

THREE-TIME U.P. CM MULAYAM SINGH DIES

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“My respected father and *netaji* to all is no more,” he tweeted in Hindi.

Ms. Murmu called Mr. Singh’s demise an “irreparable loss to the country”.

Mr. Modi, who posted several photographs with Mr. Singh, recalled his long association with him, during a speech in Bharuch. He said that when the BJP chose him as the prime ministerial candidate for the 2014 Lok Sabha campaign, Mr. Singh was one of the leaders whom he called to seek his blessings. “He gave me his blessings and also a few words of advice.” He also mentioned the SP patriarch’s Lok Sabha speech in the last session of Parliament prior to the 2019 elections, applauding the patriarch for rising above the political divide. “In the House he said Modi *ji* takes everyone along and I am confident that in 2019, he would be re-elected as the Prime Minister,” Mr. Modi said. His comments had left many baffled within his party who were carrying on a sustained campaign against the BJP and stumped the Opposition.

Home Minister Amit Shah hailed Mr. Singh as a champion of democracy who raised his voice during Emergency.

Ms. Gandhi said his “struggle for the oppressed and deprived will always be remembered. He has always stood by the Congress in our struggle to preserve our nation’s constitutional values.”

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