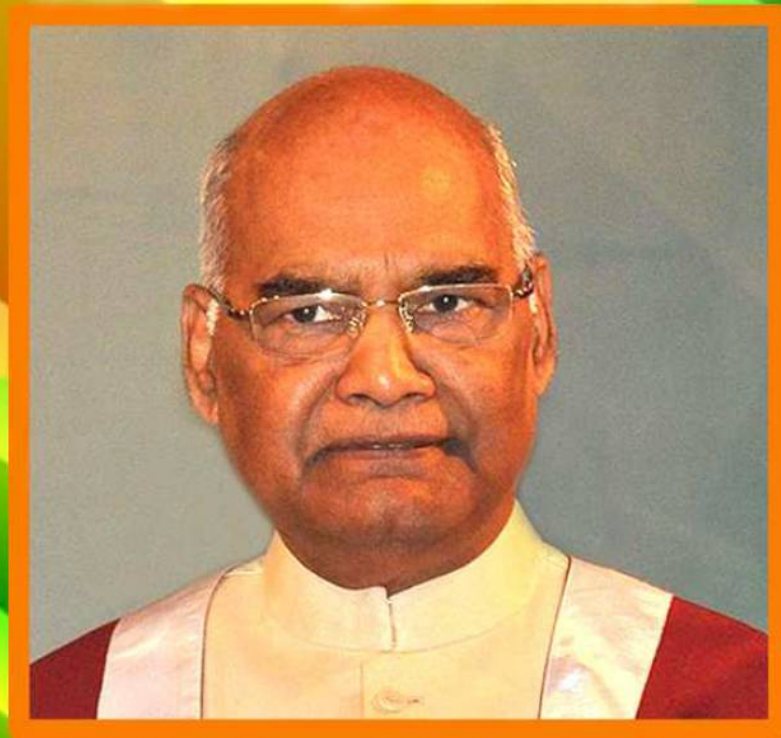


# **RAM NATH KOVIND**

## **FROM RANKS TO RAISINA**



**Dr. Priya Ranjan Trivedi**  
**Dr. Uttam Kumar Singh**



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## **PREFACE**

I have great pleasure in presenting this unique book titled "Ram Nath Kovind : From Ranks to Raisina" based on his biography and his achievements besides the response from the public at large after his name was proposed by the NDA Coalition as the Presidential Nominee.



*The then Prime Minister of India Shri Morarji Desai with Shri Ram Nath Kovind*

I know Shri Ram Nath Kovind for the last 40 years, ever since he got associated with the then Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarjibhai Desai who was related to me in many ways. During that period I saw the dedication and the hardwork of Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji. It was his knowledge of law

and commerce besides his desired to work at the grassroot level which made him a very successful social worker, politician and an expert juridical scientist.



*Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Dr. Priya Ranjan Trivedi  
with other Awardees at Mahakaruna Day*

My joy knew no bounds when Shri Ram Nath Kovind was appointed as the Governor of Bihar. I knew that he will design a new paradigm for Bihar for bringing this State on the World Map.

It was during the Mahakaruna Day 2017 where Shri Ram Nath Kovind and myself along with many other dignitaries who had successfully contributed in bringing and maintaining communal harmony and other related activities including interfaith work



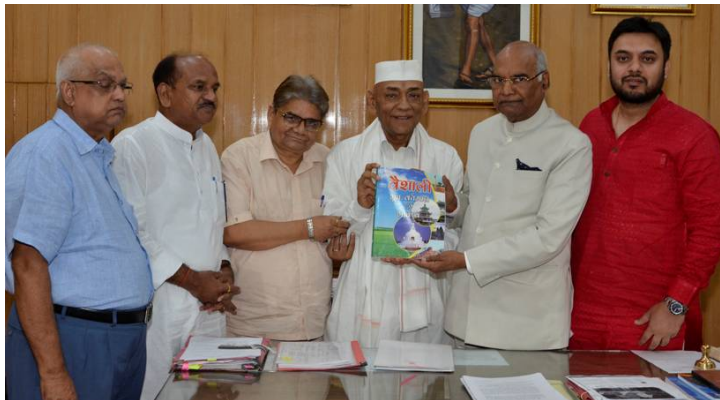
were felicitated. Since then I with my other colleagues have met Shri Ram Nath Kovind many times in connection with issues related to our country in general and to the State of Bihar in particular.



*The Governor of Bihar Shri Ram Nath Kovind receiving the first copy of the Books on Bihar and Patna from Dr. P R Trivedi and Dr. U K Singh at Raj Bhawan, Patna*

Shri Ram Nath Kovind was overwhelmed to receive and release the first copy of the Book titled "Bihar : Past, Present and Future" and "All About Patna". He mentioned to me

that he was longing for an authentic Book on Bihar as well as Patna. I had put more than one year of hard work in bringing out these two Books.



*The Book titled "Vaishali : Past, Present and Future" being released by the Governor of Bihar Shri Ram Nath Kovind in the presence of Dr. Priya Ranjan Trivedi, Dr. Uttam Kumar Singh, Dr. Samir Kumar Singh, Dr. Utkarsh Sharma and Shri Mukesh Chandra Mishra at Raj Bhawan*

In the mean time I also collected information on other two Districts of Bihar namely Muzaffarpur and Vaishali and got these two Books published on a war footing for presenting the same to Shri Ram Nath Kovind when he was the Governor of Bihar. It was 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 that I along with my colleagues had gone to Raj Bhawan, Patna for presenting the Book "Vaishali : Past,

Present and Future". No sooner this Book was presented to him, a call came from the BJP President Shri Amit Shah that he has been nominated by BJP as the Presidential candidate.



*The Book titled "Religious Pluralism" authored by Dr. P R Trivedi being presented to the Presidential Nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind at 10 Akbar Road, New Delhi jointly by Dr. P R Trivedi, Dr. Tanuja Trivedi and Dr. Utkarsh Sharma*

The same day I came to Delhi as he also came to Delhi to meet and thanked the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the BJP President Shri Amit Shah.

As soon as the Indian Citizenry came to know that Shri Ram Nath Kovind after resigning as the Governor of Bihar is staying at 10 Akbar Road, New Delhi in the official residence of the Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Dr. Mahesh Sharma, thousands of admirers started coming to greet and congratulate him.

From the day he came to Delhi for going to different States for campaigning, I thought of collecting information about him for the purpose of bringing out a Book containing the contribution of Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

The Book is accordingly presented before the readers from not only our country but from all over the world as he is sure to become the President of India, the largest democracy of the world.



20<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dr. P R Trivedi

## **Chapter 1**

# **SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**

Shri Ram Nath Kovind (born 1<sup>st</sup> October 1945) is an Indian Politician and the NDA candidate for President of India in the 2017 election. He is a renowned Dalit leader and has been a Member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He was also the Governor of Bihar from 2015 to 2017.



### **Early life and education**

Shri Ram Nath Kovind was born on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1945 in Kanpur Dehat District, Uttar Pradesh. His father was a farmer. He

holds a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce and a LL.B. from Kanpur University.



*Governor of Bihar Shri Ram Nath Kovind with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the Centenary Celebrations of the Patna High Court*

## Career



## Advocate

After graduating in law from a Kanpur College, Shri Ram Nath Kovind went to Delhi to prepare for the civil services examination. He passed this examination on

his third attempt, but he did not join as he was selected for an allied service instead of IAS and thus started practicing the law. He was Central Government Advocate in the Delhi High Court from 1977 to 1979 and served as a Central Government Standing Counsel in the Supreme Court from 1980 to 1993. In 1978, he became an Advocate-on-Record of the Supreme Court of India. He practiced in the Delhi High Court and Supreme Court for about 16 years until 1993. He was also enrolled as an advocate in 1971 with the Bar Council of Delhi. As an advocate he provided free legal aid to weaker sections of society, women and the poor under the Free Legal Aid Society in New Delhi. He also served as the Private Secretary of Prime Minister of India Shri Morarji Desai in 1977-1978.

### **BJP member**

He joined the BJP in 1991. He was President of the BJP Dalit Morcha between 1998 and 2002 and President of the All-India Koli Samaj. He also served as national spokesperson of the Party. He donated his ancestral home in Derapur to the RSS. He contested from Ghatampur and Bhognipur

(Uttar Pradesh) assembly constituencies on the BJP ticket but lost both elections.

### **Rajya Sabha**

He was elected and became a Rajya Sabha MP from the State of Uttar Pradesh in April 1994. He served a total of twelve years, two consecutive terms, until March 2006. As a Member of Parliament, he served on the Parliamentary Committees for Welfare of Scheduled Castes / Tribes, Home Affairs, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Social Justice and Empowerment, Law and Justice. He also served as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha House Committee. During his career as a parliamentarian, under M.P. L.A.D. Scheme, he focused on education in rural areas by helping in construction of school buildings in Uttar Pradesh and Uttrakhand. As a Member of Parliament, he visited Thailand, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Germany, Switzerland, France, the United Kingdom and the United States on study tours.

### **Other appointments**

He has served on the Board of Management of Dr. B.R Ambedkar University, Lucknow and as on the Board of Governors of IIM



Calcutta. He has also represented India at the UN and addressed the United Nations General Assembly in October 2002.

### **Governor**

On 8 August 2015, the President of India appointed him as the Governor of Bihar. On 16 August 2015, the acting Chief Justice of Patna High Court, Justice Iqbal Ahmad Ansari, administered the oath to him as the 36<sup>th</sup> Governor of Bihar. The function took place at Raj Bhawan, Patna. As Governor, he was praised for constituting a Judicial Commission to investigate irregularities in promotion of undeserving teachers, mismanagement of funds and appointment of undeserving candidates in universities. After nomination for the post of President of India, he resigned from his post as Governor of Bihar, and President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee accepted his resignation on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

### **Personal life**

Shri Ram Nath Kovind married Savita Shri Kovind on 30 May 1974. They have a married son, Prashant Kumar, and a daughter, Swati.

## **Chapter 2**

# **INDEPENDENTS FLOCKED TO SUPPORT SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**

NDA-backed Presidential candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind garnered more support, though from expected quarters, making his trip to Jharkhand fruitful in many terms. During his meeting with MLAs and MPs from the BJP and allies from the State on Wednesday, he was also welcomed by Geeta Koda and Bhanu Pratap Sahi — the MLAs not openly in the NDA camp.

The leaders belonging to Jai Bharat Samanta Party and Nav Jawan Sagharsh Morcha, respectively, were present in the get together called at the official residence of Chief Minister Shri Raghubar Das. Besides them all eyes were on cynical ally AJSU and the party of four MLAs was well represented by its supremo Shri Sudesh Mahto along with Minister in Raghubar Das Cabinet Shri Chandra Prakash Chaudhary.

If the BJP sources are to be believed, the ruling coalition is expected to get backing of

jailed MLA of the Jharkhand Party, Ainos Ekka at the time of voting on July 17. "We are in touch with him and he should support the NDA candidate. Also we are working to get support of Kushwaha Shivpujan Mehta (BSP legislator of Hussainabad) who had voted in our favour previously," said a BJP MP.

Taking all the numbers into consideration, Shri Ram Nath Kovind may get votes of at least 49 MLAs, if not 51, in his favour which would be valued as 8624 out of the total value of votes in the Presidential elections—10,98,903. Value of vote of each MLA of the State is 176.

Besides, out of 20 Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs from the State, the NDA nominee is set to get support of as many as 15 members. This prompted Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar punching the air with confidence.

"Since we have announced Shri Ram Nath Kovind as our nominee for the President's post as many as 30 parties have joined hands with us. Several regional parties in other parts and parties from Jharkhand such as AJSU, Jai Bharat Smanta Party

and Jai Jawan Sangharsh Morcha have backed the NDA's candidate," said the senior BJP leader who was accompanying Shri Kovind along with MPs from Maharashtra and few other States. Party's senior leaders including MP Jayant Sinha, Kailash Vijayvargiya and Ram Vichar Netam were present on the occasion.

Quoting Shri Kovind from his address given to supporting MLAs and MPs from the State, Ananth Kumar said that the presidential nominee found his connect with the people of the State. "He paid his tributes to Birsa Munda and termed the people of Jharkhand true and lovable. He also recalled his 50 year old relationship with the people of the State. Referring to the prestige attached with presidential position, he underlined his duties as the commander of chief of all the three forces and securing borders of the country," said Ananth Kumar briefing the media.

He further added that Shri Kovind in his address rated the Constitution of the country as the apex guiding book for him and pledged to play his role as per the aspirations of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar. "He stressed that his ideology is

none other than that of the Constitution," added Ananth Kumar.

BJP State president and MP Laxman Gilua gave welcome speech followed by speech of support on the behalf of the BJP and as well as NDA from Chief Minister Raghubar Das.

### Chapter 3

## WHY TO HAVE SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND AS THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA ?

Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji has been nominated as the Presidential candidate by the National Democratic Alliance and based on the current equations, he is set to succeed Sh Pranab Mukherjee in the office later this summer.

Born in a small village Paraunkh of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Shri Kovind ji studied to be lawyer and cracked civil services exam.

However, being selected for allied services than IAS, he did not join!

I dug internet for the details after reading this question and after searching for 30 minutes, I have following points that speak for him to be a deserving candidate.

- **Studied to become a lawyer**

He studied to become a lawyer and graduated from Kanpur College, Uttar Pradesh

- **Cleared Civil Services Exam**

He was selected for the allied services in his third attempt but did not take it considering his aim was to become an IAS.

- **Enrolled as an Advocate in 1971 with Bar Council of Delhi.**

After he left preparing for IAS, he decided to pursue law as profession in Delhi

- **Central Government Advocate in Delhi HC (1977–1979)**

He served as a lawyer representing the Central Government in Delhi HC for 2 years from 1977 to 1979

- **Central Government Standing Counsel in SC (1980–1993)**

Sh Shri Kovind ji served as the Central Government Standing Counsel in SC for 13 long years in the Supreme Court of India.

- **Worked as PS to Morarji Desai**

One of the facts that surprised me the most was that India's potential President was

once a PS to former Indian PM Shri Morarji Desai.

- **Represented India in the United Nations and addressed United Nations (UN) General Assembly in October, 2002**

This gives him the international exposure and experience of representing the country on an International platform.

- **Rajya Sabha MP for two terms from UP (1994–2000 and 2000–2006)**

12 years in Parliament acquainted him with the functioning of the parliament as well. Apart from it, he has served as a member of several parliamentary committees as an MP. These committees included the likes of Welfare of SC/ST and Social justice and empowerment. This got him the administrative experience required to make it to the top chair in the country.

- Served as a Member of the Board of Management of Dr. B.R Ambedkar University, Lucknow



- Served as Member of Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata
- Served as the Governor of Bihar

Served as the Governor of a State with immense political importance helped him gain the experience of the core politics and required dynamics. Now, he is not only well versed with UP but has a grip on Bihar as well.

- **Born to a farmer in rural Kanpur**

Considering the fact that right wing is dominating the national politics, it adds to the benefit for a ground leader when it comes to nomination.

- **Dalit**

You may feel sad about it but the fact that Indian politics makes one to consider the caste is a reality. Getting a Dalit in the top chair will be a big bonus to BJP's future campaigns. Shri Kovind Ji is one of the most reputable Dalit faces from the Party.

The experience of representing India on an international forum added to his benefit. He is a well informed man when it comes to law

and constitution. He is also well versed with policy making since he worked closely with Sh Morarji Desai. He has also extensively worked in direction of providing free legal aid to the marginalized sections of the society especially women from SC and ST communities.

For now, no matter if you agree or disagree with this decision of the NDA but they have played their cards right. It can be a masterstroke to ensure BJP's presence in center for a long time. It will be interesting to see what Nitish Kumar and Mayawati has got to say on this unpredictable move since Shri Kovind Ji has good relationship with the Bihar CM while BSP supremo is trying to search her lost plot in Dalit politics. Meanwhile, both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh CM has announced the support for the President designate.

## **Chapter 4**

# **MORE DETAILS ABOUT NDA'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE**

His face doesn't grab airtime. His comments do not court controversy and his actions does not generally make news. The National Democratic Alliance's man for the country's highest constitutional post is as low profile as can be.



But the Former Bihar Governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind, 71, has attributes that not many in the large NDA family can boast of.

The Kanpur-born former lawyer is a Dalit leader, is known for his organisational skills and is a loyal member of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Names of several presidential probables from the NDA stable were doing the rounds but Shri Kovind, a former national spokesperson of the party, was not among them.

While the choice may have surprised political watchers, it's an astute move for a party working overtime to expand its social base and win over new constituencies.

Shri Kovind, who could well be India's 14th president if the numbers stack up, is married and has a son and a daughter.

BJP chief Amit Shah said the party's parliamentary board went through a long list of potential candidates before choosing Shri Kovind, who was its MP in the Rajya Sabha for two terms and headed its Dalit Morcha.

His links to the Party's controversial Hindutva politics, however, are tenuous.

Sources say he has been drawn more to the politics of social empowerment of Dalits and other weaker sections than the plank of religion.

Largely seen as an affable man, he has had a quiet innings as the governor of Bihar, a post that he took up in August 2015, months before assembly elections were held in the state.

It is an acknowledgement of his non-confrontational conduct that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who has been battling the BJP in the state, lavished praise on him on Monday, saying he had done 'exemplary work' as Governor.

Shri Nitish Kumar who had earlier been critical of the NDA Government's appointment of Shri Kovind as Governor, had then said he was not consulted about the move. But since then, the two have been getting along well, the sources said.

Shri Kovind, a Commerce Graduate who also studied law at Kanpur University, practised in the Delhi high court and the Supreme Court. He was also the Central Government's standing counsel in the apex court from 1980-93.

His official profile on the Bihar governor's website describes him as a crusader for 'rights and cause of weaker sections of society specially Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes / OBC / minority...' from his student days.

Shri Amit Shah on Monday highlighted his 'humble background' and work for the cause of weaker sections as he appealed to the opposition Parties to support Shri Kovind as a consensus candidate.

The Party's top brass would hope that by sending the only Dalit after Shri K R Narayanan -- and the first from the Hindi heartland -- to Rashtrapati Bhavan, the BJP would win over the community.

The BJP has been seeking to widen its base beyond its traditional constituencies of upper castes and trading classes and has succeeded to a large extent, as seen in the UP assembly polls.

Shri Kovind, who headed Dalit Morcha from 1998 to 2002, also led the All-India Koli Samaj.

Elected to the Rajya Sabha in April 1994 from Uttar Pradesh, he served two consecutive terms till March 2006.

He joined a stir by SC/ST employees in 1997 when Dalits and others protested against orders issued by the central government, which were rescinded by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee when the NDA came to power.

As an advocate, Shri 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.

Known for his work in the field of education, he served as a member on the board of management of the Dr. B R Ambedkar University, Lucknow, and was a member of the board of governors of the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata.

## **Chapter 5**

# **EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**

Shri Ram Nath Kovind, the NDA candidate for the office of President of India, is known for being the noble politician whose actions always spoke louder than his words. Coming from a humble background, this 71-year-old candidate has managed to stay away from controversies all his life.



The Former Governor of Bihar Shri Ram Nath Kovind, was born on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1945 in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh to a farmer. Shri Ram Nath Kovind practised law in the past and he is a prominent leader for the



Dalits. He is also popular for his impeccable organisational skills.

Since the beginning, Shri Kovind has been a part of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He was a member of Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh state for two terms, between 1994 and 2000 and 2000 and 2006. He also chaired the House Committee of Rajya Sabha. Totally sacrificing his life to serve the public, Shri Ram Nath Kovind always had a soft spot for the poor and the underprivileged.

His educational background includes Bachelor of Commerce and an LLB degree from Kanpur University. He played the crucial role of Advocate for Central Government in the High Court of Delhi between 1977 and 1979 and also became the advocate-on-record for the Supreme Court of India in the year 1978. Having enrolled himself as an advocate with the Delhi bar council in the year 1971, he ensured free legal assistance for the poor, the women, and the weaker sections of the society, under the Free Legal Aid Society. Ram Nath was also the personal assistant to the Prime Minister of India Morarji Desai between the years 1977 and 1978.

He was on the Board of Management for Lucknow's Dr BR Ambedkar University and also found himself a place on the Board of Governors for Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata. He was a representative for India at the United Nations and addressed the UN General Assembly in October, 2002.

He was appointed the Governor of Bihar in August, 2015, by the President of India.

**Chapter 6**  
**SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**  
**ARRIVES IN MUMBAI;**  
**TO ADDRESS NDA MPs,**  
**LEGISLATORS**

NDA presidential nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind arrived in Mumbai to address a meeting of legislators and MPs.

Shri Kovind was welcomed at the airport by BJP leaders, including Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Ramdas Athawale, and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

From the airport, Shri Kovind left for the Garware Club in south Mumbai, where he is scheduled to address a meeting of NDA MPs and legislators in the State.

