

BSP's stand towards a Dalit prez nominee can't be negative: Mayawati

LUCKNOW, JUNE 19 /-/-/ Hours after the NDA picked up Bihar Governor Ram Nath Kovind as its candidate for the post of president, BSP chief Mayawati said today that her party cannot take a negative stand against a Dalit nominee. She, however, stopped short of expressing immediate support for Kovind saying the BSP will be positive provided the opposition does not field any Dalit for the post. "The BSP's stand cannot be negative towards a Dalit

nominee for the post of president. Our stand will be positive provided the opposition does not field any Dalit for the post," she said here.

The BSP chief, however, said it would have been better if all opposition parties were taken into

confidence by the BJP-led NDA at the Centre before announcing the name of its candidate. Kovind, a 71-year-old low profile Dalit leader, a two-term BJP Rajya Sabha member, is being seen as an astute choice

by the saffron party, which has been targeted by opposition parties over Dalit issues. His election is almost a certainty as the ruling bloc with the support of some regional parties enjoys a majority in the electoral college. Kovind's

choice is being seen as a political masterstroke as many parties would not like to oppose a Dalit being elected to the country's highest office. K R Narayanan was the country's first Dalit president. (PTI)

CBI team goes to JNU to probe Najeeb's disappearance

NEW DELHI, JUNE 19 /-/-/ A CBI team today visited Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) to probe the disappearance of Najeeb Ahmed, a student who had gone missing from his hostel on October 16, 2016. The team is looking into allegations of a scuffle between Ahmed and ABVP students in JNU's Mahi-Mandi hostel and the circumstances that might have led to it as well as other events that preceded his disappearance. It is likely to meet the suspects and people whose names have cropped up in the matter, sources said. Najeeb's mother Fatima Nafees recently met CBI officers investigating the case. She gave details of the events before her son disappeared from his hostel. Najeeb had returned to the university on October 13, 2016 after the holiday. On the intervening night of October 15-16, he called his mother to tell her that something was wrong. His roommate later told Fatima he had been injured in a fight, she had said. Following the conversation, Fatima took a bus from Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh to reach Delhi in the afternoon. After reaching Anand Vihar, she spoke to him over the phone and asked him to meet her at the hotel. She said in her complaint that there was no trace of Najeeb when she reached his room in Mahi Hostel room 106. With Delhi Police failing to find her son, Fatima approached the Delhi High Court demanding a CBI probe. On May 16, a bench comprising Justice Srinivasan and Rekha Palli handed over the investigation to the CBI with the direction that it has to be monitored by an officer not less than the rank of DIG. The matter has been posted for hearing. The high court had time and again come down heavily on the police for failing to trace the student after several months of investigation and even remarked that it was looking for an "escape route" and was "beating around the bush". The court had also questioned the conduct of the police saying that it was trying to sensationalise the matter as it was filing reports in sealed covers which were "not even nothing confidential, damaging or crucial" in them. (PTI)

India's Mars mission completes 1,000 earth days in orbit

BENGALURU, JUNE 19 /-/-/ The country's low-cost Mars mission spacecraft ISRO had also launched with the Red planet for an extended period completed 1,000 earth days in its orbit today. "MOM completes 1,000 earth days in its orbit, today (June 19, 2017) well beyond its designed mission life of six months, 1,000 earth days corresponds to 973.24 Mars Sols (Martian Solar day) and MOM completed 388 orbits," ISRO said. The satellite is in good health and continues to work as expected, it said, adding that scientific analysis of the data received from the Mars Orbiter spacecraft is in progress. India on September 24, 2014 successfully placed the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) spacecraft in orbit around Mars in its very first attempt, breaking into an elite club.

ISRO had launched the spacecraft on its nine-month-long odyssey on a homegrown PSLV rocket from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on November 5, 2013 and it had escaped the earth's gravitational hold on December 1, 2013. Citing surplus fuel as the reason, ISRO in March, 2015 had first announced that the spacecraft's life was extended for another six months. Later in June, 2015 its Chairman A S Kiran Kumar had said it has enough fuel for it to last "many years". The Rs 450-crore MOM mission is to study the Martian surface, mineral composition and atmosphere for methane, an indicator of life on Mars. The Mars Orbiter has five scientific instruments - Lyman Alpha Photometer (LAP), Methane Sensor for Mars (MSM), Mars Exospheric Neutral Composition Analyser (MENCA), Mars Colour Camera (MCC) and Thermal Infrared Imaging Spectrometer (TIS). The Mars Colour Camera and the scientific payloads onboard MOM, has produced more than 715 images so far. ISRO said. During its journey so far, MOM has gone through a communication "blackout" as a result of solar conjunction from June 2, 2015 to July 2, 2015. It experienced the "whitout" geometry (when the Earth is between the Sun and Mars and too much solar radiation may make it impossible to communicate with Earth) during May 18 to May 30, 2016. An orbital manoeuvre was also performed on MOM spacecraft to avoid the impending long eclipse duration for the satellite. ISRO had also launched MOM as an announcement of Opportunity (AO) programmes for researchers in the country to use MOM data for R&D. To expand inter-planetary research, ISRO is seeking scientific proposals for Mars Orbiter Mission-2, the government said in November last year. (PTI)

