

# PM Modi's leadership raising India's global stature: Adityanath

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**LUCKNOW:** Chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday expressed admiration for the stature of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a global leader, who has special respect in the world.

"The respect for India has increased across the world under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. This was the first time in the world when the head of a country honoured the prime minister of another country by touching his feet," Yogi Adityanath said, referring to the gesture by Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister James Marape to welcome Modi on his arrival in the Pacific nation recently.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Khelo India University Games-22 here, Adityanath said: "When the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea touched the feet of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, the whole country became proud. Similarly, honours by the President of America and (Prime Minister of) Australia also increased the respect for our Prime Minister," he said.

"The US President talked about taking PM Modi's autograph. On this occasion, I would



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**YOGI ADITYANATH, UP CM**

like to say that today the youth power of the country is eager to receive the prime minister's guidance on the inauguration of the Khelo India University Games. I congratulate Modiji on behalf of the people of Uttar Pradesh. Gratitude for giving opportunity to Uttar Pradesh for the third edition of Khelo India University Games," he said.

Giving details of UP government's sports development programme, the chief minister said: "In Uttar Pradesh today, playing fields are being constructed in every district, every block and every gram panchayat. Yuva Mangal Dal is being formed. We are moving forward with such sports programmes."

"The sportspersons who won medals in the Olympics as well as in Paralympics were hon-

oured in Lucknow and Meerut. We have given appointments to our top athletes in government services. Two per cent reservation has been arranged for them. The recruitment process is currently going on," he further said.

"We will give bigger opportunities to those players who have won medals in international competitions. This is the new energy of India. We congratulate this new energy. All these programmes will be completed successfully," he said.

Uttar Pradesh minister of state (independent charge) for sports and youth welfare Girish Chandra Yadav said: "Uttar Pradesh is leading the way when it comes to sports whether supporting the athletes on field or off it. We are ready to welcome athletes from all over the country to our state."

This year, the Khelo India University Games are being held from May 25 to June 3 in Uttar Pradesh.

Over 4,750 athletes from more than 208 universities are competing in 21 sports. The competitions are being organised in Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Gautam Buddha Nagar. The shooting events are taking place at the Karni Singh Shooting Range in Delhi.