"After the meeting and lunch, Shri Kovind left the city," a BJP leader said.

Shri Kovind is not scheduled to meet Shiv Sena president Shri Uddhav Thackeray at his residence, BJP sources said.

Significantly, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Smt. Pratibha Patil, as presidential candidates of the UPA, had visited the then

Shiv Sena supremo Shri Bal Thackeray at his residence 'Matoshree' in suburban Bandra as the party had broken ranks with the NDA in the past two elections for the highest constitutional office.

Shri Uddhav had announced his party's support for Shri Kovind after a meeting of Shiv Sena leaders here last month. "Shri Kovind is a good candidate, a straightforward person from a simple family and has the potential to work for the country's benefit," he had said, after dithering for a day following the announcement of Shri Kovind's candidature by the BJP, followed by its endorsement by most other NDA partners.

The Shiv Sena's announcement to support Shri Kovind had come amid severe strains in relations of the party with the BJP over a host of issues. The Party had pitched for Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Shri Mohan Bhagwat as its first preference for the top office. "If India has to be made a 'Hindu rashtra', Bhagwat will be a good choice for President," Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut had said.

After Shri Bhagwat ruled himself out of the race, Shiv Sena had suggested agricultural scientist Dr. M S Swaminathan's name for the post, saying he will be able to provide solutions to the deepening agrarian crisis in several parts of the country.

BJP president Shri Amit Shah had met Shri Thackeray last month at 'Matoshree' to enlist the party's support for the NDA's presidential candidate.

Sena has 18 MPs and 63 MLAs. Voting for the presidential election is scheduled on July 17 and the counting will take place on July 20, four days before President Shri Pranab Mukherjee's term ends.

## **Chapter 7**

# **SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND'S SHORT BIOGRAPHY**

Shri Ram Nath Kovind is an Indian Politician who recently resigned as the Governor of Bihar. Check out this biography to know about his childhood, family life, achievements and other facts about his life.



Shri Ram Nath Kovind is an Indian Politician, serving as the present Governor of Bihar (a state in India), in office since 16 August 2015. He has been announced as the presidential candidate by the ruling

National Democratic Alliance. An advocate by profession, he has been active in the political scenario from the past several years. After earning his a LLB from Kanpur University, he practiced for several years as a lawyer in the Delhi High Court and Supreme Court before joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1991.

A “Dalit” hailing from the “Scheduled Castes,” he belongs to a community that has been historically oppressed in India and is thus well aware of the struggles that people belonging to such communities face. For four years he served as the President of the BJP Dalit Morcha and has also provided free legal aid to the weaker sections of the society.

He became a Rajya Sabha MP from the state of Uttar Pradesh in April 1994 and served in this position for 12 years. Over the course of his political career he focused on education in rural areas and has served on the Board of management of Dr. B.R Ambedkar University as well.

### **Childhood & Early Life**

- Shri Ram Nath Kovind was born on 1 October 1945 in Kanpur Dehat

District, Uttar Pradesh, India, to Maiku Lal and Kalawati Devi. His father was a farmer, and their family was a humble one. Their family belonged to the Dalit community, a historically oppressed group in India.

- Not much is known about his early years or schooling. After completing his high school education, he earned a Bachelor's degree in commerce before completing his LLB from Kanpur University.
- He aspired to be an IAS officer and moved to Delhi to prepare for the civil services examination. He cleared the coveted examination on his third attempt but was not selected for IAS and instead chosen for an allied service. He decided not to join and thus started practicing law.

## **Career**

- Shri Ram Nath Kovind's legal career proved to be a successful one. In 1971, he was also enrolled as an advocate with the bar council of Delhi. He served as a Central Government Advocate in Delhi High Court from 1977 to 1979, before serving as a



Central Government standing counsel in the Supreme Court from 1980 to 1993.

- Meanwhile in 1978, he became an advocate-on-record of the Supreme Court of India. Around this time, he also served as the personal assistant of the then-Prime Minister of India Morarji Desai (1977-78).
- Hailing from the Dalit community, Shri Kovind felt strongly about social justice issues. A crusader for the rights and cause of weaker sections of the society from his student days, he provided free legal aid to the oppressed sections of society, especially the women and the underprivileged, under the Free Legal Aid Society in New Delhi.
- His high-prolife legal career brought him in contact with several politicians, and he himself ventured into the field in 1991 by joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In April 1994 he was elected as a Rajya Sabha MP from the state of Uttar Pradesh. He proved to be quite popular in this position and served for a total of 12 years till March 2006.

- In 1997, Shri Kovind joined the SC/ST employees' movement against the central government to protest against some government orders. These orders were later termed null and void through the passage of three amendments to the Constitution.
- As a strong advocate for Dalit rights, he served as the President of the BJP Dalit Morcha between 1998 and 2002. Around this time he was also made the President of the All-India Koli Samaj. He served as national spokesperson of the party as well.
- He held several portfolios as a member of parliament and served on the Parliamentary Committee for Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Tribes, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Home Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment, and Law and Justice.
- Along with social justice, he was very passionate about providing better educational facilities to children in rural areas. He helped in the construction of schools in the rural areas in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand under the M.P.L.A.D. Scheme. He also visited Nepal, Thailand, Pakistan, Germany, France,

Switzerland, United Kingdom, and USA on study tours.

- Alongside his political career, Shri Kovind has also served on the Board of Management of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Lucknow, and was a member on the Board of Governors of IIM Kolkata. In 2002, he represented India at the UN and addressed the United Nations General Assembly.
- His illustrious career as a politician touched newer heights when in August 2015, the President of India appointed him the Governor of Bihar. Once again the determined politician proved his mettle by constituting a judicial commission to investigate appointment of undeserving candidates in universities, irregularities in the promotion of unfit teachers, and the mismanagement of funds.
- Shri Ram Nath Kovind was chosen as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate for the position of the President of India on June 19, 2017, by BJP president Amit Shah. If he does become the president, he will be the first Dalit president of the country.

## **Major Works**

- Shri Ram Nath Kovind is well-known as a crusader for the rights of the underprivileged sections of the society, especially Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/ OBC, minority communities, and poor women. Not only has he served as a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Tribes, but has also provided free legal services to the needy and weaker sections under the aegis of Free Legal Aid Society in Delhi.

## **Personal Life and Legacy**

- Shri Ram Nath Kovind married Savita Kovind on 30 May 1974. They have two children, a son, Prashant, and a daughter, Swati.

## **Trivia**

- This popular BJP politician is known for donating his ancestral home in Derapur to the RSS.

## **Chapter 8**

# **SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: A LAWYER WHO FOUGHT FOR THE DOWNTRODDEN**

Known for his aversion to controversies, Shri Ram Nath Kovind has a history of working for the upliftment of marginalised communities.

A Maha Dalit leader from rural Kanpur, Shri Ram Nath Kovind was chosen as the NDA's presidential candidate by the BJP with an eye on wooing the most backwards and poor classes.



By choosing Shri Kovind, the BJP intends to expand its Dalit support base in the run up to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Soft-spoken Shri Kovind, belongs to the poor section of the Dalit community of Uttar Pradesh.

A lawyer by profession, Shri Kovind belongs to Koli community, a sub-caste of larger Dalit community who have faced extreme depravation and discrimination in Northern India.

The BJP's choice of Shri Kovind comes at a time when Dalit groups have protested in Uttar Pradesh and other states against increased atrocities by upper castes and cow vigilantes.

If elected as the NDA nominee, Shri Kovind will be Uttar Pradesh's first leader to occupy the Rashtrapati Bhavan. He will be the second dalit president after Shri K R Narayanan who hailed from Kerala.

Till date UP has only sent Prime Ministers - Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Charan Singh, VP Singh and Chandra Shekhar. Justice Mohammad

Hidayatullah was the only UP-born leader to have held the highest post but he was only acting President for two brief terms.

Shri Kovind as an NDA choice cannot be easily rejected or defeated by the opposition parties as he is known as a non-controversial BJP politician.

Shri Kovind's name was a surprise to even those within the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) who wanted somebody with a Hindutva image.

However, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and BJP Chief Shri Amit Shah managed to convince the RSS leadership with a strategy that could see the opposition split on choosing the next president.

Two years ago, when he picked Shri Kovind as Bihar Governor, Shri Narendra Modi had tweeted that "he has spent his entire life working for the Dalits, the marginalised communities."

On Monday, after his name was announced, the PM said he will make an "exceptional president" and reminded everyone that he is a "farmer's son" who comes from a humble

background and his "knowledge and understanding of the Constitution will benefit the nation."

Though the opposition is not too happy that the BJP announced its candidate without getting its nod, Shri Kovind is known to enjoy good rapport with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has indicated support for his candidature.

Hailing from Derapur tehsil of Kanpur Dehat, Shri Kovind was BJP's Lok Sabha candidate from Ghatampur seat in 1990. He lost and never contested again. He was elected twice to Rajya Sabha in 1994 and again in 2006.

Shri Kovind's political innings began when he became one of the personal secretaries to then Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai during the Janata Government in 1977. A lawyer for 16 years, he practised in the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court.

Shri Kovind enrolled as an advocate in 1971 before becoming Central Government Advocate in the Delhi HC from 1977 to 1979 and Central Government Standing Counsel



in the SC from 1980 to 1993. He became Advocate-on-Record of the SC in 1978.

Seventy-one-year-old Shri Kovind is a former BJP national spokesperson who was close to AB Vajpayee and LK Advani. He headed BJP's SC/ST Morcha (1998 to 2002). Till he became an MP, Shri Kovind lived in a rented apartment in Delhi's Kalibari. Known to avoid controversy, he never appeared on television when he was party spokesperson.

Shri Kovind served as a member on many important Parliamentary Committees, including that of home affairs, law and justice, social justice and empowerment.

In 2012, Shri Kovind was sent to Uttar Pradesh as BJP general secretary in 2012. Shri Kovind refused to take up any responsibility for more than a year.

During his parliamentary tenure of 12 years, he emphasised on the development of basic infrastructure for education in rural areas by helping in the construction of school buildings in Uttar Pradesh and Uttrakhand under M.P. L.A.D. Scheme.

As a lawyer, Shri Kovind took a leading role in providing free legal aid to the weaker sections of society, especially SC/ST women, needy and the poor under the aegis of "Free Legal Aid Society" in Delhi. He is married to Savita Shri Kovind and has a son and a daughter.

## **Chapter 9**

# **SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND, NDA'S NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

Former Bihar Governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind has been named as BJP's presidential nominee. BJP Chief Shri Amit Shah made the announcement following the BJP's parliamentary committee meet on 19 June. The NDA allies are yet to endorse BJP's nomination.

Shri Kovind, a lawyer by profession, began his career in 1971. He worked in the capacity of an advocate for the central government in Delhi High Court from 1977 to 1979.

Throughout his 16-year-long legal career, he practised in both the Delhi HC and the Supreme Court.

As an advocate, Shri 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.

**Who is Ram Nath Kovind?**  
.....

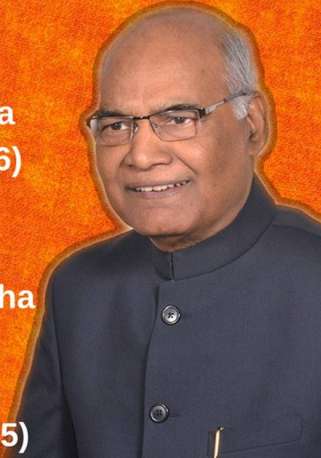
Date of birth: 1 October 1945

**Posts held**  
.....

Member of Rajya Sabha  
(1994-2000 & 2000-2006)

President of the BJP  
Scheduled Caste Morcha  
(1999-2002)

Governor of Bihar (2015)

A portrait of Ram Nath Kovind, an elderly man with glasses, wearing a dark blue Nehru-style jacket, smiling slightly. The background of the entire graphic is a textured orange.

Who is Shri Ram Nath Kovind? Data compiled from Factly.

Shri Kovind was elected as a Rajya Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh. He served two consecutive terms for 12 years, from 1994 to 2006.

Shri 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 three amendments in the Constitution during the rule of the first NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

During his stint as a parliamentarian, Shri Kovind emphasised on the need for infrastructure development and rural education. He helped build schools in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, reported *The Hindu*.

Shri Kovind, who belongs to the Koli community, has served as the president of the BJP Dalit Morcha and the Chief of the All-India Koli Samaj.

The “RSS loyalist” was appointed the BJP national spokesperson in 2010, during Nitin Gadkari’s tenure as BJP chief, reported *Asian Age*.

He has represented India at the United Nations and has addressed the UN General Assembly in 2002. He has also served in various parliamentary committees in various capacities.

Shri Kovind was appointed the Bihar Governor by President Shri Pranab Mukerjee in 2015. According to reports,

Bihar Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar was unhappy with his appointment and had questioned the Centre for having selected Shri Kovind without consulting the state government.

As per the precedent so far, the central government, the home minister talks to the State Government, its Chief Minister on it (appointment of governor)... This time there is no consultation. I have also got the information (about the appointment) through media.

### **Positions Shri Ram Nath Kovind Has Held Over the Years**

**1971-1975:** General Secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Koli Samaj

**1977-1979:** Central Government Advocate in Delhi High Court

**1982-1984:** Central Government Junior Counsel in Supreme Court

**1986:** General Secretary of the Depressed Classes Legal Aid Bureau

**1994-2000:** Elected to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh

**1995-1996:** Member, Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Communications

**1995-1997:** Member, Committee on Home Affairs

**1996-1999:** Member, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

**1996-1999:** Member, Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Railways

**1997:** Member, BJP National Executive Committee

**1998-2000 and 2002-2004:** Member, Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals

**1998-2000 and 2002-2004:** Member, Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Civil Aviation

**1999-2002:** National President, B.J.P. Scheduled Caste Morcha

**2000-2006:** Elected to the Rajya Sabha for 2nd Term from Uttar Pradesh

**2000-2004:** Member, Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

**2000-2002:** Member, Committee on Petitions

**2002 -2004:** Chairman, House Committee, Rajya Sabha

**2002-2004:** Member, General Purposes Committee

**2002:** Member, Board of Governors, Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata

**2003:** Member, Board of Management of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow

**2015 onwards:** Governor of Bihar

**2017:** NDAs' Presidential Nominee.



## Chapter 10

# MULAYAM, SHIVPAL TO VOTE IN FAVOUR OF NDA's NOMINEE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP Chief Shri Amit Shah were among the first to cast their votes to elect the 14th President of India. A total of 776 MPs and 4,120 MLAs will cast their votes today. The fight is between NDA's nominee and former Bihar Governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind and Opposition's candidate and former Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Meira Kumar.



*Opposition's candidate Smt. Meira Kumar  
and NDA's Shri Ram Nath Kovind*

- Voting for presidential election to take place on 17 July 2017.
- The fight is between NDA nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind and Opposition's pick Smt. Meira Kumar

- A total of 4,896 lawmakers vote to elect Shri Pranab Mukherjee's successor
- Voting began at 10 am and will continue till 5 pm PM Modi, BJP chief Amit Shah and UP CM Shri Yogi Adityanath cast their votes around 10:20 am
- A total of 32 polling stations – one in Parliament House and one each in the state legislative assemblies – have been set up

## **Chapter 11**

# **NITISH KUMAR HAS LEFT LALU YADAV AND OPPOSITION ON THEIR TOES**

Questions have been raised over the continuance of the Grand Alliance government in Bihar after Shri Nitish Kumar surprised everyone by backing BJP nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind for President, causing severe heartburns to his alliance partner and RJD boss, Shri Lalu Prasad, who even termed Bihar CM's decision as a "historical blunder".

There may not be any immediate threat to the government in Bihar, but it is subject to Shri Lalu Prasad's ability to lie low. "Shri Nitish Kumar clearly has an independent mind. He cannot be bogged down by what the alliance partner wants him to do. He cannot be pushed beyond a point either," says a senior JD(U) leader in Patna.

But why has Shri Nitish Kumar — having earlier spoken about "Opposition unity" and forging a joint strategy for the presidential polls — changed his stand? Is Kumar on his way back to the NDA camp? Or, is the hype over his backing a BJP candidate worth it?

The JD(U) support to NDA nominee for President, as party chief general secretary Shri KC Tyagi described, can be seen as Nitish Kumar's reciprocation to Shri Kovind's impartial and dignified stint as Bihar governor.

As a man of integrity and honour, Shri Nitish Kumar appears to have only reciprocated the goodwill. But, is this as simple? Top political sources in Patna see Kumar's decision as an expression of his growing despair in the Congress-led opposition. In April, when Shri Nitish Kumar met Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, he reportedly advised her to set a secular agenda instead of reacting to everything that Shri Narendra Modi does or says.

It was seen as Shri Nitish Kumar's last effort to inject a new strategic purpose into the opposition's thinking veins. If Shri Nitish Kumar had to pull out of the UP polls — where he had fiercely campaigned ahead of the Assembly polls to take his party beyond Bihar — it was largely because the Congress did nothing to accommodate the JD(U) in its Uttar Pradesh alliance.



Earlier, it was Shri Nitish Kumar who made Shri Lalu Prasad cede many seats to let a non-existent Congress contest as many as 40 Assembly seats in Bihar Assembly polls. The Congress had won 27 of those seats. Shri Nitish Kumar expected the Congress to reciprocate for the UP polls but the grand old party spurned him.

As the Congress allied with the Samajwadi Party and Shri Nitish Kumar's other alliance partner — Shri Lalu Prasad — campaigned for them in UP, the JD(U) was made to appear unwanted and left out.

Also, Shri Nitish Kumar, a man with a sharp political sense, has quickly

understood that the Congress is not only too weak to lead its alliance partners, but also lacks the vision to set agenda. Worse, regional chieftains like Mamata Banerjee and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav are both unpredictable and untrustworthy.

The impact of this realisation was visible when Shri Nitish skipped Smt. Sonia Gandhi's lunch which she hosted on May 26, where leaders of 16 parties discussed the possibility of a joint candidate for President. But the meeting failed to come out with any names.

Beyond the immediate reasons, Nitish Kumar also has a penchant for taking independent decisions on issues. Much to the chagrin of the BJP top brass, Nitish had backed Congress nominee Pranab Mukherjee as the presidential candidate in 2012, though he was then part of the NDA.

He had also lauded then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for his "economic wisdom and personal integrity" while staying in the NDA. Similarly, Shri Nitish has backed Shri Modi's demonetisation and surgical strike against Pakistan last year.

So, what about the Grand Alliance government at a time when the BJP looks eager to back Shri Nitish Kumar? The writing on the wall is not entirely legible, but seeing the alacrity with which the Bihar CM met Shri Kovind hours after Amit Shah declared the NDA's candidature for President — and then got the JD(U) to officially endorse him — a day before the meeting of Opposition parties to decide on their choice for the post — nothing seems impossible.

## Chapter 12

# **WHAT MADE BJP PICK SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND AS ITS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE?**

In one stroke, Opposition's unity was thrown into disarray as BJP announced the name of Dalit leader and Former Bihar Governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind as NDA's Presidential candidate.



Shri Kovind, a low profile and highly respected leader within the BJP, hails from Kanpur in UP and is known to be a hardcore organization man. "Shri Ram Nath ji has always spoken for the deprived sections of society, and has had a long career in



speaking out for Dalits and oppressed sections of society," said BJP president Shri Amit Shah, announcing his candidature.

Though there are other Dalit faces in the party, Shri Kovind, 71, is highly regarded and has held several responsibilities within the party including the national spokesperson and President of BJP's SC/ST Morcha from 1998 to 2002. A former Supreme Court lawyer, he has also been two term Rajya Sabha MP.

Sources in the party say that it was his unassuming nature and loyalty to the party that won him the nomination for President's post. His appointment as Bihar governor in August 2015, in the run up to the Bihar assembly elections, was met with equal surprise at that time. Not many outside the party knew much about him. In fact, even as national spokesperson of the party, he desisted from making TV appearances.

Known for his Spartan lifestyle, Shri Kovind is believed to have lived in a rented apartment in Delhi's Kalibari area before becoming an MP in 1994.

The decision left the Opposition nonplussed as they would find it difficult to oppose his

candidature owing to his Dalit credentials. A senior Congress leader told Outlook that it may be difficult to oppose a Dalit leader's name "unless we can come up with another strong Dalit candidate." Shri Shah said that the party was hopeful of a consensus on Shri Kovind's name.

"Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has spoken to Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Manmohan Singh, and other political leaders on the issue. The date for nomination will be set in consultation with Shri Kovindji, but most likely it will be on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have simply informed the other leaders. I am hoping for consensus," Shri Shah said. The party is yet to take a decision on Vice President nominee.

