

# Govt frees 101 prisoners to mark CM's b'day

HT Correspondent

■ [letters@hindustantimes.com](mailto:letters@hindustantimes.com)

**LUCKNOW:** Uttar Pradesh government on Friday released 101 prisoners to mark the birthday of chief minister Akhilesh Yadav. Nearly half of these prisoners were elderly and the remaining ones those who had been languishing in various jails for failing to pay fines in cases of minor crimes.

Akhilesh turned 42 on Friday and is currently holidaying with family in London. Jail minister Balwant Ramoowalia announced the release of prisoners at a press conference on Friday and also said that the 121-year-old Jail Manual was currently undergoing changes so as to have a more humane approach towards prisoners.

He said all jails would have better food, RO (water purifier) plant, physiotherapy equipment and pro-



■ **SP ministers cutting a cake on the occasion of CM Akhilesh Yadav's birthday in Lucknow on Friday.**

vide not only have longer meeting time but also give family members space to hug an imprisoned kin.

The minister also said that for the last seven months since he took over as the jail minister, he had drastically increased paroles and they would now go up further. "I managed to increase the number

of paroles to 15 per month on an average and now it would go up to 20 per month. Not only this, we are taking steps and will issue a government order that would cut short parole granting process," said Ramoowalia.

He said that came across such case of parole application where

## SPCS CELEBRATES CM'S B'DAY

**LUCKNOW:** Lucknow University's Samajwadi Party Chatra Sabha (SPCS) celebrated the 43rd birthday of chief minister Akhilesh Yadav on Friday. The students organised a havan and prayed for long and prosperous life of the CM. After the Havan, a cake was also cut. The two-hour long ceremony ended with prasad distribution among the students.

—DEVASHISH DUBEY

a prisoner had sought parole to attend the wedding of his or her daughter, but authorities woke up months after the wedding was solemnized.