Rise above party politics and support Kovind, Yogi tells Oppn

LUCKNOW, JUNE 19 /-/-/ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today asked opposition parties to rise above party politics and support BJP leader Ram Nath Kovind for the post of president. Describing Bihar Governor Kovind's candidature by NDA as supreme honour of the Dalit samaj, Adityanath at a hurriedly convened press conference said someone from among them has been selected for the most coveted post of the country. "It is a new social awakening that a Dalit has been selected for the top most constitutional post of the country for which I want to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah on behalf of the people of the state," the chief minister stressed. "It is my appeal to all political parties to rise above party politics and support the son of Uttar Pradesh to become the president," he said, adding that this is his personal appeal as well as that on behalf of his government.

"It is a matter of pride for the 22 crore people of the state," he said. Meanwhile, BJP celebrated the candidature of Kovind as presidential candidate at the state headquarters here with workers and activists distributing sweets amid drum beats and bursting of crackers. NDA today announced the name of Kovind, a Dalit leader born in Ghatampur area of Kanpur Dehat district as its presidential candidate. The 71-year-old two-term BJP Rajya Sabha member, is seen as an astute choice by the saffron party, which has been targeted by opposition parties over Dalit issues, and his election is almost a certainty as the ruling bloc with the support of some regional parties enjoys a majority in the electoral college. K R Narayanan was the country's first Dalit president. (PTI)

NCP to be part of UPA meet to decide on Prez candidate

MUMBAI, JUNE 19 /-/-/ The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) will be a part of the UPA members' meeting to be held in Delhi on June 22 to decide on the presidential candidate. "All parties part of the UPA will meet on June 22 at 4 pm to decide on who would be our presidential candidate. The NCP too will be a part of it," party spokesperson Nawab Malik said today. In a statement issued here, Malik said the future course of action by opposition parties regarding the presidential polls will be decided in the meet. The BJP today named Dalit leader and Bihar Governor Ram Nath Kovind as the NDA's candidate for the presidential election. It is likely to file his papers on June 23. (PTI)

Kovind: A crusader for the rights of weaker sections

LUCKNOW, JUNE 19 /-/-/ A crusader for the rights of the weaker sections of the society, 71-year-old Ram Nath Kovind is a lawyer-turned-politician, whose choice as the BJP-led NDA's presidential candidate is being seen as a political masterstroke. The reason - many parties would not like to oppose a Dalit being elected to the country's highest office. A champion of the scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, OBC, minority and women's rights from his student days, Kovind is the present Governor of Bihar. A former president of the BJP Dalit Morcha (1998-2002), Kovind has also served as a national spokesperson of the party. He was also the president of the All-India Koli Samaj. On August 8, 2015, he was appointed as the Governor of Bihar. A commerce graduate and LLB from the Kanpur University in Uttar Pradesh, Kovind has been a successful lawyer. He practised in the Delhi High Court from 1977 to 1979 and was the central government's standing counsel in the Supreme Court from 1980 to 1983.

Kovind became an Advocate-on-Record of the Supreme Court of India in 1978. He practised in the Delhi High Court and in the Supreme Court for about 16 years until 1993. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in April 1994 from Uttar Pradesh and served two consecutive terms till March, 2006. In Parliament, Kovind was a member of many important committees, especially the parliamentary committee on the welfare of scheduled castes/tribes, the special justice and empowerment and the committee on law and justice. Kovind joined a stir by SC/ST employees when in 1997 certain orders were issued by the Centre which adversely affected their interests. These orders were later declared null and void after the passage of the Government in the Constitution during the rule of the first NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee. As an advocate, Kovind took the lead in providing free legal aid to weaker sections, especially the SC/ST women, and poor and needy girls, under the aegis of the Free Legal Aid Society in Delhi. Kovind is also known for his work in the field of education. He has served as member on the board of management of the Dr BR Ambedkar University, Lucknow. He was also a member of the board of governors of the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata. He has also represented India in the United Nations and addressed the UN General Assembly in October, 2002. As