## Chapter 13

# **SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HIM**

After a two-hour long meeting on Monday, BJP President Shri Amit Shah announced that Bihar Governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind was the NDA Government's candidate for the presidential election.

The announcement was made after Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met with Shri Amit Shah and other top leaders of his party.



Post the announcement, Shri Amit Shah sought Congress leaders Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh to extend their support for the BJP's nominee.

**Here's what you should know about the NDA-backed Presidential candidate:**

1. Born on October 1, 1945, in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur Dehat, Shri Ram Nath Kovind was the youngest among three brothers. He completed his primary and pre-middle school education from Khanpur in Sandalpur block. He passed intermediate examination from Kanpur and Bachelor of Commerce from DAV College. He became a law graduate from DAV Law College, Kanpur.
2. Thereafter, Shri Kovind moved to Delhi to prepare for civil services examination. He cleared the coveted exams in his third attempt. However, he turned down the job offer as he was selected in the allied services.
3. A lawyer by profession, he practised as an advocate for the Centre in Delhi HC from 1977-79. He was a permanent advocate for the Centre in the SC from 1980-93.

4. After the formation of Janata Party government in 1977, he became private secretary to then PM Shri Morarji Desai. He also worked as a junior counsellor for the Janata Party Government in the Supreme Court.

5. BJP fielded him as a Lok Sabha candidate from Ghatampur in UP in 1990. He lost the election.

6. In 2007, BJP gave him a ticket for UP Assembly election from Bhognipur. He lost that election too.

7. Shri Kovind was a Rajya Sabha member from 1994-2006 from UP. A Dalit, he was member of the Parliamentary committees for SC/ST welfare, Home ministry, petroleum and natural gas, social justice, and law and justice. He was also the chairman of Rajya Sabha Housing Committee.

8. Shri Kovind was a member of management board for Dr. B R Ambedkar University, Lucknow, and Board of Governors, Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata.

9. He represented India at United Nations in New York and addressed the General Assembly in October 2002.

10. He was the BJP's Scheduled Caste cell president from 1998-2002. He was also the party's national spokesperson and a member of the BJP's National Executive Committee (NEC) as a permanent invitee.

71-year-old Shri Kovind is now the Bihar governor. The BJP-led Centre had appointed him as Governor in August 2015 to woo Dalits keeping an eye on the State Assembly elections held in December that year.

**Chapter 14**  
**IS SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**  
**THE MOST SUITABLE**  
**CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT?**

Shri Ram Nath Kovind, the Governor of Bihar, who has been chosen as the National Democratic Alliance's presidential nominee, is a Dalit leader who hails from Uttar Pradesh. Shri Kovind may have kept a low profile during his stint as a Rajya Sabha Member, but he has had an illustrious career wherein he has worked towards the upliftment of the marginalised society, especially the Dalits. Colleagues in Parliament remember him as a gentle, soft-spoken and yet a focused person.

Before entering the world of politics, Shri Kovind practiced as a lawyer in the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court for 16 years. He made a debut into the world of politics when he was elected as the Rajya Sabha Member from Uttar Pradesh in 1994.

Shri Kovind served for two consecutive terms as a Rajya Sabha MP for 12 years, from 1994 till 2006. During his appointment as the member of Rajya Sabha, Shri Ram

Nath Kovind has had the honour of representing India in New York as well as addressed United Nations General Assembly in October, 2002.

Shri Kovind has always worked towards uplifting the lives of the marginalised society. During his parliamentary tenure Shri Kovind emphasised on the requirement of basic infrastructure for education in the rural areas. He helped in the construction of school buildings in Uttar Pradesh as well as Uttarakhand under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme. Shri Kovind has also been an active member of parliamentary committees like Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Tribes, Parliamentary Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, etc. He has also held the office as a member of the Board of Management of Dr. B.R Ambedkar University, Lucknow and Board of Governors of Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata.

### **The Humble Beginning**

Shri Ram Nath Kovind represents the truest part of the Indian society which is



rural, agrarian, and economically and socially underprivileged.

Apart from belonging to the Dalit caste, Shri Kovind has very humble beginnings as the son of a farmer of a lower middle class background. However, even at that young age Shri Kovind knew the importance of education and armed himself with a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce and an LLB from Kanpur University.

### **Family**

Shri Kovind is married to Savita Shri Kovind, and has two children, a son, Prashant Kumar and a daughter, Swati.

### **Shri Ram Nath Kovind Career**

Once he completed his LLB, Shri Kovind proceeded to Delhi to prepare for the civil services examination. However, after clearing it on the third attempt, he opted out as he was selected for an allied service instead of IAS. He started practicing law. In 1971 Shri Kovind was enrolled as an advocate with the bar council of Delhi. Shri Kovind provided free legal aid to the weaker sections of the society including the women,

the minority as well as the poor under the Free Legal Aid Society in New Delhi.

Shri Kovind became an advocate-on-record of the Supreme Court of India in 1978. He served as the personal assistant of the Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai in the period 1977-78.

Since then he has held other prestigious positions including that of the Central Government Advocate in the Delhi High Court from 1977 to 1979, Central Government standing counsel in the Supreme Court for more than a decade from 1980 to 1993. Shri Kovind practiced in the Delhi High Court and Supreme Court for about 16 years until 1993.

### **Political Career of Shri Kovind**

Shri Kovind's journey in the political world began with him joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1991. Since then he has been a loyal member of the party and even donated his ancestral home in Derapur to the RSS. As a member of BJP Shri Kovind served as the President of the BJP Dalit Morcha between 1998 and 2002, and President of the All-India Koli Samaj. He was also the national spokesperson of the

party. Shri Kovind contested from Ghatampur and Bhognipur (Uttar Pradesh) assembly constituencies on the BJP ticket but lost both the elections. He was elected as a Rajya Sabha MP in 1994 and held this illustrious position for two terms till 2006. During his stint as the Rajya Sabha MP, Shri Kovind has travelled across the globe to Thailand, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Germany, Switzerland, France, the United Kingdom and the United States on study tours. Shri Kovind was appointed as the Governor of Bihar on 8 August 2015 by the President of India, and since then he held the office till he resigned after being nominated for the office of the President of India. As the Governor of Bihar, Shri Kovind has had a quiet innings but his non-confrontational conduct prompted the Bihar Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar, who has been battling the BJP in the state, to praise him for his exemplary work as the Governor of Bihar. During his stint as the Governor of Bihar, Shri Kovind constituted a judicial commission to investigate irregularities in promotion of undeserving teachers, mismanagement of funds and appointment of undeserving candidates in universities, for which he received a lot of praise and accolades from all fronts.

## **Chapter 15**

# **SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND AS THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA**

The Office of the President of India, barring a couple of episodes, has been non-controversial since India gained independence in 1947. Shri Kovind, with a gentle temperament, affable nature, an in-depth knowledge of the Constitution of India, and organisational skill is certain to fit smoothly into the job. His exposure to global politics while he served as a Rajya Sabha MP will also come in handy because as the President of India he will receive and interact with leaders from across the globe.



## Chapter 16

# **SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND : FIRST PERSON SINGULAR**

It is not his Dalit identity alone that makes Shri Ram Nath Kovind an ideal presidential choice

June 19<sup>th</sup> WAS like any other day at Raj Bhavan in Patna. Shri Ram Nath Kovind, the then Governor of Bihar, was back from his morning walk and sipped green tea as his assistant read out the day's plan. He had a few meetings lined up, among them an interaction with a group of school students who would brief him on the preparations for International Yoga Day.



Everything was going as per schedule, until a phone call came. It was BJP President Amit Shah. Shah briefed him on developments in the Capital and asked him to pack his bags. Shri Kovind summoned his staff. All the engagements of the day were cancelled. One of his close aides asked: "Is there any special news, sir?" Shri Kovind smiled. "Wait for some time. It will be on TV." At 2 pm, Shah announced Shri Ram Nath Kovind's presidential candidacy. The NDA had decided to field the 71-year-old for the post, he declared at the party headquarters on Ashoka Road.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar—who, it is worthwhile to recall, had publicly opposed Shri Kovind's appointment as Governor—

was the first to pay him a visit. "He has done exemplary work as Governor of Bihar.

He worked with impartiality and maintained an ideal relationship with the state Government," Kumar said after the announcement. Greetings and congratulatory messages are still pouring in. Shri Kovind is expected to win comfortably; he has the numbers on his side. The opposition has also nominated a Dalit—former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar—as their choice for President.



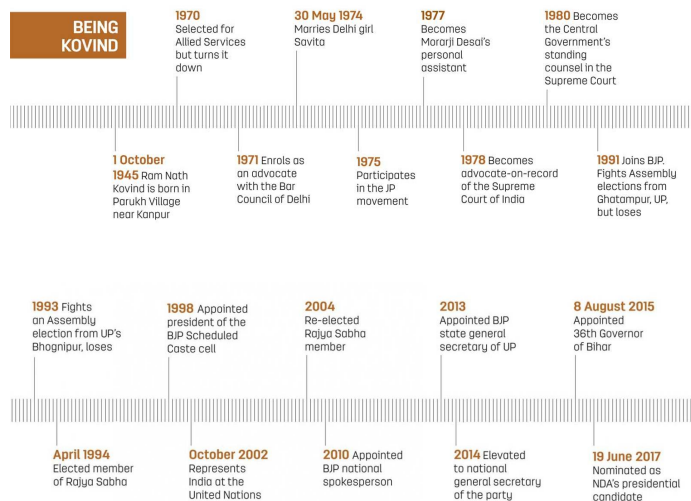
Born in rural Kanpur, Shri Kovind has crossed many political milestones without much ado and is now set to become the highest custodian of the Indian Constitution. The moment his name was

announced by the NDA, he started trending in Google searches. "In politics you never know what is in store for you. I believe in executing the duties assigned to me in every role," he told a journalist who asked him if he saw this coming. "I thank the party leadership for choosing me. More than an honour, it is a responsibility to deliver." Barring any surprises, Shri Kovind will be the 14th President of India and the second Dalit President after KR Narayanan.



"There is a difference between Shri Kovind and Narayanan," says Rakesh Sinha, an RSS ideologue who is a close friend of Shri Kovind's. "Narayanan was part of the Indian bureaucracy, while Shri Kovind is a product of social and political movements."





Shri Ram Nath Kovind's father Maiku Lal ran a small *kirana* shop in Paraukh, a village 110 km from Kanpur city. Born into the Kori (a Dalit sub-caste) community on October 1st, 1945, Shri Kovind was the youngest of five brothers and two sisters. A childhood friend, Jaswant Singh, recalls that when Shri Kovind was four or five years old, the family's hut caught fire. "His mother died in the fire, and his father has been taking care of the family since," says Singh, a classmate of Shri Kovind's from the government primary school in Khanpur, Sandalpur block. "The school was about 6 km from our village and we would walk the 12 km to and from school every day," he

adds. A sincere student, Shri Kovind was also spiritually inclined, thanks to his father who read out the Ramayana to him and distributed religious books in the village.

Within a week of Shri Kovind taking office as Bihar's Governor in 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi acknowledged his contributions and commitment to the cause of Dalits and marginalised communities

Shri Kovind went to DAV College Kanpur to study commerce and followed it up with an LLB from DAV Law College. His association with the RSS began during this period. "He was not regular in attending the *shakha*," says retired teacher Raj Kishor Singh, Shri Kovind's childhood friend. "More than attending the *shakha*, he was inspired by the thoughts and knowledge shared during these meetings." Shri Kovind later went to Delhi to prepare for the civil services. Successful in his third attempt, he was selected for the Allied Services but did not enlist, instead enrolling as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1971. His law practice brought him in touch with the socialist movement and he soon became close to Morarji Desai. On May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1974, when he married a girl named Savita, Desai

attended the wedding. Post-Emergency, when the Janata Party Government was formed in 1977 under Desai, Shri Kovind became his personal assistant. He was also the Centre's advocate in the Delhi High Court. From 1980 to 1993, he served as a standing counsel for the Central Government.

The Ram Mandir movement drew Shri Kovind towards the BJP. He made the acquaintance of Kalyan Singh, then a senior BJP leader in Uttar Pradesh, and formally joined the party in 1991. Rakesh Sinha recalls an interesting story Shri Kovind told him. Sometime in the early 90s, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was in Lucknow for a meeting. Shri Kovind greeted the senior leader with 'Jai Sri Ram', but did not get an answer. When he mustered the courage to ask Vajpayee what was wrong, the leader replied, "I got you in the party to say 'Jai Bhim' and you have started chanting 'Jai Sri Ram'." They had a good laugh, but in all seriousness, Shri Kovind was being groomed to become the BJP's Dalit face in UP. Firebrand leaders like Vinay Katiyar and Uma Bharti were the voices of the season, but Shri Kovind worked silently behind the scenes to expand the party base. He

contested the Assembly elections twice—from Ghatampur and Bhognipur—and lost both times. But what he lacked in popularity, he made up for with his organisational skills. Kalyan Singh recognised this and decided to send Shri Kovind to the Rajya Sabha.

“Shri Kovind doesn’t represent a section of society, he represents the majority of Indians. He is a lot like Prime Minister Modi in this sense. They both broke conventional political and social barriers” - Ram Madhav, BJP general secretary

In October 1994, Shri Kovind became an MP for the first time. Shri Kovind’s nomination to the Rajya Sabha marked the beginning of his rise in the BJP at the national level. By then, his family had moved to Indira Nagar in Kanpur. When in town, Shri Kovind kept a low profile, but never refused to meet people, especially Dalits, in need. He was quick to offer help and gave away hand pumps—which was in great demand those days— and other necessities, and became popular among Dalits even as local BJP leaders ignored him, says Shiv Prasad Sonekar, a spokesperson for the UP BJP SC cell who has been closely associated with

Shri Kovind since 2005. When the BJP came to power at the Centre in 1998, Shri Kovind was made president of the SC wing. In October 2002, he represented India in the United Nations and addressed the UN Assembly. His work as a parliamentarian earned him a second term in the Rajya Sabha. In 2010, he became a national spokesperson for the party. That same year, he played an active role in the return of Uma Bharti to the BJP. Bharti had left the party in 2003 to form her own. Shri Kovind brokered peace between her and LK Advani, ultimately resulting in her return.

But his political career wasn't without blips. In 2013, ahead of the Lok Sabha election, he was sent back to Uttar Pradesh to serve as general secretary of the state BJP. "It was a demotion—from national spokesperson to state general secretary—but he didn't take it that way," says Sonekar. "He was happy with the role assigned to him."

In December 2013, he took up a house on rent in the Jalaun Lok Sabha constituency and started working in the area. "We spent two to three months working there hoping he would get a ticket," says Sonekar. Jalaun is a reserved constituency bordering Kanpur

rural, and Shri Kovind thought he stood a good chance. But he was denied a party ticket. Party general secretary in-charge of UP, Amit Shah persuaded him not to contest and Shri Kovind obliged, campaigning for the party's candidate from Jalaun—Bhanu Pratap Singh, who won by a margin of more than 250,000 votes. Post the elections, Shri Kovind was elevated to the post of BJP national general secretary. In August 2015, he became the 36th Governor of Bihar. Shri Kovind's hard work and equanimity had finally paid off. Within a week of taking office as Governor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at an election rally in Arah, Bihar, acknowledged Shri Kovind's contributions and commitment in his speech: "Shri Kovind ji has spent his entire life working for Dalits and marginalised communities." Perhaps it was a hint that Shri Kovind was destined for a greater role.

"Shri Kovindji has done exemplary work as Governor of Bihar. He worked with impartiality and maintained an ideal relationship with the state government" - Nitish Kumar, chief minister of Bihar

The Dalit identity is a precious commodity in politics, especially today, but Shri Kovind

did not wear it on his sleeve. "He did not play the victim card nor did he hint at hailing from a marginalised section of society," says Rajnath Singh Surya, former BJP Rajya Sabha MP who worked closely with him. "He is a self-made man who earned his place through knowledge, hard work and discipline," Surya says, and recalls how during Parliament sessions, Shri Kovind would call him up every morning to discuss the proceedings of the day. "Whenever there was a legal or a Constitutional issue in the Rajya Sabha, two people from the BJP took the lead. One was TN Chaturvedi and the other was Shri Kovind." On March 3rd, 2006, while speaking on the Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2006, moved by the then Law Minister Hansraj Bhardwaj, Shri Kovind was unsparing in his defence of the value of criticism in a democracy. "If any citizen of this country can criticise the President of India for his wrong-doing, I don't think it could be valid if the judiciary is exempted. If the appointing authority of judges, the President, could be censured, so could the judiciary," he said.

As Governor, Shri Kovind was known for one thing. Whoever visited him—be it his

counterparts, chief ministers, government officials— would be gifted a golden statuette of Buddha. Even on May 29th, when he was in Shimla for his friend and Himachal Pradesh Governor Acharya Dev Vrat's wedding anniversary, it was the Buddha statuette Shri Kovind presented. A Raj Bhavan official says Shri Kovind made sure a stock of these idols was always kept available.

"There is no ambiguity in his thought and political understanding and he does not hesitate to express his views," says Sinha. On one occasion in 2010, when Sinha shared the dais with him, Shri Kovind was asked to speak on the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities, also known as the Ranganath Misra Commission, which had recommended 10 per cent reservation for Muslims and 5 per cent for other minorities in government jobs. The Commission had also advocated delinking Scheduled Caste status from religion and bringing Muslims, Christians, Jains and Parsis under the SC net. Shri Kovind spoke against it and backed it with this argument: "The educational level of Scheduled Caste children remains much lower than that of convert Dalits and



Muslims. The children of converts will grab a major share of reservation in government jobs. They would become eligible to contest elections on seats reserved for Scheduled Castes. This would encourage conversion and fatally destroy the fabric of Indian society." Another time, when the then UP Chief Minister Mayawati was busy erecting statues of Dalit icons (including herself) in the state, Shri Kovind made a sharp attack on her. "The ruling Bahujan Samaj Party has nothing to do with the ideology of BR Ambedkar who always opposed the idolisation of a person," he told media persons on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010, in Lucknow. "Dr Ambedkar was not in favour of installing statues."

Shri Kovind's commitment to Constitutional values is well recognised. His interruption of Tej Pratap Yadav's oath is unforgettable. During the swearing-in ceremony of ministers in November 2015, Tej Pratap, the elder son of Lalu Prasad, wrongly pronounced the Hindi word '*apekshit*' (expected) as '*upekshit*' (deserted). Shri Kovind corrected him and made him take the oath a second time.

In November 2016, when the Bihar Assembly passed the Bihar Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill 2016 and sent it to the Governor for approval, Shri Kovind returned the Bill for reconsideration as there was no time frame mentioned for the selection of the Lokayukta. 'The process for selecting the Lokayukta and its members cannot be allowed to continue for an indefinite period as it will provide an opening for seepage of distrust and will also give an opportunity to the people at large to raise a shadow of doubt over the efficacy and authority of the constitution of the Lokayukta as an independent body to conduct inquiries related to corruption and misuse of official position by persons sitting in higher positions,' read his message.

BJP General Secretary Ram Madhav says Shri Kovind's nomination for the highest office is not about caste. "Shri Kovind doesn't represent a caste or a section of the society. He represents the majority of Indians," he says. "He is a lot like Prime Minister Modi in this sense. They both broke conventional political and social barriers, rising to the occasion."

## **Chapter 17**

### **PPA, NPF SUPPORTS**

### **SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**

BJP's estranged ally in Arunachal Pradesh, People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) has decided to support the NDA's Presidential nominee, Shri Ram Nath Kovind. Another BJP ally, Naga People's Front (NPF) stated that it will vote without any hesitation in favour of the candidate proposed by the NDA.



Relationship between BJP and PPA suffered jolt after Chief Minister, Pema Khandu

along with other MLAs left PPA and joined BJP in December last year. PPA had suffered split.

PPA Chairman Kameng Ringu told ET, "As we are part of NDA and BJP floated platform of non-Congress parties, Northeast Democratic Alliance (NEDA), we will support Shri Kovind."

PPA's Legislature Party leader Takam Pario assured support of its nine MLAs to the candidature of Shri Ram Nath Kovind as NDA presidential candidate during a meeting with BJP General Secretary Ram Madhav at New Delhi.

Nagaland chief minister, Dr Shurhozelie Liezietsu stated, "NPF has always been an ally of the non-Congress national party since the late 1970s and this alliance was renewed and strengthened in the early part of 2003 when the non-Congress political parties came together and formed the Democratic Alliance of Nagaland where the then Chairman of the NDA George Fernandes himself was a signatory to the agreement."

