of the past governments.

In an interview to TOI on the completion of four years in office, when asked about the demand for the division of UP into smaller states to address socio-economic backwardness Naik remarked: "Unfortunately, the governments in the past lacked vision for the development and progress. The first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, was from Allahabad, but it is in bad shape even today. Compare it with Varanasi. After Narendra Modi became MP from there you can see how rapidly development is taking place. So, there is need for vision and commitment, which was missing in the past governments."

Naik, who himself has been a five-time MP and three-time MLA from Mumbai, said that the state that gave nine prime ministers, has not seen development in that proportion.

However, he described

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Ram Naik | UP GOVERNOR

UP's population as an asset, claiming this state was producing nearly 15.60 lakh graduates every year from the 28 state universities only, of which more than 51% are girls. "So, the state has to channelize its human capital for the develop-

4 YRS IN OFFICE

ment of the state," he added.

Traditionally, Raj Bhavans are considered as a retirement option for politicians, but Naik, who has not taken any leave in the past two years, remains one of the most proactive governors. "I have quit electoral politics only, by choi-

ce, but I am governing the governments as a constitutional head of the state," he said.

In reply to a question on the difference between the functioning of the two chief ministers — Akhilesh Yadav and Yogi Adityanath — Naik avoided a direct reply, saying that every one has its own way of functioning, but he had cordial relations with both of them. About the perception that he was aggressively monitoring the functioning of Akhilesh government and was soft on Yogi government, he claimed that he was merely implemented the Constitution, whether during the past government or the present.

"However, I have had cordial relations with Akhilesh Yadav. He was very cooperative in accepting my demand for raising the pension given to leprosy-afflicted people, which is the second biggest achievement of my tenure after convincing the Yogi government to celebrate UP Diwas," he added.

About hooliganism by some members of the House during his joint address in the house, Naik felt that such behaviour was detrimental to the Opposition parties themselves, as they lose a crucial time they could have used to corner the government.

'Past govts to blame for UP's backwardness'

UP governor **Ram Naik** on Wednesday blamed the past governments for the state's backwardness saying



this was due to their lack of vision. Talking to TOI on completing four years in the Raj

Bhavan, Naik said: "Unfortunately, the governments in the past lacked vision for the development and progress. The first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, was from Allahabad, but it is in bad shape even today. Compare it with Varanasi. After PM Narendra Modi became MP from there, you can see how rapidly development is taking place." **P3**