

# BJP taking digital revolution to villages, past govts tarnished UP's image: Yogi Adityanath

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LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday kickstarted the state government's tablet and smartphone distribution campaign by distributing gadgets to one lakh students who are in the final year of their studies.

The CM, who presided over an event at the Ekana Stadium to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Lucknow, termed the drive as "the biggest campaign of its kind".

Yogi said his government was working for the development of all and would take technology to villages. He also attacked the opposition by claiming that previous governments tarnished UP's image by indulging in

extortion during recruitment drives.

The scheme aims to benefit one crore students of UP who will be given free tablets or smartphones so that they may get easy access to remote learning and information related to their studies and future employment opportunities.

The CM also virtually launched the Digi Shakti Portal and Digi Shakti Adhyayan App on this occasion. The application will be installed on all smartphones and tablets which are being distributed under the free scheme and will contain information related to government welfare schemes and study material.

The CM also honoured weightlifter Mirabai Chanu for winning silver medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"The importance of technology was realized during the coronavirus pandemic. Children did not have the facility of online education and classes. Therefore, we decided that we will connect one crore youths with technology and give out tablets and smartphones," the CM said.

Yogi also declared that the government was planning to provide free internet access and content to students. He said the government would take digital revolution to villages by organizing such programmes in all districts.

Paying tribute to Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pt Madan Mohan Malaviya, whose birth anniversary was also celebrated on Saturday, the CM said Vajpayee was an inspiration for all.

Quoting Vajpayee, Yogi said that politics without principles was a death sentence and one should always work for the welfare of others.

Hitting out at the Opposition, the CM said other parties followed nepotism while his government was working for all. "They were like the characters from the Mahabharat – uncle Shakuni mama, nephew Duryodhan – all fanned out for extortion whenever recruitments used to take place in the state under previous governments. Now, the process of recruitment is transparent and our government has employed 4.5 lakh youth in 4.5 years," he said.

"During the previous government's rule, the youth of Uttar Pradesh used to be denied entry into hotels and were not given rooms on rent due to the state's tarnished image. Now, the youth from UP is making the state proud all over the world," Yogi added.