He added, "Ever since, the alliance has

continued to grow from strength to strength with presently the NPF and the BJP, with the support of the 7 Independent MLAs, maintaining the spirit of healthy alliance, especially after the formation of NEDA in May 2016 with the BJP and the NPF being the principal parties in NEDA, which saw the relationship extend to the neighbouring State of Manipur where the four NPF legislators are part of the BJP-led government."

He added that NPF is a permanent ally of the BJP and NDA, and considering that the NPF is also a principal component of the NEDA, the NPF-led DAN government will vote without any hesitation in favour of the candidate proposed by the NDA to be the next President of India.

Chapter 18

## UNASSUMING SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND HAS RISEN FROM THE RANKS

**Question everyone is asking: Who is Shri Ram Nath Kovind?**

A man of humble origin and a low-profile leader, Shri Ram Nath Kovind emerged the dark horse in the presidential race and, if elected, will be the second Dalit President of India.



Born in Paraunkh village in Kanpur rural of Uttar Pradesh two years before Independence, Shri Kovind, who will turn

72 in October, hails from the Koli (weaver) community.

Always unassuming, Shri Kovind worked through the ranks to become a national spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and headed the party's Scheduled Castes Morcha for three years from 1999.

A story doing the rounds after his name was announced as presidential nominee of the ruling NDA was that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had wondered who Shri Kovind was when he was appointed Governor of the state in 2015.

A lawyer by profession, Shri Kovind had practiced in the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court for 16 years. He was also a central government counsel for some time.

Shri Kovind served two terms in the Rajya Sabha member (1994-2006) and was member of a number of parliamentary committees, including home, welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and Hindi Shiksha Samiti.

He also served as member on the Board of Governors of Indian Institute of

Management – Kolkata and that of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Lucknow.

He has represented India at the United Nations and addressed the United Nations General Assembly in October 2002.

Shri Kovind has worked for the rights of weaker sections, particularly the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women. He joined the movement of SC/ST employees against the central government over 1997 orders, which adversely affected their interests. The orders were subsequently nullified by amendments adopted during the first National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government.

Shri Kovind also worked for providing free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society as an advocate.

During his terms as a Member of Parliament, Shri Kovind helped in construction of school buildings in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

Shri Kovind was general secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Koli Samaj.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed Shri Kovind's choice as the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) presidential candidate, saying he would make an "exceptional" President and continue to be a strong voice for the poor and the marginalised communities.

Modi also said that Shri Kovind's knowledge and understanding of the Constitution would benefit the nation.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar lauded Shri Kovind's term as the state's Governor and said he served "exceedingly well".

"The ideal relationship that should be with the state government...he acted accordingly," Kumar said. (IANS)

Chapter 19  
**SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND :  
BJP'S DALIT OUTREACH IS A  
PM's MASTERSTROKE**

The BJP's dalit outreach has become evident with its choice of nominating Bihar Governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind as the next President of India. There is no doubt that Shri Kovind is a qualified lawyer and was twice nominated to the Rajya Sabha. He not only served on important parliamentary panels, but also worked for the organisation.



But for good or bad, Shri Kovind's dalit identity would remain the prism through which his election to the high office would be

observed because he belongs to the Kori community. They belong to less-privileged section within dalits, which in general parlance are described as non Jatavs. Post-independence, the Jatavs continue to dominate leadership position within Dalits but Shri Kovind's candidature changes the game.

Despite getting a reasonable non-Jatav vote in the past three years, the BJP has faced flak from the Opposition, who constantly barrage the Centre for being 'anti-dalit'.

BJP had come under considerable attack from the Congress after the Rohith Vemula episode. This was followed by the assembly elections in Bihar, where RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat spoke on reservations. BJP attempted damage control, but the statement cost the party the Bihar elections.

The Centre's problems were further complicated thanks to gau rakshaks and the violence they perpetrated. A number of dalits, who have businesses in tanneries, were assaulted by the rakshaks. Many academicians have also argued that by depriving beef to dalits, the ruling class has ended up depriving cheap source of protein

to the most oppressed section of the Indian state. The Congress used this to their advantage, while criticising the Centre's three-year performance.

On the surface BJP remained dismissive but understood the danger that the debate held the potential to paint BJP as anti-Dalit and pro industrialists in front of the electorate.

By selecting Shri Kovind, BJP wants to rest the debate on the dalit issue. The aim is not to create a consensus on the name but to push a candidate who can send a strong signal to the dalit community that this choice was made with a purpose that the BJP remains committed to the dalit cause. This is why BJP President Amit Shah continues to break bread with dalits all through the expansion programme of BJP in India.

Another reason for this decision is that today BJP might have strong upper caste and OBC faces through India but doesn't have a pan-India dalit leader in its stable. The same can be said about the Congress today, but it does have a history of dalit leadership. Other Dalit leaders belonging to

non-Congress fold such as Mayawati remain rooted to state politics.

By elevating Shri Kovind through a non-electoral and non-organisational mode, BJP looks to have appealed to the dalit, which will make life tougher for the UPA.

The Opposition will need to be creative in fielding a candidate against Shri Ram Nath Kovind. It will need to portray a face which either outshines the imagination around Shri Kovind or dominate the very discourse on which his selection has taken place.

Congress may accuse BJP of symbolism, but it also made KR Narayanan the first dalit President of India. It is also not without reason that Mallikarjun Kharge, a dalit, is the leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha.

In the first three years of the Modi government, the Opposition has had the upper hand on the narrative on dalit politics. However, Shri Kovind's nomination will determine if it has successfully managed its dalit outreach.

Chapter 20  
**SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND  
SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN  
DENIED ENTRY TO  
PRESIDENT'S RETREAT**

Three weeks ago, Bihar Governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind and his family were denied entry into the President's retreat in Mashobra near Shimla because they did not have prior permission. Shri Kovind has now been picked by the ruling BJP as its nominee for the next President and could by next month be the custodian of the sprawling presidential summer retreat.

Shri Kovind, 71, was on a family vacation in around Shimla in late May and while he and his wife traveled in an official car, the rest of his family used hired taxis for sight seeing trips, reports Press Trust of India. When he reached Mashobra, about 15 km from the Himachal Pradesh capital, the Governor sought to visit the presidential retreat, which is a high security zone. He was not allowed to.

"The Bihar Governor visited the Kalyani helipad, constructed especially for the

president, and I suggested he should visit forests of the Shimla water supply catchment area, known as one of the best maintained forests in the world. He was fascinated by the greenery and scenic beauty," said Shashi Kant, adviser to Himachal Pra-desh Governor Acharya Devvrat. The President visits the retreat at least once a year and his core office shifts during his stay.

Shri Ram Nath Kovind is not expected to encounter hurdles in his way to the President's post. The BJP and its allies have about 48 per cent of the vote in the electoral college that selects the President and with the support of regional parties like Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal and Tamil Nadu's AIADMK, have the numbers to win an election if one is held on July 17. Votes will be counted on July 20. The BJP's selection of Shri Ram Nath Kovind, a Dalit leader, has also cleaved the opposition, which has been attempting to unite to jointly field a candidate for President against the BJP's nominee. Dalit icon Mayawati of the Bahujan Samaj Party has said she will not object to Shri Kovind unless the opposition too fields a Dalit leader.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, whose Janata Dal (United) is a key element of the united front that the opposition is attempting, visited Governor Shri Kovind last evening to congratulate him on his nomination. He said he would state his party's stand at an opposition meeting later this week, but praised Shri Kovind for "an ideal relationship" with the Bihar government.



**Chapter 21**  
**SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**  
**DOCUMENTS HIS**  
**SELECTION PAPERS AT**  
**THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE**

National Democratic Alliance presidential candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind documented his selection papers at the Parliament House on Friday. Head administrator Narendra Modi, party president Amit Shah and veteran pioneer L K Advani and a few NDA pioneers were available.

The assignment papers were submitted to Anoop Mishra, the secretary general of the Lok Sabha and returning officer for the presidential races. Among the NDA pioneers show were boss priests Chandrababu Naidu of Andhra Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath of Uttar Pradesh and K Chandrashekar Rao of Telangana. Akali pioneer Parkash Singh Badal was likewise present.

The resistance competitor Meira Kumar is yet to document her papers the last date for which is June 28. Following the documenting

of his designation, Shri Ram Nath Kovind will venture out crosswise over India to meet boss clergymen of various states to look for bolster. He is additionally prone to make bids to administrators. He is hollowed in the race, which is made arrangements for one month from now, against the previous Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar, who has been handled by the Congress and 16 other resistance parties.

Shri Kovind will investigate every possibility in contacting distinctive gatherings, however, the decision NDA has as of now secured an agreeable larger part.

Upheld by parties like AIADMK, BJD, JD(U), TRS and YRS Congress, the NDA has secured 682,722 out of 10,98,903 votes in the appointive school.

Kumar has a tough errand: the Opposition has only 378458 votes, far shy of the larger part sign of 5,49,452.

**Chapter 22**  
**I AM A SMALL CITIZEN**  
**ENTRUSTED WITH A BIG**  
**RESPONSIBILITY**

The NDA's Presidential nominee and Bihar Governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind today said he will meet leaders of major political parties and seek their support to emerge as a 'consensus candidate' for the coveted post.

He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah after he arrived here in the evening from Patna following the BJP's decision to project him as the ruling NDA candidate as the Head of the State.

Shri Kovind said he was a "small citizen" entrusted with a big responsibility.

"All those who are members of the electoral college...I will meet leaders of major political parties and seek their support...I hope that every citizen will support me," he said.

After meeting Modi, Shri Kovind briefly visited the Bihar Niwas where he declined to answer any question from the media and only said, "I thank everyone."

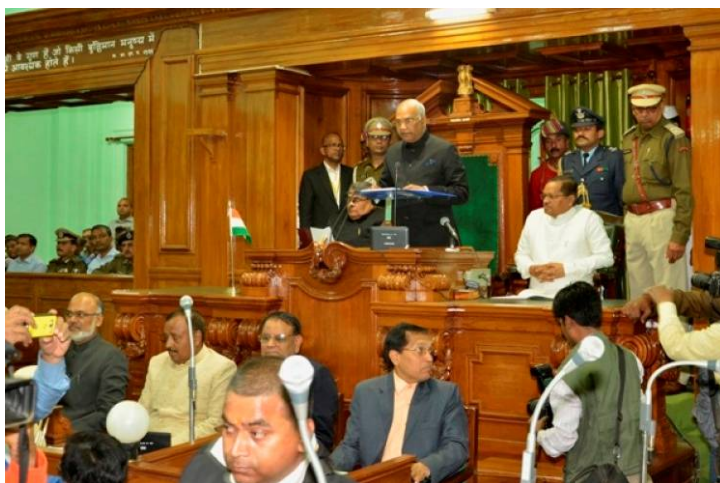
Non-NDA parties like BJD, TRS and YSRCP have announced their support to the Dalit leader. Shri Kovind is likely to file his nomination on June 23.

If elected, which appears to be a certainty, the 71-year-old former lawyer would be only the second Dalit to occupy the Rashtrapati Bhavan after K R Narayanan.

## Chapter 23

# HERE ARE THE QUESTIONS SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND RAISED IN RAJYA SABHA

Despite his background, Shri Kovind never raised any questions directly about atrocities against Dalits.



Shri Ram Nath Kovind when he was governor of Bihar in the Bihar Vidhan Sabha for a joint session on February 23, 2017. Credit: Bihar governor's website

During his two terms in the Rajya Sabha, NDA presidential candidate Shri Ram Nath

Kovind, raised a total of 283 questions, of which only 13 were directed to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Among these, not a single question was directly about the Dalits of Uttar Pradesh, even though he belongs to the state. Merely 12 questions were asked to the agriculture ministry, of which, not even one was related to agricultural labourers or land distribution.

Shri Kovind was the governor of Bihar, serving since 2015, at the time of being picked as the presidential nominee, and was a BJP Rajya Sabha member for two consecutive terms, from 1994 to 2006. But among all his credentials, only two points are being highlighted – that he is the son of a poor farmer and that he is a Dalit.

These points are worth noting because in parliamentary politics, the socio-economic background matters as there seems to be a common perception that learning from this will be used on the political platform.

None of the 25 questions asked by Shri Kovind to the ministries of social justice and agriculture were about caste atrocities, farmer suicides or the waiver of farmer

loans. On the contrary, many were directed to the staff of these ministries. During his two terms as a MP, the Congress was in power at the Centre for most of the time.

### **Questions to social justice ministry**

In 1996, Shri Kovind asked questions related to the voluntary donation of one day's salary by staff of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation to the Andhra Pradesh chief minister's relief fund; the increase of substantial subsidy on fertilisers; and the national commission for safai karamcharis.

In 1997, he raised questions related to declaration of Uttaranchal as a tribal state; the inclusion of Rawalta and Jaunpuri castes in the ST list; the declaration of the Giripur area in Himachal Pradesh as a ST area; and the representation given by different castes to state governments for inclusion in the SC/ST lists.

In 1998, the questions asked were related to the employing of persons with disabilities and the recommendations of state governments for the inclusion of certain castes and tribes in the SC/ST lists.

In 2004, Shri Kovind raised a question related to the appointment of the members and the secretary of the central *waqf* council. The second was related to the bifurcation of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

### **Questions to agriculture ministry**

In 1996, Shri Kovind raised a question related to corruption in state farm corporations, the appointment of bonafide students in Delhi Milk Scheme milk booths, and cooperation between India and Brazil for agricultural research.

In 1997, Shri Kovind raised a question related to the use of staff cars for private purposes by senior officials.

In 1998, he asked a questions related to the amendment in the milk and milk product order for increased private investment in dairy industry; the proposal from Uttar Pradesh to set up a national centre for water management and regional USAR; the loss of life and property across the country due to floods and droughts; and expenditure for the exchange of information in the field of agriculture.



## **Other questions**

Shri Kovind did not raise a single question mentioning poor farmers, landless labourers or Dalit atrocities. Besides, he raised just three questions to the finance ministry and the personnel ministry, between 1996 and 1998 about reservations.

These questions were related to the promotion policy formulated by the management of Punjab and Sind Bank, directives regarding reservation to SC/ST employees in the bank, and the modification of a Department of Personnel and Training memorandum regarding SC/ST employees.

Despite being a Dalit and belonging to UP, a state with high incidence of caste atrocities, out of the five special mentions, Shri Kovind only made one special mention about atrocities against Dalits, that too in Bihar, to which he never received any answer from the Government.

**Chapter 24**  
**SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND :**  
**AN OUTSTANDING**  
**PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Shri Ram Nath Kovind, the Governor of Bihar will be the NDA's candidate for the Presidential elections. What did he do during his two terms as a Rajya Sabha MP?

BJP President Amit Shah announced the name of Shri Ram Nath Kovind, the Governor of Bihar as NDA's Presidential Candidate for the upcoming election in July. Shri Ram Nath Kovind was a two-time Rajya Sabha member from Uttar Pradesh, between 1994-2000 and between 2000-2006. Here is a snapshot of what he did as a Rajya Sabha member.

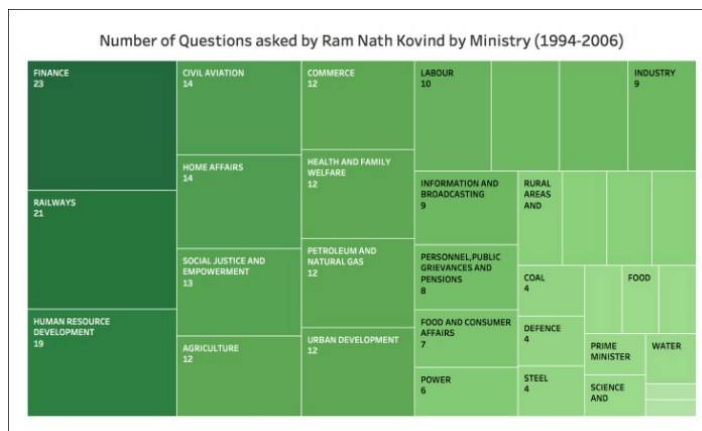
**Attendance**

During this 12-year term, his overall attendance was 87%. It was 89% during his first term and 85% during his second term. He attended a total of 44 sessions during this two terms.

In 14 sessions, his attendance was 100% and his attendance was more than 90% in 28 sessions.

## 283 Questions in 12 years

In his 12-year term as a MP of the Rajya Sabha, Shri Kovind asked a total of 283 questions to 34 different Ministries. Most of his questions were to the Ministry of Finance followed by the Ministry of Railways. He asked 10 or more questions to 12 different Ministries.



His questions to the Finance Ministry included the following

- Appointment of Safai Karamcharis in Banks

- Facsimile of Dr. Ambedkar on the Rs 1000 note
- Steps to Curb Black Money
- Nominated SC/ST members on boards of Nationalized banks

Most of his questions to the Ministry of Railways were about stations etc. in his home state of Uttar Pradesh. His questions to the MHRD were about various issues including alleged misappropriation of funds in a college in Muzzaffarnagar. His questions to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment were about the welfare of SCs/STs and inclusion of various castes in the list of SCs/STs. A large number of his questions were about the SC/ST welfare.

### **SPECIAL MENTIONS & ASSURANCES**

He made five (5) special mentions in his 12-year tenure. These were on various issues such as the inclusion of Tanti caste of Bihar in the list of SCs, Firing in Tinsukia by paramilitary forces, Atrocities on Dalits in Bihar, Misbehavior with prisoners in Bihar and problems of weavers in Gaya of Bihar.

He was given seven (7) assurances by the government, two during the first NDA government and the rest by the other

governments. Six (6) of these assurances were fully implemented while one was dropped.

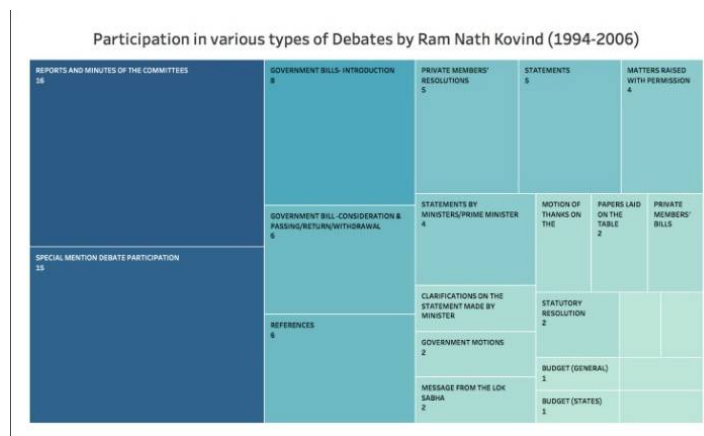
#### Word Cloud of the text of Questions asked



#### Debates

He had participated in 89 debates as per the Rajya Sabha website. On 16 occasions, he was part of the debate on the reports of various committees. On 15 occasions, he was part of the debate on special mentions, out of which he made 5 special mentions. On 14

occasions, he was part of the debate on various bills. He participated in budget related debates only twice. On 5 occasions, he was part of the debate on private member resolutions and on 2 other occasions, he was part of the debate on private member bills.



## MPLAD Spending

In his 12 years as a RS MP, he was entitled to MPLAD fund of Rs 20 crore. Along with interest, the amount available to spend was Rs 20.36 crore. He sanctioned works amounting to Rs 19.19 crore while the total expenditure was Rs 20.36 crore. In other words, he was able to spend all of his entitlement under MPLADS.

Word Cloud of the Subject of Debates



### Member of various Committees

He was also a member of following standing committees during his 12-year tenure

- Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Tribes
- Committee on Home Affairs
- Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas
- Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment
- Committee on Law and Justice
- Chairman of Rajya Sabha House Committee

Chapter 25

**NUMBERS WILL FAVOUR  
HIM FOR PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTION ON 17 JULY 2017**

Promised support from regional parties could help NDA offset the shortfall of the presidential votes by a big margin and ensure win for its candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind



The election for the next president of India will be held on Monday where NDA candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind is pitted



against the opposition's nominee Meira Kumar.

- Artificial sweeteners don't help lose weight, may increase diabetes, heart disease risk
- Presidential polls 2017: EC's special violet pens being used for casting of votes
- Global cyber attack could spur \$53 billion in losses: report
- 7.1 million Venezuelans vote in anti-Maduro referendum: Opposition
- Presidential poll 2017: Narendra Modi, Adityanath, Uma Bharti among 1st to vote

**New Delhi:** The election for the next president of India will be held on Monday where National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind is pitted against opposition nominee Meira Kumar.

The counting of votes will take place on 20 July in New Delhi where all the ballot boxes will be brought from various state capitals. The electorate, comprising elected Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members and members of state assemblies, is tilted in

favour of the NDA, but the opposition is still working to seek support of some regional parties in favour of their candidate.

