

# RSS veteran Nanaji Deshmukh passes away

Veteran Jan Sangh leader Nanaji Deshmukh, who was also associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh for a long time, passed away on Saturday evening at the Sadguru Seva Sangh hospital at Chitrakoot in Uttar Pradesh. He was 95.

He gave up his political career at the age of 60 in accordance with his belief that all politicians should retire from politics when they reach that age. Probably the only Indian politician to have severed all connection with politics on reaching 60, he took to con-

structive work with vigour after that time. He was known to be very close to the late Jayaprakash Narayan and Ramnath Goenka of the Indian Express.

Nanaji, as he was fondly known, was the founder of the Deendayal Research Institute in New Delhi, the Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya in Chitrakoot and Bal Jagat in Nagpur



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## RSS Veteran Nanaji Deshmukh Dead

Sangh Parivar veteran and former Rajya Sabha member Nanaji Deshmukh passed away here today at the age of 94. He breathed his last at the premises of the country's first rural university he had established in this temple town bordering Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, his close associate Sharda Prasad Dwivedi said. Deshmukh was unwell for some time due to age-related ailments and had refused to be taken to Delhi for treatment. A Padma Vibhushan awardee, he had donated his body for medical research. He was also instrumental in carrying out social restructuring programme in over 500 villages of both the states. Deshmukh had established the Chitarkoot Gramodya Vishwavidyalaya in Chitrakoot -- the country's first rural university -- and was its Chancellor. Deshmukh was a key architect of Janata Party agvernment that had broken the uninterrupted Congress-rule at the Centre in 1977. A man of the organisation, Nanaji- as he was affectionately called by his friends and admirers - was a fighter who ended political untouchability of Bharatiya Jan Sangh, the erstwhile avatar of BJP, by giving total support to Jai Prakash Narayan's call for "Total Revolution" in 1974.

The subsequent developments, including the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi, led to the formation of the Janata Party which stormed to power by sweeping off the Congress and Nanaji had

ising skills during the JP Movement and the Emergency brought him a ministership offer at the Centre in the Morarji Desai government but he declined. Nanaji had entered the Lok Sabha from Nanaji left politics soon after he turned 60 though he was at the pinnacle of his career. He turned to social work to which he devoted himself till the end. Senior BJP leader V K Malhotra deeply condoled the death of Nanaji Deshmukh. In a condolence message, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati said, during his long public life, Deshmukh served the people and played an important role to make weaker sections of the society self-reliant. He would be remembered for his contribution towards the development of villages, she said. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said Nanaji was a dedicated social worker, lifelong pracharak of the RSS, senior politician and a visionary. Recalling Deshmukh's role, Vajpayee said he was a fighter and joined the movement of Jai Prakash Narayan. "His death is a loss to society and me personally," Vajpayee said in the condolence message.

played a prominent role in those dramatic moments. Nanaji's organ-



# नानाजी (a) इंटरनेट



### Gadkari condoles Nanaji Deshmukh's demise

BJP president Nitin Gadkari today condoled the demise of Sangh Parivar veteran and former Rajya Sabha member Nanaii Deshmukh.

"Nanaji was one of the early architects of Jan Sangh and firmly stood for value-based politics. He could rightly be described as idealism personified," Gadkari said.

Gadkari said his courage of conviction was so strong that he left active politics when he was almost at the pinnacle. "His work for rural resurgence first at Gonda and later at Chitrakoot is the testimony of his unflinching commitment to the cause. He lived a life which was unique in several ways," Gadkari said.

Vinay Sahrabuddhe, Director of Rambhau Mhalagi Institute said Deshmukh encouraged rural development and innovative experiment with agriculture sector. Deshmukh passed away in the evening at Chitrakoot. The 94-year-old was unwell for some time due to age-related ailments. A Padma Vibhushar awardee, he had donated his body for medical research.



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#### Lok Sabha condoles Nanaji Deshmukh's death

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Chitrakoot / New Delhi, Feb 28 (ANI): The body of the veteran Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh leader Nanaii Deshmukh, who breathed his last on Saturday, was donated to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here on Sunday.



Deshmukh, 94, had wished that his dead body be donated for medical research. The body of Deshmukh was flown to Delhi from Chitrakoot and was kept at the RSS headquarters in Jhandelwalan area here. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan brought the body from Chitrakoot. Leaders and activists of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Sangh Parivar paid their last respects to Deshmukh. Prominent among those who paid tributes to Deshmukh, were former Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani, Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker Karia Munda, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Arun Jaitley, BJP president Nitin Gadkari, former party president Rajnath Singh and General Secretary (organisation) Ramlal. Chief ministers of the BJPruled states-Narendra Modi of Gujarat, Raman Singh of Chhattisgarh and Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank of Uttarakhand were also amona the leaders who paid their last respects to Deshmukh.

A wreath was laid on Nanaii Deshmukh's body on behalf of President Pratibha Patil. He was the recipient of Padma Vibhushan award for his lifetime service to the society in rural parts of the country.

Advani described Deshmukh as a dedicated worker who made an unparalled contribution in the formation of Bharatiya Jan Sangh.

"It is more than a personal loss for me. We had been together for so many years....When there is so much attraction towards posts, he gave inspiration for idealism," Advani said.



