

Chief Minister kickstarts free laptop scheme to class XII pass students

Chief Minister gives free laptops to 51 students to start the scheme

By providing free laptops to students from poor and farmer families, the state government is bringing them at par with resourceful and affluent class : *Chief Minister*

The decision to distribute free laptops taken to connect the youth of the state to the fast changing world

10,000 students given free laptops at a function in Lucknow

Lucknow : March 11, 2013

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. Akhilesh Yadav said that by providing free laptops to students, the state government had brought the students from poor and farmer background at par with the students from affluent families and those who were resourceful.

Laptop distribution, he pointed out, would bridge the yawning gap between different economical strata of students. Mr. Yadav further said that the world was developing very fast and the decision of the state government to give free laptops to students would help them to catch up with the pace of development world over.

The Chief Minister today was launching the scheme of distributing free laptops to class XII pass out students at the Colvin Taluqdars' College in Lucknow. On this occasion, the Chief Minister gave away laptops to 51 students and said that through this scheme, the family environment and that of the state would change considerably for good.

The Chief Minister also urged the beneficiaries to use the laptop for good and blessed them. Addressing the students, the Chief Minister said this scheme was long awaited by the students and said he was happy that this scheme was now seeing the light of the day. He further stated that after the invention of the wheel, internet was the biggest invention known to mankind and pointed out the world had become a village accessible from any corner of the globe through the internet.

Referring to the far reaching changes in the education sector brought about by the technical advances, the Chief Minister informed students that they can work in English, Hindi and Urdu in the laptop and said that through this scheme the state government had brought an end to the digital divide in the state.

Deliberating on the achievements of the state government, Mr. Yadav said the state government was working hard to improve the system but added that a lot still needed to be done. Informing about the work on roads in the state, the Chief Minister said all district headquarters were being connected with four lane roads. Referring to the improvement in the health sector, he said that he can

understand that one ailing person can disturb the budget and calm of any household.

It is with this in mind, he pointed out, the health department had initiated considerable changes in the health sector and new medical colleges and nursing staff colleges were being opened. For farmers, he added, arrangements had been made for free irrigation facility, loan waivers and adequate price for their produce. He also said that the state government was seriously working to bring an end to corruption.

Pointing out at wide spread unemployment in the state, the Chief Minister said that this was a baggage passed on to his government by the predecessor government which did nothing to create job opportunities. State government, the Chief Minister explained, was working overtime to create an investor friendly environment in the state, which would ultimately lead to creation of ample job opportunities. Till such a time that this happens, the Chief Minister said, the state government was distributing unemployment allowance.

Taking pot shots at some parties which did not even declare their manifesto, the Chief Minister underlined that the state government did what it had promised and in one year the government has fulfilled many promises. On this occasion, the PWD, Irrigation and Cooperative Minister Mr. Shivpal Singh Yadav said the free laptop scheme would realise the dreams of thousands of youth in the state to connect with the development and progress happening across the globe.

The scheme would also empower the youth to gain knowledge and information, he added. Health Minister Mr. Ahmad Hasan said this scheme was path breaking as never had students of Madarsa's imagined that they would be getting free laptops from the government. This dream of thousands has been fulfilled by the state government; he added and said this would lead to fast tracking of development amongst the youth.

Detailing the scheme, the Chief Secretary Mr. Javed Usmani said the state government had fulfilled a major promise made to the youth of the state. This was the biggest and most ambitious scheme centered round the youth, he said and added that laptops were being given to all those students who had passed class XIIth in 2012 through various boards.

Mr. Usmani said through a very transparent method, HP was contracted to supply 15 lakh laptops to the state and added that this was the biggest work order given for laptops to any firm in the world. The Minister of State for Secondary Education Mr. Vinod Singh aka Pandit Singh and Secretary Secondary Education, Mr. Parth Sarthi Sen Sharma thanked the guests.

Also present were many ministers of the state government, Deputy Chairman of the State Planning Commission Mr. NC Bajpai, Member of Parliament Mrs. Dimple Yadav, other people's representatives and students from different colleges of the state capital.

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