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- The 'escapades' of Indira Gandhi, the 'romance' of Roger Federer
- Decoding RSS ideologue M.S. Golwalkar's nationalism
- Sadanand Dhume | A conservative's take on India

Both Shri Kovind, a former Bihar governor, and Kumar, the former Lok Sabha speaker, have held a series of meetings across states to garner support for their candidature. The tenure of incumbent Pranab Mukherjee comes to an end on 24 July. So far 13 stalwarts, including Mukherjee, have held the post.

The electoral college which elects the president through the system of proportional representation, comprises members of parliament (MPs) and members of state legislative assemblies (MLAs). A total of 4,896 voters—4,120 MLAs and 776 elected MPs—are eligible to cast their ballot. Members of legislative councils

(MLCs) of states are not part of the electoral college.

While the Lok Sabha speaker, an elected member, can vote, the two nominated members in the Lower House from the Anglo-Indian community cannot. Twelve nominated members in Rajya Sabha are also ineligible.

Since the election is through a secret ballot, the parties cannot issue a whip to their members to vote for a particular candidate.

A total of 13 vacancies in Lok Sabha and state assemblies will be filled up after the presidential elections.

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The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led NDA has 5,37,683 votes, including votes of the Shiv Sena, and the shortage is around 12,000 votes. But the promised support from the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and the YSR Congress and the likely backing from the factions of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) could offset the shortfall of the presidential votes by a substantial margin.

In the 2012 elections, Pranab Mukherjee garnered 7,13,763 votes, while Pratibha Patil secured 6,38,116 votes in the 2007 polls. Both Mukherjee and Patil were Congress nominees.

This time, the Lok Sabha secretary general is the returning officer. Last time, it was the secretary general of Rajya Sabha.

A total of 32 polling stations—one in the Parliament House and one each in the state legislative assemblies, have been set up.

Thirty-three observers have been appointed by the Election Commission (EC) to oversee the conduct of the elections. While two observers will be present in the Parliament House, one each will be deployed in the respective state assemblies.

In a fresh development, EC has barred MPs and MLAs who vote to elect the next president from carrying their personal pens inside the voting chamber and will have to mark their ballot with specially- designed marker pens.

**Chapter 26**  
**WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT**  
**SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**  
**FROM HIS RAJYA SABHA**  
**INTERVENTIONS ?**

During his two terms in the Rajya Sabha, spanning twelve years from 1994 to 2006, BJP's Presidential candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind championed reservation for scheduled castes. However, he also held some unusual views on several subjects ranging from reservation to satellite television.

A look through Rajya Sabha's archives show that Shri Kovind was an active Parliamentarian and frequently raised questions regarding the implementation of reservation for SCs and STs. He also often discussed the implementation of schemes in his home state of Uttar Pradesh.

However, as an opposition MP, he clashed with the UPA on the issue of private unaided educational institutions run by religious and linguistic minorities being exempt from reservations for SCs and STs.

He also occasionally demonstrated the fear of cultural 'invasion' through the advent of satellite television channels and foreign broadcast content that gripped many leaders in the late 1990s. In a question posed in July 1996, he worried about adult movies and uncensored content on television, and asked what the government was doing to "stop the cultural invasion by foreign channels".

In a question posed in July 1996, he worried about adult movies and uncensored content on television.

In March 1995, he wanted to bring to the government's attention the fact that 8 to 10 movies were being screened on television every week and "whether Government are aware that most of the time is wasted by the children in seeing TV movies and serials; and...if so, what steps are being taken to reduce the number of movies being telecast in view of health hazard and deterioration of education standards". (The then Minister of State of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting K P Singh Deo responded that regulating TV watching was the job of parents.)

When the format of the music show *Chitrahar* was changed, he complained about the new look and said that it was "not liked by the masses". The minister replied that the show had been modernised and its viewership had gone up.

Shri Kovind also held some unconventional views on electoral reform.

Shri Kovind also held some unconventional views on electoral reform. During a June 1998 debate on a Private Member Resolution on electoral reform, he proposed that the term of the Lok Sabha and state assemblies be fixed for five years, compulsory voting be introduced, only pre-poll and not post-poll alliances be permitted and that the number of political parties allowed to contest be restricted to a small number.

Some of Shri Kovind's Rajya Sabha interventions have interesting modern-day resonances. In June 1998, he asked then Finance Minister Yashwant Singh whether the Rs 1,000 note that had been demonetised in 1978 "to curb black money" was likely to be reintroduced. (It was, later

that year.) He also asked whether it had, in fact, curbed the circulation of black money.

In a 2006 discussion on a Bill introducing truth as a defence against contempt of court, Shri Kovind remarked on the extraordinary privileges of the judiciary, privileges that he said set it above even the President: "Sir, judiciary is also a part of the system of the Constitution. And, we can say that the Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court are appointed by the President of India. If the President of India, i.e., the appointing authority can be criticized, if we can react as people's representatives or any citizen of this country can criticise the President of India for his wrong-doing, I don't think, it could be a valid reason if judiciary is exempted. But it has been done so, just to maintain the independence of the judiciary." Shri Kovind supported the Bill.



## **Chapter 27**

### **SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND WILL BE FIRST UP-BORN PRESIDENT**

Shri Kovind is a two-time Rajya Sabha member and former national spokesperson of the BJP.

The BJP's Shri Ram Nath Kovind is all set to be the country's first President born and brought up in Uttar Pradesh.

Till now the Rashtrapati Bhawan's third occupant, Zakir Hussain, was the only one with direct association with the key state. But he wasn't born in UP. His family migrated to Farukhabad from Hyderabad, his place of birth in what's now Telangana.

Of the thirteen prime ministers starting from Pandit Nehru, seven were from UP. It isn't surprising then that presidencies went to other provinces; the imperatives of representative democracy necessitating regional parity in selection of candidates for high constitutional offices.

From the BJP's standpoint, the elevation of Shri Kovind -- born in 1945 in Derapur sub-division of what is now Kanpur Dehat -- will

fetch it the credit for installing a Dalit as the country's president. The only scheduled caste president before him was KR Narayanan, the thirteenth incumbent.

Shri Kovind isn't as erudite as his predecessor who was a student of Harold Laski. It was the latter's recommendation to Nehru that fetched him a job in the Indian Foreign Service.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, Shri Kovind's election should be a foregone conclusion. He will bring to the high office his parliamentary experience as two-term member of the Rajya Sabha. He also practiced law for over 15 years' in High Court and Supreme Court. Be that as it may, a political consensus appears unlikely on Shri Kovind's candidature. At the same time, it will be difficult for Opposition parties to reject upfront a Dalit for the presidency. The options available to them include fielding a tribal or another Dalit by showing their choice as more meritorious for the top job.

The BJP's selection announced by its president Amit Shah seems guided more by political expediency than suitability for the

indirectly-filled constitutional office. On the face of it, Shri Kovind's elevation is expected to repair and consolidate his party's social base. There are worries that tensions between scheduled castes and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's Rajput clansmen in UP could unravel the saffron parivar's socio-electoral engineering. As much integral to that social repair-cum-consolidation script is Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He's a backward who represents UP and not his home-base of Gujarat in the Lok Sabha. That makes it a "one-plus-one equal to eleven" deal for the populous state which is central to the BJP's game to win Delhi in 2019.

**Chapter 28**  
**AS AN MP SHRI RAM NATH**  
**KOVIND LIVED IN**  
**A RENTED HOUSE**

Party functionaries say Shri Kovind's down-to-earth image among peers and the public has made him a formidable personality.

BJP seniors recall the way the Presidential nominee lived in a rented house in Kanpur even as he was a Rajya Sabha MP.

Shri Ram Nath Kovind's candidature marks the BJP's efforts to break the hold of regional parties on the lower strata of society. With his selection, political analysts say the BJP has sounded the poll bugle for next year's Assembly elections in several crucial states, and also to some extent, the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Party functionaries say Shri Kovind's down-to-earth image among peers and the public has made him a formidable personality. A senior party leader recalled his days as the BJP spokesperson and the way a section of the media did not like to give much weight to him.

BJP seniors also recall the way the Presidential nominee lived in a rented house in Kanpur even as he was a Rajya Sabha MP. "Even when his name would crop up in discussions for possible important designations, many would brush him aside given his low-key demeanour," said a senior BJP leader from UP.

Shri Kovind, it is believed, is the final nail in the coffin of Mayawati's Dalit politics after the near-complete rout of the BSP in the UP elections.

### **'SHRI KOVIND'S SELECTION PROOF OF MODI GOVT'S COMMITMENT TO SABKA SAATH, SABKA VIKAS'**

"Shri Kovind's selection is the biggest evidence that the Modi government is dedicated and completely committed to 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. He comes in the line of several such appointments, be it the Union cabinet or the UP council of minister and bodies such as SC/ST commissions in the Centre as well as the states.

Rather than the symbolic lipservice politics of Mayawati and others, we have shown that we are serious in giving all sections of

the polity their due," said UP BJP spokesperson Chandra Mohan. Meanwhile, the electoral college numbers seem to be stacked in favour of Shri Kovind and he may well end up getting more votes than incumbent Pranab Mukherjee and his predecessor Pratibha Patil.

With the Shiv Sena joining other NDA allies in backing Shri Kovind and Odisha's ruling BJD, YSR Congress and TRS too extending support, the 71-year-old Dalit leader is expected to have a smooth sailing in the event of an election.

The BJP may also seek the support of rival factions of AIADMK or DMK. The opposition parties are meeting on June 22 to decide on a consensus candidate for the Presidential election.

The total strength of the electoral college, which votes to elect the President, comprises all elected MPs and MLAs of all states and UTs. The total comes to 10,98,903 votes with each MP carrying a vote value of 708. The vote weight of an MLA depends on the population of the state he or she represents. A candidate needs 50 per cent plus votes to win the poll. The

halfway mark comes to 5,49,452. The NDA has 5,37,683 votes with a shortage of around 12,000 votes. But the promised support from BJD, TRS and YSR Congress and the likely backing from AIADMK could offset the shortfall.

Chapter 29  
**SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND  
BEGINS HIS NATION-WIDE  
TOUR FOR CAMPAIGNING**

NDA's presidential candidate will seek support from members of both the houses of Uttar Pradesh.



*NDA Presidential candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind*

The NDA's presidential nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind will be in the Uttar Pradesh capital on Sunday to seek support from elected representatives while preparation in the Assembly is on for smooth conduct of voting, slated for July 17.

A senior Congress leader said the Opposition's presidential pick Meira Kumar



might also pay a visit to Lucknow to seek votes from the electoral college as the party "will not leave any stone unturned" for the election.

"She, in all probability, will be accompanied by AICC general secretary Ghulam Nabi Azad and is likely to meet all elected representative, cutting across party affiliations," he said.

The state, which has the maximum population in the country, has the highest value of each vote in the presidential election. The electoral college includes elected members of the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha, states, union territories and the NCT region of Delhi.

"The NDA's presidential nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind will be in the state capital tomorrow and will be going to Uttarakhand the next day," national general secretary of the BJP Bhupendra Yadav said.

He is likely to meet MPs and MLAs of the BJP, its allies and also leaders of other political parties over dinner, sources said.

On its part, the state Assembly secretariat has started preparations and had also held

meeting with a high-level delegation of the Election Commission on Saturday. "All necessary steps are being initiated to make foolproof arrangements before the presidential election," a senior official of the Assembly said. For the first time, a special pen and ink would be brought to Lucknow from Delhi to be used by voters to mark their preference of candidates. For presidential elections, votes are marked in a preferential order which is then counted to declare the winner.

Since the NDA's presidential pick hails from Kanpur Dehat district of the state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said it is an honour that the son of Uttar Pradesh would be occupying the presidential office.

Shri Kovind had been active in the Uttar Pradesh unit of BJP and was even appointed the general secretary when Laxmikant Bajpai was the party's state chief. But, he chose to switch to the party's central unit. After the Narendra Modi government came to power, he was appointed the Bihar Governor, from where he resigned after being named the NDA's presidential nominee.

**Chapter 30**  
**SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**  
**VISITS DIFFERENT STATES**  
**TO SEEK SUPPORT**

Ramnath Shri Kovind, the former Bihar governor and the presidential candidate of the NDA, the ruling alliance at the Centre arrived here on Sunday to kick-start the campaign, Accompanied by the Union surface transport minister and the BJP general secretary Bhupendra Yadav, MP, and the NDA president candidate was received at the Amausi airport by chief minister Yogi Adityanath.

From the airport Ramnath Shri Kovind drove straight to the chief minister's official residence at Kalidas marg. Both the deputy chief ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya, Dinesh Sharma, Union minister Uma Bharti and most of the cabinet ministers and BJP MLA and state assembly Speaker Hridya Narayan Dikshit were present at the chief minister's residence.

In the meeting of the BJP MLAs and the allies, the legislators with a voice vote

endorsed the candidature of Shri Ram Nath Kovind for the post of president.

The BJP allies — Apna Dal (Sonela) president and Union minister of state Anupriya Patel, Bharat Samaj party leader and cabinet minister Om Prakash Rajbhar were also present in the meeting.

Shri Ram Nath Kovind met all the BJP MLAs and ministers and leaders of alliance partners and appealed for their support for the Presidents election. Shri Ram Nath Kovind after meeting the BJP Legislators and ministers left for Delhi. He will visit Dehradun on Monday, the state capital of the BJP ruled state Uttarakhand.

In his brief address to the Legislators Shri Ram Nath Kovind expressed his gratitude to the MLAs for coming in the meeting. “I have come to seek your blessings. I feel honoured for being nominated as the candidate for the office of president and I thank you all”, said Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

BJP MLA Jagan Prasad said in a statement that none from the opposition parties were present in the meeting at the chief minister’s residence. He said only the MLAs

from the BJP and its allies were present in the meeting.

Chief minister Yogi Adityanath had invited the leaders of all the political parties including the Samajwadi party, Bhaujan Samaj party and the Congress. However none from the opposition parties turned up for the meeting.

Samajwadi party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav has not only pledged his support for Shri Ram Nath Kovind but had also praised the NDA candidate. His son and Samajwadi party president Akhilesh Yadav has already announced to support Meira Kumar, the Congress leader and joint candidate of the 17 opposition parties.

The electoral college of the Presidents election comprise of the MLA, MLCs members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Though smooth sailing for Shri Ram Nath Kovind is a foregone conclusion, UP is important state for the NDA candidate as not only it has the highest number of MLAs 325 in UP the number of Lok Sabha MP is 73. The value of each vote of MLA of UP is 208 which is highest in the country. The

value of vote of MLAs of Tamilnadu and Jharkhand in 176 each.

Apna Dal leader Anupriya Patel MP from Mirzapur and a native of Kanpur dehat district slammed the congress for fielding Meira Kumar, the candidate from the dalit community. `` This has exposed the anti dalit character of the Congress. When the grand old party was in power at the Centre and was in a position to get its candidate elected the idea of fielding a dalit candidate never occurred to them. Now they are in no position to even pose a challenge to the NDA candidate in the contest, the congress has fielded the candidate from the dalit community'', said Anupriya Patel, adding `` the people were no longer naive and they have seen through the game of the Congress''. She said it's a matter of pride for the Kanpur and for me as my native place is Kanpur.

## Chapter 31

# SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND FOR PRESIDENT: WHO IS IN FAVOUR, AND WHO IS NOT

Amit Shah yesterday raised the curtain and ended all speculations over NDA's Presidential candidate by announcing the name of Shri Ram Nath Kovind. According to media reports, Shri Ram Nath Kovind is said to be very close to PM Modi. Currently, the Governor of Bihar, he has been associated with the BJP from a very long time, and has also been a Rajya Sabha member.

As soon as Ram Nath's name was announced, every political party around India started talking about him. Few are in support of Ram Nath while some are opposing BJP's candidate.

Here is how political parties of the NDA, as well as the Opposition, reacted to BJP's announcement:

**Congress:** Gulam Nabi Azad came forward and addressed the media on the issue. He stated that Congress will not be reacting

immediately to the BJP's choice of the presidential nominee. The leader added on June 22, Congress President Sonia Gandhi will be presiding over a meeting of major Opposition leaders, where a final decision, will be taken.

**CPI:** Opposing the newly elected candidate of BJP, CPI General Secretary Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy told PTI "He is from RSS ranks. He was president of Dalit BJP Morcha...Sangh Pariwar organisation. Definitely, we will put up a candidate. Anybody from RSS...we will fight,"

**Trinamool Congress:** "In order to support someone, we must know the person. Candidate should be someone who will be beneficial for the country. Opposition will meet on 22nd June, only then we can announce our decision. I am not for a moment saying that the Bihar Governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind is unfit to be the President. I have spoken to 2 or 3 other Opposition leaders, they are also surprised. There are other big Dalit leaders in India. He was leader of Dalit Morcha of BJP, so they have made him candidate. Office of President is a key post. Someone of stature of Pranab Da, or even Sushma Swaraj or



Advani ji may have been made the candidate," the statement from Mamata Banerjee said.

**TDT:** Telugu Desam Party is in full support of BJP decision and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu praised the Prime Minister for choosing the right candidate for the highest post.

**Shiv Sena:** "If the name of Shri Kovind is being put forward with a view to garner Dalit votes, then the Sena is not interested. Sena has never indulged in the politics of hiding behind someone. We shall decide on whether or not to support the candidature of Shri Kovind tomorrow," Thackeray said on Monday.

**BSP:** BSP Chief Mayawati welcome the decision of the BJP to choose Shri Ram Nath Kovind as the presidential candidate, but still had some reservations. Things could change if the Opposition puts up another Dalit candidate with better credentials than Shri Kovind.

**CPI(M):** The party secretary Sitaram Yechury hinted that party can discuss the candidate name with Congress president Sonia Gandhi on June 22.

**JD(U):** Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar seemed happy that the name of Shri Ram Nath Kovind was put up. Addressing the media Nitish Kumar said, "He has done exemplary work as the Governor of Bihar; worked with impartiality and has maintained an ideal relationship with the state government," said Nitish. "As far as support is concerned, can't say anything right now. It is too early to say,"

Chapter 32  
**NO STATE AND LANGUAGE  
WOULD BE NEGLECTED IF  
I BECOME PRESIDENT:  
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**

National Democratic Alliance presidential candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday and promised no state and language would be neglected if he became President. Shri Kovind's visit to Odisha will be followed by that of Congress' candidate Meira Kumar's who arrives on Saturday.



Shri Kovind, former Bihar Governor and the surprise candidate who had made it to few, has already been promised the Biju Janta Dal's support. On Friday after his arrival to

Bhubaneswar Shri Kovind addressed BJD legislators and parliamentarians in the state assembly. Introducing Shri Kovind to his colleagues Patnaik said, "His journey from humble beginnings in a village in North India to being a candidate for the highest office in the country is a true reflection of the transition that modern India.

Shri Kovind meanwhile told BJD's elected members, he was happy to be here and to have the full-fledged support of BJD. "I will try to ensure that no state or language is neglected," he is reported to have said. Accompanied by union health minister JP Nadda, Shri Kovind then had lunch at Patnaik's residence. The BJD has 117 MLAs in Odisha's 147 member assembly, 20 Lok Sabha and eight Rajya Sabha MPs. Patnaik dismissed any possibility of any of his legislators cross voting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July. In the afternoon, the NDA's presidential candidate met with the BJP leaders of the State. The BJP has far fewer numbers in Odisha -- 10 MLAs and one MP, union Minister for Tribal Affairs Jual Oram who had been there to receive Shri Kovind at the airport on Friday.

**Chapter 33**  
**HOW SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**  
**EMERGED FROM THE**  
**SHADOWS TO BECOME**  
**NDA'S PREZ PICK ?**

For someone who joined the BJP in 1991-when Dr M M Joshi was the national president - Shri Kovind beat everyone, from full timers to high profile cabinet ministers, to emerge the NDA choice in the final lap.

Within a short span of a decade, it has been a very long journey from one flank of the Rashtrapati Bhavan to the opposite for Shri Ram Nath Kovind. From 53, South Avenue, when he was an ordinary Rajya Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh, to 144 North Avenue, the first floor residence allocated to him as the Governor of Bihar.

In the interim, very few people, not even his closest relatives, knew that one day Shri Kovind would be occupying the majestic viceregal lodge in mauve and pink Jodhpur sandstone straddling the Raisina Hill.

Nearly a week before his nomination by the BJP as NDA's Presidential nominee, Shri

Kovind's wife Savita travelled to Delhi to get treated for a minor ophthalmic ailment. Sources in the family say that the next first lady - if BJP nominee goes on to win the poll - did have an inkling that some major announcement regarding her spouse was in the offing.

News channels broke the story at 2pm on Monday. Flooded with calls, Shri Kovind's phone thereafter was continuously busy. It was difficult to reach him and hear from the man of the hour for a very long time.