Not only Karnan, list of judges courting controversy too long

NEW DELHI, JUNE 19 /-/-/ Justice C S Karnan may have faced the ire of the Supreme Court with his defamatory remarks against the judiciary but there have been other judges in recent years who too courted controversy with their comments. Karnan, who recently retired, described the collegium system as "autocratic" having preference for "high caste candidates", hurling a volley of invectives at the chief justices of the Madras High Court and shooting off letters with "scandalous" comments against judges to top authorities. He became the first sitting high court judge to be awarded jail term though he is yet to be arrested. Recently a Rajasthan High Court judge, Mahesh Chandra Sharma, on the day of his superannuation, stoked a controversy in a judgement with his remarks "make cow a national animal" and "peacock remains celibate". "Peacock is a life-long celibate. He does not indulge in sex with peahen. The peahen gives birth after it gets impregnated with the tears of the peacock. A peacock or a peahen is then born... Lord Krishna used peacock's feather for celibacy A storm, similar to the one triggered by Karnan's comment, was also created in 2010 when a sitting judge of the Karnataka High Court, Justice D V Shylendra Kumar, had

Sena slams Shah; says BJP may win polls but can it save Kashmir?

MUMBAI, JUNE 19 /-/-/ The Shiv Sena today stepped up its attack on the BJP and slammed its chief Amit Shah, saying that his party may win in case of snap polls in Maharashtra and also get its presidential nominee elected but would be unable to save the day in Kashmir. "Amit Shah and his party's eyes are on mid-term polls in Maharashtra. But instead of mid-term poll results, we are worried about what will happen in Kashmir and in violence-hit Darjeeling," the Sena said in an editorial in party mouthpiece 'Saamana'. The Sena's scathing attack on Shah came a day after he met party president Udhav Thackeray at the latter's residence in 'Matoshree'. It said the biggest question today was till when should we keep counting the number of martyred governing party members. "Amit Shah says Maharashtra government will last its five-year term. But will our Kashmir remain in the map?" it questioned. The Sena said that Jammu and Kashmir Chief minister Mehbooba Mufti was openly supporting "youth attacking" soldiers and was blaming Jawans for the present situation in Kashmir. "When the Sena talks about farmers and takes a nationalist stand over issues, attempts are made to teach us a lesson. But not a word is spoken against her (Mehbooba) by the BJP. On the contrary they are supporting it," it said. "Maharashtra situation has become a priority. The situation has gone out of hand in Kashmir and Darjeeling where innocents are being killed. "One may not want to see the end of the world but the situation here with (West Bengal CM) Mamata Banerjee but nobody should try to take political advantage of the situation there," it added. "The BJP is not in Maharashtra but in Maharashtra mid-term will happen. Amit Shah says they will form the government."

You will get their president elected. You will win all elections. But you will be able to save Kashmir?" it asked. Shah had yesterday made the "in the map" issue a political issue in Maharashtra but said the party was ready in case of such an eventuality. (PTI)

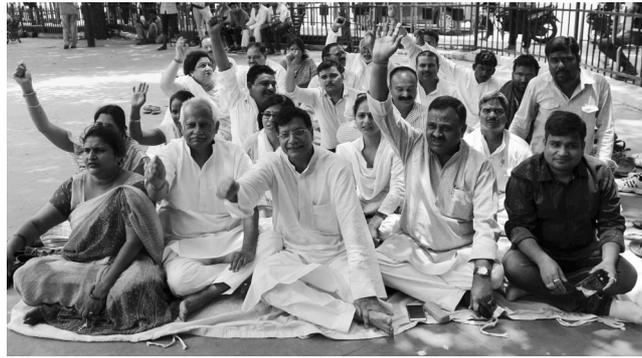
If CBSE makes errors in totalling, mistakes possible in evaluation: HC

NEW DELHI, JUNE 19 /-/-/ Referring to a news item claiming that the CBSE made mistakes in the totalling of marks which was corrected after verification, the Delhi High Court said there could be "errors" in evaluation of answer sheets. According to the news report, some students who had sought verification of their board exam marks saw a substantial increase of 35-45 marks in their scores. "When there are so many errors in totalling, then how many would there be in evaluation," a bench of justices Sanjeev Sachdeva and A K Chawla wondered after referring to the news report. It directed the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to place before the court the decision of its governing body and examination committee to do away with its re-evaluation policy. The bench also asked the board to bring its marking scheme for the various class XII subjects, for re-evaluation of which students have moved the high court. With the directions, the court listed all the pleas by the students for further hearing on June 21. The petitions by the students, who

AUCTION NOTICE
The Assistant Engineer, P.W.D., Kalyani Elec. Sub-division invited sealed bids for the bonafide/auctioneer to sell dismantled unserviceable Electrical Materials. Last date of receipt of bids is 06.06.17 upto 2 p.m. and will be opened shortly thereafter. Other details information will be had from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- S. K. Ghosh
Assistant Engineer, P.W.D., Kalyani, Elec. Sub-Division.



Uttar Pradesh Congress president Raj Babbar addressing a press conference at the state party office in Lucknow.



Rashtriya Lok Dal activists staging a dharna in support of their demands, in Lucknow.

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