

## RSS Chief Praises Nanaji, The 'Rare Politician'

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Mohan Bhagwat today heaped lots of praise on veteran Jana Sangh leader, Nanaji Deshmukh who passed away last evening at Chitrakoot in Madhya Pradesh at the ripe age of 95. At the start of his speech at the annual function of the local RSS and the Hindu Samagam here, he said not many people were aware that Nanaji had lost his parents when he was a child. Bhagwat said that Nanaji was among the first people from the RSS sent to work for the Jana Sangh in the period after the country's independence. He said that Nanaji was a 'rare politician' who had voluntarily quit politics on reaching the age of 60 since it was a time when he could have reaped many fruits. The body of Nanaji, 94, was flown to Delhi and kept in the RSS office. Prominent among those who paid tributes to the former Rajya Sabha member, were NDA Working President L K Advani, Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Karia Munda, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj, Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Arun Jaitley, BJP President Nitin Gadkari, former party president Rajnath Singh and General Secretary (organisation) Ramlal. Also present were chief ministers of BJP-ruled states, namely, Narendra Modi (Gujarat), Raman Singh (Chhattisgarh) and Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank (Uttarakhand). Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan brought the body from Chitrakoot, which is on the Uttar Pradesh-MP border. A wreath was laid on the body on behalf of President Pratibha Patil. Advani

described Nanaji as a dedicated worker who made an unparalleled 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. "We should succeed in transforming the image of the ugly Indian politician," he said. Jaitley said Nanaji was "an organiser par excellence" who was indeed a role model for the party and whose loss is very difficult to compensate. Modi recalled that Nanaji had written a letter to him on February 20 and he had never imagined that the veteran leader would pass away in a week. He stated that he had the good fortune to work with Nanaji, whom he described as one having a vision and the will to translate vision into action. In his condolence message, Gadkari said Nanaji was a source of inspiration due to his sacrifice and service towards Antyodaya or rise of the poorest of poor. Rajnath Singh mentioned Nanaji's refusal to accept a ministerial berth in Morarji Desai's government in 1977 and said he was one example which showed that a man's stature was not due to the post he held.



## A tribute to Nanaji Deshmukh

MY HOME town 'Chitrakoot' is known for its Sufis and Saints, and of course, for its Hindu - Muslim amity. Here, we still have a Ali in every Diw-ali and Ram in every Ram-azan.



Permutations and combinations of politics and demographic locations or dislocations were exploited by RSS only once or twice. By and large the town has remained a bastion of political sanity and every party was given a chance to represent it at the Assembly and the Parliament.

Into this atmosphere of bonhomie Nanaji Deshmukh, who was an integral part of RSS, once landed for the canvassing the Jan Sangh candidate. As expected, his candidate lost by huge margins. That didn't make Nanaji a political minion or midget in my eyes. In those days he was a clean-shaven dhoti-kurta-shawl clad RSS senior office bearer. Deendayal Upadhyay was with him. It seemed they both were emerging from the wings of Balraj Modhok - once a powerful leader of J.S.

There was not much to remember in their bhashans except one comment of Nanji: "Whenever and wherever there is a Hindu Muslim riot in any part of the country I try to go there and I always go without police protection. I never carry any arms with me for my protection either. Why? Because I know that riots are the eruption of pent-up emotions. Once the negativity fizzles out sanity returns. All human beings are good by birth. That's the only truth." I believed then and I still believe that he was speaking from the bottom of his heart. My respect for him was not misplaced as I found him, after the assassination of Indra Gandhi, the most vocal leader of RSS who had supported Rajeev Gandhi, much to the chagrin of the motley Congress crowd.

In 1967 Nanaji played a crucial role in forming the government of United Legislative Party as he enjoyed good relations with Chowdhry Charan Singh and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. He was successful in bringing leaders of different political backgrounds on one platform to give Uttar Pradesh its first non-Congress government. He had thrice outwitted the political heavy-weight Chandra Bhanu Gupta . On one occasion, he planned

a strategy to defeat the Congress nominee and CB Gupta's favorite in Rajya Sabha. When CB Gupta himself contested elections from Lucknow in 1957, Nanaji crafted an alliance with socialist groups and helped Babu Triloki Singh in registering an impressive win over Gupta. Gupta faced another embarrassment when he was again defeated at Maudaha in Uttar Pradesh.

Nanaji actively participated in Bhoodan Movement started by Vinoba Bhave. He was inspired by the success and appeal of the movement. During Emergency a procession led by J P was taken out in Patna. As the procession wound its way through the roads of the state capital, the police made a lathi charge. It was believed that Babu Jayprakash Narayan was the ultimate marked target. The final assault came when J.P.'s supporters were escorting him to safety. One of the supporters sprang to his leader's protection, covered him and took all the lathi blows on himself. That man was none other than Nanaji Deshmukh. One of his arms was fractured in this daring effort. He was offered the Cabinet portfolio of Industry. Nanaji spurned the overture. In 1980, when he turned 60, he opted out not only from the electoral fray but also politics. He later devoted himself completely to social work, lived in ashrams and never projected himself. He was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 1999. Former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has lavished praise on Nanaji Deshmukh and the organization started by him, the Deendayal Research Institute. He breathed his last on 27th February 2010 at the premises of Bharat's first rural university, Chitrakoot Gramodya Vishwavidyalaya that he himself had established.

I'm not an admirer of all his ideas but I believe he was a good man. With his death, we lost a great human being but he brought back the luster of Chitrakoot recently stolen away by a kapoot of Chitrakoot - lachadhari Swami of Khanpur.

## Gujarat CM Narendra Modi pays homage to Nanaji Deshmukh

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid homage to Nanaji Deshmukh who died yesterday at Chitrakoot in MP. Shri Modi was arrived here from Ahmedabad by special aircraft and reached directly at Deendayal Research Institute, Jhandewalan and paid homage this great man by placing wreath on body of departed leader and prayed for the peace of his soul.



Kayasth, Brahmins and Syed aristocrats are known for their close relationships. Most of the temples are built by Muslim craftsmen. On Hindu festivals Qandeels emit their sparkling scintillating lights from the top of most Muslim houses and Hindu town fathers wait their Muslim brothers in the vicinity of Eidgahs and Mosques to exchange greetings on Eid.

No Moharrum mourning gathering is complete without the Hindu participation. Sardar Mahendra Singh Bedi SAHAR had once said: "Ishq ho jaye kisi se koi chara to nahin, sirf Muslim ka Mohammed (PBUH) pa ujarah to nahin." Translate it as -You can fall in love with anyone. One can't help the situation. I love Mohammed and Muslims don't have the sole ownership of Mohammed. (PBUH). The town has been and still remains immune to the virus of communal disharmony and hate politics. Naturally fanaticism was never able to cultivate its adherents.