Savita Kovind since then has met a select, yet a steady stream of visitors at the North Avenue accommodation. To a small group of journalists that she called in this Tuesday, she offered sweets, but spoke very little.

A few miles east of the President's House, at the Congress Headquarters on Akbar Road, Pawan Gupta waits for a senior party leader who is busy talking to UPA allies seeking consensus of a joint opposition candidate against Shri Kovind. Gupta is the local Congress leader from Kanpur who contested the last Mayoral elections on the party ticket. Gupta claims Shri Kovind, who also hails from Kanpur, was in the city less than

a month back to attend a function organised by the Lion's Club. "We shared dais, but I left a bit early. Never did I realize that I am meeting the future president of India," he said.

But such is politics, and such is life. For someone who joined the BJP in 1991- when Dr M M Joshi was the national president- Shri Kovind beat everyone, from full timers to high profile cabinet ministers, to emerge the NDA choice in the final lap.

"He was inducted in the party by Kalyan Singh, but very few people know that all these years, he has been very close to Kalraj Mishra," said a state BJP leader.

During NDA-1, Shri Kovind got two terms to the Rajya Sabha. He also headed the party Schedule Caste morcha.

By the time his second term as an MP ended, UPA had elbowed BJP out of power at the Centre. BSP and SP had replaced BJP from its preeminent position in the UP polity.

With a few MLAs in the assembly, party could send only a select few to the upper house from the State.

Shri Kovind could never really manage another RS nomination after 2006.

He, however, was accommodated as a national spokesperson during Rajnath Singh's tenure as BJP president. In all the three years that he was in Delhi, he held less than half a dozen press conferences - including one on Ranganath Mishra Commission report on religious and linguistic minorities.

"In one of the pressers he faced a very hostile media. The rapport somehow never really developed between him as the spokesperson and the Delhi media," says a senior journalist who had covered the part for more than a decade.

Later Shri Kovind was to shift base to Lucknow to try his luck in state politics. When Lakshmikant Bajpai was appointed UP BJP president, Shri Kovind was inducted in the state unit as an office bearer.



The idea was to prepare for the 2014 general elections. Shri Kovind zeroed in on Jalaun Lok Sabha seat in Bundelkhand, worked on the constituency for over a year, but the party denied him an LS ticket.

With a clear victory under its belt in May that year, BJP went about making key appointments - especially to constitutional positions. From UP, Kalyan Singh and Kesari Nath Tripathi were chosen for gubernatorial assignments.

"One was an OBC leader, the other a Brahmin. We wanted to nominate a Dalit as well," says a BJP leader from UP. As most of top BJP leaders in UP had won elections, the choice narrowed down to the remaining few.

Shri Kovind, thus got a much needed break in politics after a long hiatus. He was sworn in as the governor of Bihar on August 8, 2015.

## **Chapter 34**

# **A GLIMPSE INTO HOW ARTICULATE IS THE NDA's PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE**

While past presidents of the country have largely deviated from making strong political speeches, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, who has stayed out of the media limelight and never once indulged in ideological clashes with Nitish Kumar, is expected to toe a similar line.



New Delhi: Bihar Governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind meets BJP President Amit Shah in New Delhi on Monday. Shri Kovind was on Monday announced as NDA's presidential nominee.



*Presidential election 2017 Live updates: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah cast vote*

If one searches for public speeches of the NDA presidential candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind online, there are not a lot of videos one would find. There are hardly four or five, most of which were probably made after he was appointed the Governor of Bihar in 2015. This perhaps explains why Shri Kovind is seen as a 'low-profile leader' even within the BJP of which he has been a member for decades. But there is a common thread in these videos – the fact that the Governor is articulate and coherent in his addresses and fluent in both the languages of Hindi and English.

In one of the speeches, Shri Kovind, a Dalit leader from the Koli community in Uttar Pradesh, echoes the thoughts of Dr. BR Ambedkar when he talks about women

empowerment in the country. Speaking in Hindi, the Bihar Governor quoted Ambedkar saying that even when women, who formed half of the population of the country, were given voting rights, they had no claims to hereditary rights in the ancestral property.

In another video, the Bihar Governor is seen giving an address after inaugurating a new building of the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library in Patna, Bihar. In a short address, punctuated by claps from the audience, Shri Kovind is seen talking about the importance of books and libraries in the world. He quotes Jorge Luis Borges saying, 'I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.'

There is also a video of Shri Kovind, then a Rajya Sabha MP of the BJP in 2000, explaining why he supports the Companies Amendment Bill.

The MP, in a brief summation, goes on to dissect the amendments of the bill in a coherent manner.

At yet another event, Shri Kovind was seen talking quite extensively about youth power and how to exploit effectively the

demographic dividend in the country. "Young people not only know how to dream, but they also know how to realize their dream," he says to cheers from the applause.

While past presidents of the country have largely deviated from making strong political speeches, Shri Kovind, who has stayed out of the media limelight and never once indulged in ideological clashes with Nitish Kumar, is expected to toe a similar line. But similar to Pranab Mukherjee, who did time and again lecture on the values of tolerance and equality, the country could hear something similar from a President Shri Kovind too.

Chapter 35  
**A HANDY GUIDE TO  
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND'S  
POLITICS, THROUGH HIS  
SPEECHES**

This was the sentiment across newsrooms and political circles when Bihar Governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind was announced as NDA's presidential candidate. The unexpected announcement by BJP chief Amit Shah caught almost everyone by surprise, with a rush to find out more about Shri Kovind's politics and personality.

So, The Quint compiled Shri Kovind's past speeches to give you a glimpse into the man who is poised to become the 14th President of India.

**Quoted as Saying 'Islam and Christianity Are Alien to Nation'**

In 2010, Shri Ram Nath Kovind was appointed the BJP national spokesperson during Nitin Gadkari's tenure as BJP chief. In a press conference in 2010, he is quoted in the *Hindustan Times* as saying that

'Islam and Christianity are alien' to the nation and so even if their economic condition calls for it, they should not be given quota in government jobs, legislation and education.

Shri Kovind was clarifying the BJP's stand against the Ranganath Mishra Commission report which recommends 15 percent quota in government jobs for religious and linguistic minorities. Following reports that Shri Kovind was misquoted, a BOOM Live report reached out to Sarwar Kashani from Indo Asian News Service (IANS) reported on Shri Kovind in 2010. He has said that he stands by his report and Shri Kovind used the word 'nation'.

Interestingly, Shri Kovind served as a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes / Tribes and the Parliamentary Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment among others.

### **On Babasaheb Ambedkar**

If elected, Shri Ram Nath Kovind will be the second Dalit president in India. In fact, his announcement is being hailed as a masterstroke by the NDA – a symbolic move with political benefits.

In this clip published in April 2017, Shri Kovind is talking about Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's stance on the Hindu Code Bill. Interestingly, Shri Kovind also served as a member of the Board of Management of Dr BR Ambedkar University, Lucknow.

Shri Ram Nath Kovind bihar rajpal speech in Dr.Babasihb Bhim Rao Ambedkar in bodh gaya biahr -2

### **'Demonetisation Was a Positive Effort'**

Speaking at an annual function of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce in December 2016, the governor of Bihar praised demonetisation as 'a positive effort' and said it will 'free the society of black money and corruption'. According to a report in The Financial Express, he said,

As a result of demonetisation, weaker sections of society would get relief while the financial and trade activities would get a boost through greater transparency the measure would bring in

### **A Long Stint in Rajya Sabha**

Shri Ram Nath Kovind was a Rajya Sabha member from 1994 to 2000 and then, from



2000 to 2006. He was elected from Uttar Pradesh and during that period reportedly emphasised the importance of infrastructure and rural development.

In this 2000 speech in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Kovind speaks on the Companies Amendment Bill, 2000 as a BJP MP from Uttar Pradesh.

### **A Supporter of Prohibition**

As Governor of Bihar, Shri Kovind has come out as a supporter of Nitish's policy of prohibition. On the Republic Day function in 2017, Shri Kovind praised the state government for implementing total prohibition in the state. According to a report in *The Indian Express*, he said,

Bihar has laid a strong foundation stone for social change by implementing complete prohibition in the state.

With the cooperation of all, prohibition has turned into a campaign for social change. Socio-economic conditions of people have improved considerably since enforcement of prohibition on 5 April last year.

Decline in domestic violence, disputes in family and other crimes have been noticed

### **On Law and Higher Education in Bihar**

'Rule of law' and the state of higher education are at the centre of Bihar politics and as a Bihar governor, Shri Kovind has strong opinions on the same.

In January 2017, he hailed the Nitish Kumar government for "ensuring good governance in Bihar." *The Times of India* quoted him as saying,

The government with a focus on justice and development is moving in the right direction. Concerted efforts are being made to ensure good governance in the state. Bihar is the country's first state to provide a legal tool to people for timely disposal of their grievances

On the other hand, Shri Kovind came down hard at the state of higher education in India, saying that "higher education in Bihar was on the verge of collapse," according to a report in the *Hindustan Times*. It's a significant stand, especially since as a Governor, Shri Kovind is the chancellor of universities in Bihar.

While political negotiations are underway to form a consensus on Shri Ram Nath Kovind as a presidential candidate, Shri Kovind's past record doesn't reveal his political stance neither unearths a sharp-tongued orator.

So, what kind of a president will Shri Ram Nath Kovind be? For now, we will just have to wait and see.

**Chapter 36**  
**WORDS AND SPEECHES OF**  
**THE NDA PRESIDENTIAL**  
**CANDIDATE**

The announcement of Bihar Governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind as the NDA candidate for the upcoming presidential elections took everyone by surprise as his name was not among those expected, although none can deny that Shri Kovind is a strong candidate. An advocate of the Supreme Court, Shri Kovind has twice served as a member of the Rajya Sabha and is also a former president of the BJP Dalit Morcha. Shri Kovind is regarded as a pioneer for the rights of weaker sections of society. Due to the surprise announcement, the public scurried to find out all they could about Shri Ram Nath Kovind. While the facts about Shri Kovind have become general knowledge, it's his own words that can give the best impression of him.

**In 2000:**

Shri Kovind was elected from Uttar Pradesh for two consecutive terms of the Rajya

Sabha, from 1994 to 2000 and then from 2000 to 2006. During his term, he emphasised the importance of infrastructure and rural development.

In a speech given in the Rajya Sabha in 2000, Shri Kovind speaks on the Companies Amendment Bill 2000, view his speech below:

**In 2010:**

During Nitin Gadkari's tenure as BJP chief, Shri Ram Nath Kovind was appointed as the BJP national spokesperson in 2010. In a controversial speech during a press conference in 2010, Shri Kovind was quoted as saying 'Islam and Christianity are alien' to India and even if their economic condition requires it, they should not be given quota in government jobs, education and legislation.

Shri Kovind's controversial statement came as he was clarifying the BJP stand against the Ranganath Mishra Commission report which recommended a 15 percent quota in government jobs for religious and linguistic minorities.

Ironically, Shri Kovind himself has pioneered for rights of Dalits and was also a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Tribes and the Parliamentary Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment among others.

### **In 2016:**

At a time when the country was reeling from the effects of the demonetisation announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the various politicians of the nation were divided in their views on demonetisation. Then the Governor of Bihar, Shri Ram Nath Kovind spoke at an annual function of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce in December 2016, and praised demonetisation as 'a positive effort' and said it will 'free the society of black money and corruption'. Media at the time quoted him as saying, "As a result of demonetisation, weaker sections of society would get relief while the financial and trade activities would get a boost through greater transparency the measure would bring in."

### **April 2017**

If Shri Ram Nath Kovind is elected as the next President of India, he will become the

second Dali to hold the esteemed position, following KR Narayanan who served as the President from 1997 to 2002. Shri Kovind has been hailed for his efforts to fight for the rights of Dalits, and in a clip published in April 2017, Shri Kovind speaks about another legendary pioneer for the rights of Dalits- Dr.Babasihb Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

View the clip below:

### **January 2017**

During his tenure as the Governor of Bihar, Shri Kovind has come out as a supporter of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's policy of prohibition. During the Republic Day function of 2017, Shri Kovind praised the state government for implementing total prohibition in the state.

Shri Kovind was quoted as saying, "Bihar has laid a strong foundation stone for social change by implementing complete prohibition in the state. With the cooperation of all, prohibition has turned into a campaign for social change. Socio-economic conditions of people have improved considerably since enforcement of prohibition on 5 April last year. Decline in

domestic violence, disputes in family and other crimes have been noticed."

### **January 2017**

As the Governor of Bihar, Shri Kovind proved himself to be unbiased as well. While lauding the prohibition and hailing the Nitish Kumar government for "ensuring good governance in Bihar" Shri Kovind also critiqued the state of higher education in the state.

Shri Kovind was quoted as saying that "higher education in Bihar was on the verge of collapse," a strong statement especially considering that since he is Governor he is also the chancellor of universities in Bihar.

It remains to be seen how Shri Ram Nath Kovind would fare if he is elected as the next President of India.



**Chapter 37**  
**IF PRESIDENT CAN BE**  
**CRITICISED, WHY**  
**NOT JUDGES**

Shri Ram Nath Kovind believes that if the president of the country can be criticised, there is no reason why members of the judiciary cannot be pulled up.

The BJP's presidential candidate had said in a debate in Parliament that "if the appointing authority" of judges, that is the president, could be censured, so could the judiciary.

"If any citizen of this country can criticise the President of India for his wrong-doing, I don't think it could be valid ... if the judiciary is exempted," Shri Kovind said as a Rajya Sabha member in the debate on March 3, 2006, on the contempt of courts (Amendment) Bill, 2006, moved by then Law Minister Hansraj Bhardwaj.

He, however, added, the judiciary had been exempted "to maintain its independence".

## **Chapter 38**

### **SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND : TO THE TOP, STEP BY STEP**

Born into a family of weavers in a backward village in Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ram Nath Kovind always possessed a strong will to advance in life.

He took over as general secretary of the Akhil Bhartiya Koli Samaj at the age of 26. Shri Kovind continued his education even as he discharged his organisational duties quite efficiently.



Shri Kovind, who worked in the office of the then prime minister Morarji Desai during the rule of the Janata Party, has had a

proclivity for politics. However, he wanted to establish himself as a lawyer first.

He was appointed as the pleader of Central government in Delhi High Court in 1977. He became advocate on record in the Supreme Court in 1978. In 1981, he was posted as the government's junior pleader in the apex court. During this time, he became active in the Depressed Classes Legal Aid Bureau, after having come to know about the troubles that dalits, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes faced in litigation.

Shri Kovind chose to continue as lawyer even after passing the Civil Services examination. However, at the age of 45, he switched over to politics. Now, after 25 years, the decision has paid off as he has been made the presidential candidate of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Shri Kovind, who took a BJP membership in 1991, was noticed by leaders Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L.K. Advani and Murali Manohar Joshi. In 1994, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh. Three years later, he was made a member of the BJP's national executive committee.

His performance in Parliament was noteworthy as he had been a member of three committees—the Committee on Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, the Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, and the Committee on Law and Justice. Shri Kovind was in the forefront of a strong agitation against certain orders that were harmful to the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes, issued by the Central government in 1997.

When Vajpayee-led National Democratic Front (NDA) came power, Shri Kovind took the initiative to modify the previous government's orders through Constitutional amendments. Thanks to his remarkable speeches in the Rajya Sabha, the Centre, in 2002, deputed him to speak for India in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Shri Kovind has been a strong campaigner for the party in all elections in Uttar Pradesh. However, the party did not give him a Lok Sabha seat or the post of a union minister. After retiring from Rajya Sabha in 2006, he continued to work for the party without holding any official post. Later, he

was made the party spokesperson by former BJP president Nitin Gadkari.

In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed him as the governor of Bihar.

An affable, soft-spoken politician, Shri Kovind was careful to stay off controversies and never went after positions of power. Instead, the positions, including the presidential candidature, came to him.

Shri Kovind's style of politics is toughened and tempered by the rugged path he has tread on.

Chapter 39

## **SHRI KOVIND VISITS HYDERABAD, SAYS HE NO LONGER BELONGS TO ANY POLITICAL PARTY**

NDA presidential nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind visited Hyderabad a day after the opposition candidate Meira Kumar's visit. He vowed to discharge his duties with fairness and impartiality if elected to the highest office in the July 17 polls.



"My association with the BJP is a thing of the past. Now, I don't belong to any political party. Before becoming the governor of Bihar, I gave up my party membership. I will strive to protect the dignity of the office

of the president and discharge my duties with utmost impartiality," Shri Kovind asserted.

He was interacting with the MPs and MLAs of the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) in Hyderabad, as a part of his day-long visit to seek support for his candidature from various political parties in the two states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

Thanking the TRS and other parties for extending support to him, Shri Kovind underlined the need to keep the office of the president above politics. "Ours is the largest democracy in the world. The Constitution is the bedrock of our democracy. For the office of the president and for you as voters of the electoral college, the Constitution is pivotal. We should all abide by it. The president's office should be above politics. I will work for every section of the society without any bias and will contribute for all-round development of the country," he told legislators.

KCR said his party wholeheartedly supported Shri Kovind's candidature and

exuded confidence that Shri Kovind would win with a huge majority. He also sought the NDA nominee's blessings for the development of Telangana, the country's newest state.

Telangana welcomed the NDA presidential candidate with huge hoardings dominated by the TRS party's pink colour and KCR's photo along with Shri Kovind, while the BJP maintained a low profile.

It was later clarified by the BJP that Shri Kovind is to be elected by the Collegium and not by the general public. Hence the state unit of BJP did not do much. Shri Kovind was accorded a warm welcome by leaders of BJP, TDP, TRS and YSR Congress Party when he arrived at the Begumpet airport in the Hyderabad old airport at Begumpet.

Shri Kovind was accompanied by Union Ministers M. Venkaiah Naidu and Bandaru Dattatreya. The presidential candidate first held a meeting with the MLAs and MPs of the BJP and the Telangana unit of the TDP which has three MLAs and two Rajya Sabha members. Shri Kovind also met the MLAs and MPs of the YSR Congress headed by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. The YSR



Congress, which is the opposition party in the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, has also supported his candidature.

Later, Shri Kovind left for Vijayawada where he is scheduled to meet Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and other leaders.

Chapter 40

**HOW DOES SHRI RAM NATH  
KOVIND HOLD HIGHER  
CREDIBILITY THAN  
PRANAB MUKHERJEE  
AND PRATIBHA PATIL ?**

Narendra Modi has yet again proven in execution his *sabka saath sabka vikaas* mantra by nominating Shri Ram Nath Kovind as BJP's face for President.



A lot has been already said, so much so that some journalists have already started comparing him with Pratibha Patil and Pranab Mukherjee. Ignore the hype of there being no existence of this man, because the truth be told, nobody cares about a dalit leader coming from worse than a poor background. Everyone needs a star, but what about those who are ignored?




Nevertheless, this ignorance will soon be pushed to the back seat because Shri Ram Nath Kovind, a man of many credentials (having faced discrimination) will have the power that not many would want a dalit man to have.

On the face of it, Shri Kovind holds much higher credibility than Pranab Mukherjee and Pratibha Patil. Here's how the chart looks like when you compare them directly, keeping their 'political success' out of the picture.

A Comparison of Shri Ram Nath Kovind with Pratibha Patil and Pranab Mukherjee

You realise that Shri Kovind is a self made man. A man who has been through tons of hardships and is an inspiration not only to

the discriminated classes but for the world where people have to struggle everyday to succeed.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|    |  |   |
| <b>Pranab Mukherjee</b>   | <b>Pratibha Patil</b>   | <b>Ramnath Kovind</b>   |
| <b>Background</b>   |   |   |
| Kulin Brahmins<br><br>Father was a Member of West Bengal Legislative Council<br><br>Father was a Member of AICC                                       | Kshatriya Caste<br><br>Father Was a Local Politician                              | SC Community of Koli<br><br>Father Was a Farmer   |
| <b>Education</b>  |   |   |
| Political Science & Law   | Law   | Law & Commerce  |
| <b>Pre Political Experience</b>   |   |   |
| Lecturer<br><br>Upper-Division Clerk in the Office of the Deputy Accountant-General (Post and Telegraph) in Calcutta.<br><br>Journalist at Desher Dak | Lawyer at Jalgaon District Court  | Central government advocate in the Delhi HC from 1977 to 1979<br><br>Central Government Standing Counsel in the SC<br><br>Advocate-on-Record of the Supreme Court |

I am happy that my future President will be an inspiration and not a mere puppet. I am happy that he will inspire millions of people coming from similar backgrounds as his and making it to the top rank. I am happy that when the world talks about discrimination in India, we will have a President who can shut their false mouths.

