

'Law and order still needs improvement'

Governor Ram Naik completes three years in office on Saturday. Umesh Raghuvanshi speaks to him about his experiences, 100 days of the Yogi Adityanath government and law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh.

Your take on completion of three years?

I do remember, at the time of taking over as governor, I was asked about holding Janata Darbar. I said no to it but promised to keep the doors of Raj Bhawan open. I have kept the promise. Completion of three years gives me an opportunity to look back what I have done.

The centre and the state now have BJP governments. Is your role limited?

A governor's role is to ensure that the state government functions according to provisions of the Constitution. The governor also works as a bridge between the centre and the state. This is done without keeping in mind which party is in power. When the centre and the state have a government of the same party, there is no problem about communication. The issues, however, need to be addressed.

How do you rate the Yogi government's performance?

It is good on the part of the chief minister that he gave a report on completion of 100 days of his government. I feel a period of minimum six months is needed

to judge performance of any government. I will say well begun is half done. The way government has started, the way this government has presented its budget, it seems good.

What about the law and order situation?

I still say what I have been saying during the tenure of the Akhilesh Yadav government. I used to say that law and order situation in the state needs improvement. Now also it needs improvement. With the will power exhibited by the chief minister, one hopes the situation will improve. This is, however, a long drawn process in which the government and the people have to work together.

What do you have to say on opposition's boycott in the assembly?

I had addressed a training camp for the new MLAs after the assembly elections. I will repeat whatever I said addressing them: "opposition should have its say and the government should have its way." Opposition should say what it wants to. It is opposition's duty. The opposition should also allow the government to function.

Any difference between working of Akhilesh Yadav and Yogi Adityanath?

I have good relations with both. I will not compare them.

Do you suggest anything to the chief minister?

We discuss issues as and when they come. I had written to Akhilesh Yadav on various issues. I have given these letters to Yogi Adityanath. These include a letter suggesting a white paper on encroachment of public land in Jawahar Bagh, Mathura.