Yes, Shri Ram Nath Kovind is not a famous man as Pranab Mukherjee, but that also says that he is not a 'politician' doesn't it? Many, like the ones below consider him as no one, but for me he is a fighter...



*After the Name Was Declared, This Happened*

Firstly, if you do not know politician Shri Ram Nath Kovind as a journalist, it is understandable, but the joke is on you if you don't know about the governor of Bihar, who

has been so for two consecutive years. Never mind, I shall enlighten you then. Ramnath was born in the Kanpur District of Uttar Pradesh, the state that gave India 9 Prime Ministers, but not even a single President.

### **DAV Kanpur—The College of Stalwarts**

Born to a farmer, Shri Kovind was the youngest of all the three brothers. He completed his graduation in commerce from DAV Kanpur. This is the same college where stalwarts like Chandra Shekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh and Atal Bihari Vajpayee had studied. He also completed his law from DAV Law College. He went on to clear the UPSC exam but chose to practice law instead. Shri Kovind became a Rajya Sabha MP in 1994 from Uttar Pradesh and served for two consecutive terms until March 2006. He was a central government advocate in Delhi HC from 1977 to 1979. He also represented the Central Government Standing Counsel in the Supreme Court from 1980 to 1993.

### ***A Rebellion***

Shri Kovind protested along with SC/ST employees in 1997 against orders of the

Centre which affected their interests. Later, Atal Bihari Vajpayee government made the constitutional amendments to nullify the order.

Shri Kovind's work in the field of education is well known in his state and community. He has been a leader in fighting for free legal aid to the weaker sections of the society, especially SC/ST women and poor girls, under the Free Legal Aid Society in Delhi.

### ***Extensive Political Experience***

Shri Kovind has been a Rajya Sabha member for 12 years, where he headed many parliamentary committee, most important among them were the committee on the welfare of scheduled castes/tribes, parliamentary panel on social justice & empowerment and also the committee on law and justice. Currently, he is serving as Bihar's Governor. Shri Kovind practiced law in High Court and Supreme Court for 16 straight years. This played a big role for him to get selected. He also addressed the UN General Assembly in 2002 representing India at the United Nations. His experience will be very fruitful while acting on legal

procedures after he becomes the the 14th President of India.

### ***Undisputed Honesty***

Not even a single finger has been raised against Shri Kovind. He has not only been on various positions within the BJP, but has also chaired many Rajya Sabha Committees. His sacrosanct image has never bore a spot of corruption or allegations of any kind.

### ***The Dogs Shall Bark***

Just because some journalists did not hear his name, haven't read about him as much, haven't seen him much on TV or haven't heard a lot on social media, does that mean that the man holds no caliber? Pratibha Patil was a true disaster because she hardly had any experience and comparing a man like Shri Ram Nath Kovind with her, is not only funny, but also ridiculous. India shall be proud to have a President like you Sir, Shri Ram Nath Kovind. We are eagerly waiting for your first speech as the President of this great country.



**Chapter 41**  
**CHANDRABABU NAIDU**  
**HONOURS SHRI RAM NATH**  
**KOVIND IN VIJAYAWADA**

The NDA Presidential candidate Mr. Shri Ram Nath Kovind was given a rousing reception in Vijayawada on July 4th (Tuesday) when he went to Andhra Pradesh to formally seek support for his candidature in the election to President of India to be held on July 17th 2017.

He was accompanied by Union Ministers, senior BJP leaders and Members of Parliament.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu received Mr. Shri Kovind at the Gannavaram airport and later proceeded along with him to the A Convention Centre in Vijayawada at 3 p.m. on July 4th where Mr. Shri Kovind was introduced to the Ministers, MPs and MLAs belonging to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP).



## CONSTITUTION IS MY GUIDE

Speaking at the meeting, Shri Kovind said that he will keep the office of the President above partisan politics and he always firmly believed that Constitution is the guidebook.

"The office of President of India reflects our democratic traditions...Our Constitution is the supreme. For our country, it is the Bhagavad Gita, Bible, Ramayana and Quran. As the Governor of Bihar, I was not associated with any political party and I will continue in same way to upkeep the President position above politics," the NDA presidential candidate assured.

Shri Kovind had expressed his gratitude to the Modi-led NDA government and all alliance party leaders for supporting him.

## **PRAISES N.T.RAMA RAO**

Earlier, Shri Kovind garlanded the statue of Telugu Desam Party founder N.T.Rama Rao in the presence of Union Minister M.Venkaiah Naidu and Chief Minister N.Chandrababu Naidu.

“NTR was a great leader and we used to call him Telugu pride. In this State, he is considered as an avatar of Lord Krishna because of the influence of his films on people,” he said.

Mr. P. Muralidhar Rao, BJP national general secretary, Mr.L.Ganesan, BJP's Rajya Sabha MP from Madhya Pradesh and a very senior party leader in Tamil Nadu along with Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kodela Sivaprasad Rao, were among those present at the meeting where Shri Kovind was formally introduced to all the electoral college voters from Andhra Pradesh.

## **Chapter 42**

# **TWENTY-DAY TOUR PROGRAMME FOR PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN**

The NDA's presidential nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind will visit Uttar Pradesh on Sunday to seek support from members of both the Houses of the state where preparation is on for smooth conduct of voting, slated for 17 July.



Shri Kovind's visit to Uttar Pradesh, which has the highest value of each vote in the presidential election, is part of his nation-

wide tour during which he will talk to members of the electoral college that votes for the new president.

The Electoral College includes elected members of the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha, states, union territories and the NCT region of Delhi.

"All necessary steps are being taken to make foolproof arrangement before the presidential election", a senior official of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly said.

An Election Commission team also took stock of the preparations and held meeting with Vidhan Sabha officials in Delhi on Friday evening, the official said.

It would be the first time, a special pen and ink would be brought to Lucknow from Delhi to be used by voters to mark their preference of candidates.

For presidential elections, votes are marked in a preferential order which is then counted to declare the winner.

Shri Kovind's programmes in the state on Sunday is yet to be finalised, sources said, adding he would be meeting MPs , MLAs of

the BJP, its allies as also leaders of other political parties.

He is likely to go to Uttarakhand from here, they said.

Since the NDA's presidential pick hails from Kanpur Dehat district of the state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said it is an honour that the son of Uttar Pradesh would be occupying the presidential office.

Shri Kovind had been active in the Uttar Pradesh unit of BJP and was even appointed the general secretary when Laxmikant Bajpai was the party's state chief. But, he chose to switch to the party's central unit.

After the Narendra Modi government came to power, he was appointed the Bihar Governor, from where he resigned after being named the NDA's presidential nominee.

## **Chapter 43**

# **PAN-INDIA TOUR OF SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**

BJP nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind meets Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and deputy CMs of the state on Day 1 of his presidential election campaign



The presidential nominee of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Shri Ram Nath Kovind, on Sunday met with members of parliament (MPs) and state legislators of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies from Uttar Pradesh, kick-starting his nationwide tour from his home state to seek support from various political parties.

Accompanied by Union minister Nitin Gadkari and BJP national general secretary Bhupender Yadav, Shri Kovind drove straight to chief minister Yogi Adityanath's official residence from the airport. Adityanath and other senior BJP leaders and ministers earlier received 71-year-old Shri Kovind at the airport.

At the Chief Minister's residence on the Kalidas Marg, Shri Kovind interacted with a host of senior party leaders including Union ministers Uma Bharti and Gadkari, deputy chief ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma. He also met with UP assembly speaker Hriday Narayan Dixit.

Addressing the MPs and state legislators, Adityanath said, "It is for the first time that we will have the honour of having a person from Uttar Pradesh as our president. This honour has been bestowed upon by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah."

"It will be good, if all the political parties rise above the narrow party lines and vote for him. It will send a good message," the chief minister said. He said that Shri Kovind has led a simple life and that he has



been working continuously for uplift of the poor, the dalits and the marginalised section of the society.

At the meeting, Gadkari also explained as to how to cast the ballot. Though Uttar Pradesh has given the nation a number of prime ministers, it will be for the first time that the politically-crucial state will have the pride of sending someone to the Rashtrapati Bhavan if Shri Kovind is elected. The closest the state came to having its representative in the President's House was in 1969, when Mohammad Hidaytullah became the first acting president of India from 20 July 1969 to 24 August 1969. Sakshi Maharaj, the BJP MP from Unnao adjoining Kanpur from where Shri Kovind hails, was also present. Bhupender Yadav, Shri Kovind's authorised representative for the presidential poll, said he has come to Lucknow to seek support from the members the electoral college. He will now visit other states, Yadav said.

BJP officials said a Union minister, a senior organisation leader from the party and two MPs will accompany Shri Kovind during his nationwide tour to reach out to all members of the electoral college. Though his meeting

will be with the supporting MPs and MLAs, Shri Kovind will make an appeal to all the members of the electoral college in every state to support him. Opposition parties have fielded former Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar, a Dalit leader, against Shri Kovind.

With over 62% of votes firmly behind him, Shri Kovind's election as the next president is almost certain. Besides, the BJP and its NDA allies, parties like Telangana Rashtra Samithi, YSR Congress Party, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Biju Janata Dal and Janata Dal(United) have announced their support to him.

The presidential election is scheduled for 17 July and the counting of votes will take place on 20 July. While Shri Kovind filed his nomination papers in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and NDA chief ministers in New Delhi on 23 June, Kumar is yet to file hers.

Shri Kovind, if elected, will be the second from the Dalit community to occupy the highest constitutional office, the first being K.R. Narayanan.

## Chapter 44

# SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND WINDS UP HIS TOUR

NDA candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind started his campaign from Mumbai and followed it up with a visit to Panaji and Gandhinagar.



*Shri Kovind, who was Governor of Bihar before he was chosen as the NDA candidate, kick started his campaign from his home state of Uttar Pradesh on June 25.*

NDA candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday wrapped up his nationwide tour to seek support for the July 17 Presidential polls with his victory against the Congress-led combined opposition nominee Meira Kumar a virtual certainty.

The last stop of the campaign of the 71-year-old lawyer- turned-politician, who is locked in a straight fight with the former Lok Sabha Speaker in what is billed as a 'Dalit versus Dalit' contest, was Gandhinagar for a meeting with BJP MLAs and parliamentarians from Gujarat.

Shri Kovind started his campaign from Mumbai and followed it up with a visit to Panaji and Gandhinagar.

Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari said Saturday was the last day of nationwide tour undertaken by Shri Kovind during which he visited 26 States.

Counting of votes to elect the 14th President of India who will succeed Pranab Mukherjee is scheduled to be taken up on July 20.

Gadkari claimed that Shri Kovind will win with more than 70 percent of the voting share. Several non-NDA parties like the JD(U), the BJD, the TRS and both the factions of the AIADMK have pledged their support to Shri Kovind.

Shri Kovind, who was Governor of Bihar before he was chosen as the NDA candidate,

kick started his campaign from his home state of Uttar Pradesh on June 25.



A visit to Thackeray's residence 'Matoshree' in suburban Bandra was not in Shri Kovind's itinerary which had raised eyebrows. However, he made a phone call to Thackeray and thanked him for supporting his candidature, Shiv Sena sources said.

Significantly, Pranab Mukherjee and Pratibha Patil, as presidential candidates of the UPA, had visited the then Shiv Sena supremo late Bal Thackeray at 'Matoshree' as the Sena had broken ranks with the NDA in the past two elections for the highest constitutional office.

"We all have the duty to preserve the highest importance of the Constitution of

India. I would assure of equal justice to all, avoiding discrimination based on caste, religion, sect, gender, and region," Shri Kovind said.

He said there should be a comprehensive growth of all the states of the country where there is equal justice for all. "My preference would be to ensure addressing the aspirations of the youth of the country, promotion, and modernisation of education. We will do our utmost to preserve the prestige of the post of the President," he added.

Shri Kovind held a meeting with elected representatives of the BJP, the Shiv Sena and other NDA allies at the Garware Club in south Mumbai.

The members of the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha and state assemblies form the electoral college and currently the total strength is fixed at 10,98,882 votes.

The candidate, who crosses the halfway-mark of 5,49,442 votes, is declared as the winner.

While the value of the vote of an MP is fixed at 708, that of an MLA varies depending upon the state he or she represents. For example, an Uttar Pradesh MLA contributes 208 votes in the presidential election, his counterpart from Sikkim adds up only 7 votes.

"I am sure when results will be announced, he will win with more than 70 per cent votes," Gadkari told reporters in Panaji after Shri Kovind held a meeting with the legislators supporting the Manohar Parrikar-led Government. During his brief visit to Goa this evening, Shri Kovind accompanied by Gadkari met the legislators at a resort in Vasco, 35 km from Panaji.

"Today he met MLAs from Maharashtra and Goa who are part of the NDA. Everyone has assured support to Shri Kovind during the presidential election," Gadkari said before Shri Kovind headed to Gujarat.

Gadkari said during the interaction, the presidential candidate told the legislators that he will uphold the principles laid down in the Indian Constitution.

## Chapter 45

# **SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND MEETS GOAN LAW MAKERS**

National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) Presidential nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind met lawmakers from Goa in Vasco today. He was accompanied by Union minister Nitin Gadkari on his visit to the state. The Presidential polls are to be held on July 17. Gadkari was quoted by PTI as saying, "I am sure he will win with more than 70 per cent votes."



The meet was attended by the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs along with the MLAs of Goa Forward Party (GFP), Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) and Independent MLAs. The lone legislator of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) from



Goa Churchill Alemao was also present at the meet.

"I came here because I was invited. I had come here to listen to him. Whether to vote for him will be decided by my party," Alemao told reporters.

According to a PTI report Shri Kovind is said to have told the legislators that he would uphold the principles laid down in the Indian Constitution.

Chief minister Manohar Parrikar mentioned that this is the first time that a Presidential candidate has come to Goa for canvassing. "This signifies that Goa holds an important position as far as the NDA is concerned," he said. The CM urged all 38 legislators of the Goa assembly to vote for Shri Kovind as the Presidential polls are always above party lines.

Over the past few days, Shri Kovind has visited 26 states to drum up support for his bid to become the President of India. He headed for Gujarat from Goa.

## **Chapter 46**

# **EVEN JD(U) FINALLY SUPPORTS HIM**

Shri Ram Nath Kovind has always found a way to avoid confrontation with the state government, whether it was giving his assent to Nitish Kumar's controversial liquor law criticised by the BJP for some of its draconian provisions or the appointment of vice chancellors and pro VCs.



Bihar Governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind, the NDA candidate for President of India, enjoys the reputation of someone who always stays away from controversy and is popular across party lines. He has a good rapport with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish

Kumar and RJD chief Lalu Prasad has never spoken against him, publicly. Though the JD(U) has not yet announced its support for Shri Kovind's candidature, sources said the party would in all probability support him.

The only time the JD(U) had any problems with Shri Kovind was when the BJP had tried to play politics with his Dalit background during the 2015 election campaign, soon after his appointment to Raj Bhavan. Since then, the Grand Alliance government has not questioned his conduct as Bihar's Governor.

Whether it was giving his assent to Nitish Kumar's controversial liquor law criticised by the BJP for some of its draconian provisions or the appointment of vice chancellors and pro VCs, Shri Kovind has always found a way to avoid confrontation with the state government. He seems to be of the opinion that such issues are best left to the courts.

The BJP could have scored political points had the governor raised objections to some of the provisions in the liquor ban such as a community fine, holding all adults of a

household responsible if any member is found drinking or possessing liquor and the confiscation and auction of property of an accused. However, Governor Shri Kovind did not go down that route; instead he gave a go-ahead to the law.

His non-controversial tenure has been appreciated all the more given tiffs between Raj Bhavan and the government over appointments of VCs during tenure of former governor Debanand Konwar not too long ago. A BJP leader called Shri Kovind "an erudite Dalit leader who has an aura around him and is a liberal face of the BJP".

The JD(U) will wait till 22 June when the Opposition will meet to discuss Shri Kovind's candidature. It will not come as a surprise if the JD(U) goes ahead and supports Shri Kovind, the way it had supported Pranab Mukherjee when the JD(U) was still been a part of the NDA.

## Chapter 47

# UTTARAKHAND ASSURES FULLEST SUPPORT

Earlier in the day, Shri Kovind was received at the Jolly Grant airport by the Chief Minister who took him to his official residence. The NDA's presidential pick was gifted a shawl, an urn filled with water from the Ganga river and a book on the history of Uttarakhand.



*Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat greets NDA presidential candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind on his arrival at Jollygrant Airport in Dehradun*

The NDA's presidential nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind on Monday held a meeting with MPs and MLAs of the ruling BJP in Uttarakhand at Chief Minister Trivendra

Singh Rawat's official residence here to canvass support for himself. The closed-door meeting, chaired by the chief minister, lasted for two hours, official sources here said. All 57 party legislators and two out of the five party MPs from the state and one Independent MLA, Pritam Singh Panwar, were present at the meeting, they said.

BJP MPs and former chief ministers Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri and Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank could not attend the meeting due to their personal engagements. Earlier in the day, Shri Kovind was received at the Jolly Grant airport by the chief minister who took him to his official residence. The NDA's presidential pick was gifted a shawl, an urn filled with water from the Ganga river and a book on the history of Uttarakhand.

Shri Kovind had yesterday embarked on a nationwide tour from his home state Uttar Pradesh to garner support of various political parties for him in the July 17 presidential election. Sources in the BJP had said a Union minister, a senior party leader and two MPs would accompany Shri Kovind on his nationwide tour to reach out to all the members of the electoral college.

Though he would be meeting only with the MPs and MLAs who have pledged their loyalty with him, the NDA's presidential pick would appeal to all the members of the electoral college to support his candidature, they had said. With over 62 per cent of the votes firmly behind him, Shri Kovind's election as the next president is almost certain. Besides the BJP and its NDA allies, the TRS, YSRCP, AIADMK, BJD and the JD(U) have also announced their support to him.

The presidential election is scheduled for July 17 and the counting of votes will take place on July 20. Shri Kovind filed his nomination in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on June 23, while opposition candidate Kumar is yet to file hers. If elected, Shri Kovind will be the second Dalit president after K R Narayanan.

**Chapter 48**  
**SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND SET  
TO GET 7 LAKH VOTES OF THE  
ELECTORAL COLLEGE**

Set for a comfortable victory, NDA presidential nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind may bag over 62 per cent votes but fall short of the 69 per cent votes polled by incumbent Pranab Mukherjee in 2012.

With the battle lines drawn in the first-ever Dalit versus Dalit presidential contest, the odds are heavily stacked in favour of the saffron brigade candidate Shri Kovind who is set to get around 7 lakh votes which is around two-thirds of the total 10,98,903 votes of the electoral college.

The joint opposition candidate Meira Kumar is likely to bag around 4 lakh votes despite the support of many regional parties like the RJD, traditional rivals the SP and the BSP and the TMC and the CPI-M. Chances of Shri Kovind registering a comfortable win brightened after some major non-NDA parties like the JD-U, the BJD, the AIADMK, the TRS and the YSR-Congress extended their support to him. Aware of its



chances in the July 17 presidential election, the opposition now views it as an id .

As per vote projections after some non-NDA parties extended their support to the BJP nominee, Shri Kovind has an assured 6,82,677 votes in his kitty.

Kumar on the other hand has 3,76,261 committed votes, which is 34 per cent and one-third of the total collegium vote.

This time around, there are around 39,965 votes of fence sitting parties like the AAP, the INLD, the AIMIM and some Independents, who have not yet opened their cards about which candidate to back.

Which way this block tilts will mainly depend on the campaign strategy of the contestants of the ruling party and the opposition.

Of the total 776 MPs in the presidential election collegium, Shri Kovind has the support of 524, including 337 of its BJP, while his opponent Kumar has the support of 235. The value of one MP vote is 708 votes.

Accordingly, the NDA nominee will get 3,70,992 MPs votes. The rest of Shri Kovind's vote value -- 3,11,685 - will come from state legislators.

Meira Kumar has 1,66,380 votes of MPs while the remaining 2,09,881 committed votes for her are coming from legislators in States.

Among state assemblies, UP MLAs have the highest vote value of 83,824 votes, with 208 votes per legislator, while Sikkim House has the lowest value of 224 votes with each MLA commanding just 7 votes.

Incidentally, the opposition is already on the back foot as it announced Kumar's name later than the BJP announced Shri Kovind's.

Kumar is yet to file her nominations and is likely to do so on June 28, while Shri Kovind has scored an early lead by embarking on his campaign starting from Uttarakhand and then Uttar Pradesh. Some central ministers are accompanying him too.

Despite numbers on its side, the BJP is going into the battle aggressively. It also has a lead in almost all states barring West

Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Tripura and Himachal Pradesh.

The total strength of the collegium which votes to elect the president comprises all elected MPs and members of legislative assemblies of all states and UTs of Delhi and Puducherry.

The total vote value comes to 10,98,903. The vote weightage of an MLA depends on the population of the state he or she represents. A candidate needs 50 per cent plus votes to win the poll.

The halfway mark is 5,49,452 votes. Voting is through a secret ballot and the party whip does not apply.

In the 2012 elections, Congress led UPA nominee Pranab Mukherjee garnered 7,13,763 votes which was 69.31 per cent of the total collegium vote. UPA's candidate Pratibha Patil had in the 2007 election secured 6,38,116 votes, polling 65.82 of the total electoral college vote. Both Mukherjee and Patil were Congress nominees and defeated joint opposition candidates P A Sangma and Bhairon Singh Shekhawat respectively.

**Chapter 49**  
**SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**  
**MEETS MEHBOOBA MUFTI**  
**FOR SEEKING SUPPORT**

NDA presidential candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind will meet Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti in Srinagar on Wednesday to seek the support of lawmakers from the state for the 17 July election.

Mehbooba, who was not present when Shri Kovind filed his nomination papers, will convene a meeting of MPs and MLAs from the state at her residence, which will be addressed by the former Bihar governor and Dalit activist, BJP sources said.

Her party, the PDP, has assured the BJP, with which it shares power in the state, of its support.

Shri Kovind will be accompanied by union minister M Venkaiah Naidu and the party's general secretary, Ram Madhav.

The ex-Rajya Sabha member will meet NDA MPs and MLAs from Haryana and Punjab in Panchkula, Haryana, on Thursday.

External affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and BJP's general secretary Anil Jain will be among the leaders who will be with Shri Kovind in the Haryana town, the sources added.

The BJP hopes that the INLD, led by former Haryana chief minister OP Chautala, will extend its support to him, the sources said.

Later this week, Shri Kovind will visit Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry in the south.

So far 28 parties have extended their support to the NDA's presidential candidate.

"We are expecting that in next few days, two or three more parties will come forward to support him," a BJP leader said.

Though he will meet only MPs and MLAs from supporting parties, the NDA's presidential pick will urge other members of the electoral college to back him, the sources said.

With over 62 percent of the votes firmly behind him, Shri Kovind's election as the next president is almost certain. Besides the BJP and its NDA allies, the TRS, YSRCP,

AIADMK, BJD and the JD(U) have also announced their support to him.

Shri Kovind filed his nomination in the presence of prime minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 23 June. His opponent, former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar, is yet to file her papers.

The votes will be counted on 20 July.

If elected, Shri Kovind will be the second Dalit president after KR Narayanan.

Chapter 50  
**SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND  
MEETS HARYANA AND  
PUNJAB LEGISLATORS**

National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) Presidential candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind arrived in Chandigarh on Thursday to seek support from Haryana and Punjab legislators.

From the Chandigarh International Airport, Shri Kovind drove to Panchkula town in Haryana where he will meet legislators from the state.

Shri Kovind will later hold discussions with legislators from Punjab in Chandigarh.

The opposition Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) will decide on its position on the Presidential poll on Thursday.

Haryana's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has 47 legislators, INLD has 19, Congress has 17, five are Independents and one seat each is held by the Akali Dal and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).



Shri Kovind will face main opposition candidate former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar in the 17 July polls. Kumar has been supported by 17 parties, led by the Congress.

The Congress, which won the assembly elections in Punjab in March, has 77 legislators in the 117-member assembly.

The Shiromani Akali Dal and the BJP have 18 legislators in the Punjab assembly.

The Aam Aadmi Party has 20 legislators in the assembly while its alliance partner Lok Insaf Party has two legislators.



## Chapter 51

# **NATIONAL INTEREST AND WELFARE ARE OF PRIME IMPORTANCE FOR HIM**

The chances of the NDA presidential nominee got bolstered after the opposition Indian National Lok Dal declared its support for him.



NDA presidential candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind being greeted by the former Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal and Haryana BJP state president Subhash Barala on Thursday. NDA's presidential nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind said on Thursday that maintaining the Constitution's supremacy is a major

responsibility for the person who occupies the country's highest office.

He also said for him national interest as well as people's welfare were matters of prime importance.

The chances of the NDA presidential nominee, who arrived here on Thursday, got bolstered after the opposition Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) declared its support for him.

"I give prime importance to national interest and people's welfare", Shri Kovind said. He was addressing INLD MLAs at a five star hotel in Panchkula this evening.

"The country's Constitution is supreme in our democratic set up and to maintain that supremacy is a big responsibility for the person occupying the highest office," Shri Kovind said.

Prior to his meeting with INLD MLAs and MPs from Haryana led by party general secretary Abhay Singh Chautala, Shri Kovind met the BJP and SAD MLAs and MPs from Punjab at Chandigarh.

Shri Kovind's arrival here was slightly delayed as his flight landed behind schedule due to bad weather conditions.

The 71-year-old, who was accompanied by External Affairs minister Sushma Swaraj and BJP leader Anil Jain, was given a rousing welcome by NDA leaders from the two states at the airport.

After confabulations with Punjab legislators and MPs, where former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal and Union minister and Punjab BJP chief Vijay Sampla and others were present, Shri Kovind went to Panchkula where he met BJP MPs and MLAs from Haryana.

Addressing the INLD members, Shri Kovind lauded former Deputy Prime Minister, late Chaudhary Devi Lal.

"We used to call him 'Tau ji'. I had the opportunity to see and listen to him in the Parliament. When his statue was installed there, I was present," Shri Kovind said about the tallest INLD leader.

Recalling his tenure as Governor of Bihar, Shri Kovind said that he had tried to work

to best of his ability and in an impartial manner.

Perhaps, people sometimes consider it a yardstick, as I had a good tenure there, he said.

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar had said that it was a moment of great joy that I was going to Delhi yet he was also feeling sad, Shri Kovind said.

"And he (Nitish) told me that feeling of sadness was because of the manner in which I kept the sanctity of the post, possibly like never before," he added.



NDA presidential candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind (C) with the former Punjab chief

minister Parkash Singh Badal and Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar. (PTI)

Shri Kovind said that from the moment he became the Governor, he had ceased to belong to any political party.

"I got above party politics and have been working like this keeping country's interests and security in mind," he said.

Addressing the members, he said, "I want to assure all of you that for me, be it Haryana or Punjab or Jammu and Kashmir or Tamil Nadu, for every state and every citizen...I will be impartial in my conduct".

Shri Kovind thanked all the NDA, and non-NDA parties like INLD, which have extended their support to him.

"Yesterday (on Wednesday) some people were telling me that 28-29 parties have extended support to me. Today, INLD has been added to that. I extend a hearty thanks to Abhay Chautala and his team, Om Prakash Chautala and the party office bearers," he said.

Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar said that Shri Kovind would get get

maximum votes from the region and would become the country's next president.

Speaking at the meeting with INLD leaders, Khattar said "I had appealed to INLD to extend their support to Shri Kovind, who is a simple person and has been active in social and political field for a long time."

Our central leaders had also talked to Chautala 'sahib' and I thank the party for extending support to Shri Kovind, he said.

"In the 90-member Haryana Assembly, I can assure that you will get 75 votes for certain. As far as Lok Sabha members from the state are concerned, support of nine (including two INLD MPs) is certain and whether we get the tenth also is a different issue. In Rajya Sabha, we have support of three out of five, there is no doubt that you will certainly become the country's 16th President," Khattar said.

Khattar said that former Punjab CM Badal had expressed desire that a function be held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, where SAD and BJP MLAs and MPs from both the states would congratulate Shri Kovind after he gets elected.

Jain in his address asked the MLAs and MPs to ensure that they put a mark only with the designated pen kept by the Election Commission officials in the presidential polls.

The SAD-BJP coalition has 18 MLAs (15 SAD, 3 BJP) in the 117 member Punjab Assembly while the ruling Congress has 77. The AAP has 20 legislators and its ally Lok Insaaf Party has two.

Among the Lok Sabha members from Punjab, the ruling Congress has four, the SAD has three, the BJP had two MPs but recently Gurdaspur MP Vinod Khanna passed away.

The AAP has four, out of which two have been suspended by the party. In the Rajya Sabha, the SAD has three, BJP one and Congress three members.

In the 90-member Haryana assembly, the ruling BJP enjoys a majority with 47 MLAs and the support of five Independents. The Congress has 17 MLAs.

The Shiromani Akali Dal has one legislator in the Haryana Assembly, while the INLD,

which is the principal opposition party, has 19.

Among the Lok Sabha MPs in Haryana, the ruling BJP has seven members, INLD has two and the Congress one. The BJP has only one member in the Rajya Sabha. However, media baron Subhash Chandra was last year elected to the upper house with the BJP's support.

The Congress has two Rajya Sabha members and the INLD has one in Haryana.

Congress and some other opposition parties have fielded former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar as their presidential candidate.



**Chapter 52**  
**CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ**  
**SINGH CHOUHAN PRAISES**  
**SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, along with his ministerial colleagues and senior party leaders, welcomed NDA presidential nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind, who is scheduled to meet party MPs and MLAs later.

The NDA's presidential candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind, who is on a nationwide tour ahead of the July 17 election for the top constitutional post, arrived in Bhopal for meeting MPs and MLAs from Madhya Pradesh. Shri Kovind, who landed at the Raja Bhoj airport by a special flight, was accorded a warm welcome by the ruling BJP at the State Government's dedicated hangar at the airport.

The Madhya Pradesh Congress, however, criticised the BJP for using the airport premises for according the welcome to Shri Kovind, saying it comes after the controversial incident at the Goa airport where Amit Shah addressed a party meeting.



Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, along with his ministerial colleagues and senior party leaders, welcomed Shri Kovind, who is scheduled to meet party MPs and MLAs later.

Speaking on the occasion, Chouhan heaped praise on Shri Kovind, describing him as the "most able candidate" for the job. "Shri Kovind's humble journey began from a village in Kanpur. He had also cleared the coveted Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination for the civil services, although he did not join," Chouhan said.

"Later, he started practising in Delhi High Court as a lawyer and was chosen to serve as the secretary to former Prime Minister Morarji Desai. After that, he became a Rajya Sabha member for two terms and

later appointed the Governor of Bihar," Chouhan added.

The CM recalled that Union Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot and he himself were present at the BJP's Parliamentary Board meeting where Shri Kovind was unanimously selected as the candidate for the highest constitutional office.

"Later, when party president Amit Shah informed other NDA partners about it, they all open-heartedly supported the decision," Chouhan said. After the function, Shri Kovind and Chouhan left for the latter's residence, where a meeting has been organised with party MPs and MLAs.

Besides Gehlot, state BJP president Nandkumar Singh Chauhan and Rajya Sabha member Prabhat Jha were also present.

State Congress chief Arun Yadav meanwhile slammed the BJP for using the airport premises for welcoming Shri Kovind. "After the Goa airport incident, the BJP now erected a tent and dome for welcoming Shri Kovind which amounts to misuse of public money," Yadav said in a statement.

Last Saturday, BJP president Amit Shah had addressed a party meeting at Goa's Dabolim International Airport. Congress has demanded a probe into the meeting, terming it as "illegal" and "gross abuse of power".

**Chapter 53**  
**ALL SUPPORT ASSURED BY**  
**CHIEF MINISTER OF**  
**CHHATTISGARH**

THE NDA's Presidential nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind will be visiting Chhattisgarh Capital on Sunday to garner support for his candidature. Shri Kovind will be arriving in Raipur on Sunday by a special plane along with Union Finance and Defense Minister Arun Jaitley. Soon after reaching Raipur, both NDA's Presidential nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind and Arun Jaitley will be attending a meeting at the official residence of Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh. The meeting will be attended by all Bharatiya Janata Party MPs and MLAs as well as senior party office-bearers including BJP State President Dharamlal Kaushik.

Soon after reaching Swami Vivekananda Airport, Shri Kovind will be given a rousing welcome by the BJP office-bearers and party workers. Being the Presidential nominee, Shri Kovind had been allocated Z Plus security cover, hence he will be moving in a bulletproof vehicle. Soon after reaching the

official residence of Chief Minister, they will address the meeting of MPs and MLAs. Bharatiya Janata Party in Chhattisgarh has good numbers of Legislators and Members of Parliament, hence the NDA Presidential nominee is expected to get more votes than his rival. During the meeting Shri Kovind will urged the MPs and MLAs for supporting his candidature.



The meeting will be followed by lunch. In the Presidential elections in India, Lok Sabha Members, Rajya Sabha Members and Members of Legislative Assemblies cast their franchise. Accordingly, the vote value of every vote exercised by a Member of Parliament and a Member of Legislative Assembly is fixed on the basis of population.

The vote value of a Member of Legislative Assembly in Chhattisgarh is 129, while the vote value of a Member of Parliament from Chhattisgarh is 708.

Meanwhile, when the media persons asked independent Legislator Dr Vimal Chopda, who was earlier a Bharatiya Janata Party office-bearer, whether he will be supporting the NDA Presidential Nominee or the UPA Presidential Nominee, Dr Chopda said the BJP neither has sought his support nor has invited him for the meeting at the official residence of Chief Minister. He said no BJP leader has contacted him for supporting the NDA Presidential nominee.

He however added that Congress Legislative Party leader T S Singhdeo has sought his support for UPA Presidential Nominee Meira Kumar and also have invited in a meeting which will be held for welcoming the UPA Presidential Nominee on July 12. On the other hand the lone Bahujan Samaj Party Legislator in the Chhattisgarh Assembly Keshav Chandra has stated that he is still undecided over supporting which candidate.

He said he will act according to the directive of the party high command. Keeping in view the existing political scenario in the state, it is being contemplated that there are chances of cross voting. Since the Congress has suspended Amit Jogi from its primary membership, Jogi is functioning as detached Member, who also has the support of Legislators R K Rai and Siyaram Kaushik. They are yet to decide upon whom to cast their vote.



**Chapter 54**  
**NAVEEN PATNAIK**  
**ANNOUNCES SUPPORT**  
**FOR SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president and Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday announced his Party's support to NDA presidential poll candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

"After discussing with senior party leaders, BJD has decided to support the candidature of Shri Ram Nath Kovind," Patnaik told reporters after receiving a telephone call from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Elaborating the reasons behind BJD's support to the NDA candidate, Patnaik said Shri Ram Nath Kovind is an eminent lawyer belonging to the scheduled caste community.

"The office of the President of India is above political consideration and Biju Janata Dal wants to keep it above the politics," he said.

Stating that the prime minister spoke to him about the candidature of Shri Ram

Nath Kovind, Patnaik said, "He (prime minister) sought BJD's support in this regard."



"As you know, the last time when presidential elections were held, BJD had proposed the name of PA Sangma, an eminent leader from the tribal community. Based on the request of BJD, many parties including the BJP had supported his nomination," he said. Asked whether BJD supported the NDA candidate out of any pressure, party spokesman dismissed it and said, "We continue to maintain equal

distance from both BJP and Congress. The post of the President of India is above party politics."

Even as several regional parties either indicated their support or opposition to the NDA's presidential pick, Patnaik initially kept everyone guessing as regards to his party's stance on the issue saying he will first discuss the matter with senior party leaders.

Out of the 21 Lok Sabha members of Parliament from Odisha, 20 belong to the BJD. The party has eight members in the Rajya Sabha, besides the support of independent members of Parliament, and 117 MLAs in the state Assembly.

**Chapter 55**  
**TMC BREAKS TIES WITH SIX**  
**TRIPURA MLAS FAVOURING**  
**SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**

The Trinamool Congress on Monday dissociated itself from its six MLAs in Tripura who expressed support for NDA's presidential candidate Shri Ram Nath Kovind, saying it would have no truck with them in future.

"The stand taken by six MLAs from Tripura is in no way the stand of our party. We have extended our support to Congress candidate Meira Kumar. From now on we will have no relation with these MLAs. They don't belong to our party," TMC secretary-general Partha Chatterjee told reporters.

He said the legislators were Congress MLAs. Only last year they joined the TMC and "they have sold themselves before money power".

Trinamool Congress legislators in Tripura on Sunday decided to vote in favour of Shri Kovind instead of Kumar saying that they would not like to vote for someone who is supported by the CPM.



Meanwhile, party vice-president Mukul Roy, who was in charge of party affairs in Tripura, has been replaced by TMC leader Sabyasachi Dutt.

**Chapter 56**  
**GUJARAT MY SECOND**  
**HOME, SAYS SHRI RAM**  
**NATH KOVIND**

The reception was scaled down since BJP national president Amit Shah, who was previously scheduled to accompany Shri Kovind, could not join him.

NDA Presidential nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind called Gujarat his 'second home' while addressing party workers on his arrival in the city on Saturday. Shri Kovind later visited Gandhinagar along with Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and central leaders. The reception was scaled down since BJP national president Amit Shah, who was previously scheduled to accompany Shri Kovind, could not join him. Shri Kovind, while recalling his association of 30 to 35 years with Gujarat said, "In our life we have two homes – one, our birth place and the other, our work place – while Uttar Pradesh is my birth place, where I went first after being nominated to seek blessings from motherland; Gujarat is the 25th state that I have visited." He recalled his frequent visits to Surat and Navsari districts for social

service engagements and his tenure as private secretary to the late Prime Minister Morarji Desai in 1977.

"Gujarat is the state that has given two Prime Ministers, Morarji Desai and Narendra Modi," he said and added that he had worked with both. Shri Kovind added that he was blessed to visit Gujarat, the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel. After a welcome by the members of Koli community from different regions of Gujarat, state BJP president Jitu Vaghani welcomed him saying, "I welcome Shri Kovindji not as NDA Presidential nominee but future President of India." Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, Deputy CM Nitin Patel, Union minister Nitin Gadkari, BJP national leader Kailash Vijayvargiya, former Chief Minister Anandiben Patel and Ahmedabad Mayor Gautam Shah were also present at the reception. Congress calls meeting of MLAs Congress has called a meeting of all of its 57 MLAs on Sunday to discuss the polling for Presidential elections on July 17. The opposition led by Congress has fielded former Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar against NDA nominee Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

## **Chapter 57**

# **INDIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2017**

A Presidential Election is being held in India on 17 July 2017, and counting will be done on 20 July 2017, five days before the incumbent President's term expires. The incumbent is eligible for re-election, as no term limits exist in India.

Initially receiving speculation for a re-election bid, Pranab Mukherjee decided not to run again in 2017 due to health concerns and problems relating to his age.

### **Candidates**

- Shri Ram Nath Kovind, the Governor of Bihar, was announced as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led NDA's candidate for the post of President of India by BJP president Amit Shah on 19 June 2017. Shri Kovind is a leader and a politician from the BJP. Shri Kovind filed his nomination for the election on 23 June 2017.
- Meira Kumar, the former Speaker of Lok Sabha, was announced as the



Indian National Congress (INC)-lead opposition's candidate for the post of President of India, after a meeting held on the 22 June 2017.

### **Selection process**

Further information: President of India  
§ Selection process

The president is elected by an electoral college consisting of the elected members of both houses of parliament, the elected members of the Legislative assemblies of the 29 states and the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry. As of 2017, the electoral college comprises 776 MPs and 4,120 MLAs. The total strength of Electoral college is 1,098,882 votes. Halfway mark is 549,442 votes. After state assembly elections and by-polls of 2017, NDA is short of nearly 20,000 votes.

The nomination of a candidate for election to the office of the President must be subscribed by at least 50 electors as proposers and 50 electors as seconders. The election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the Single transferable vote

method. The voting takes place by secret ballot. The manner of election of President is provided by Article 55 of the Constitution.

## Results

Results will be declared on 20 July 2017. According to polling after voting was closed on 17 July 2017, Shri Ram Nath Kovind is expected to win the presidency with a voting outcome of 99%.

## Electoral College

| State/Union Territory | Electors | NDA | UPA | Others |
|-----------------------|----------|-----|-----|--------|
| Members of Parliament | 748      | 413 | 112 | 223    |
| Andhra Pradesh        | 174      | 107 | 0   | 67     |
| Arunachal Pradesh     | 60       | 49  | 1   | 10     |
| Assam                 | 126      | 86  | 39  | 1      |
| Bihar                 | 243      | 58  | 178 | 7      |
| Chhattisgarh          | 90       | 49  | 39  | 2      |
| Delhi                 | 70       | 4   | 0   | 66     |
| Goa                   | 39       | 23  | 16  | 0      |
| Gujarat               | 182      | 123 | 59  | 0      |
| Haryana               | 90       | 48  | 17  | 25     |
| Himachal Pradesh      | 68       | 28  | 36  | 4      |
| Jammu and Kashmir     | 87       | 55  | 27  | 5      |
| Jharkhand             | 81       | 48  | 6   | 27     |

| State/Union Territory | Electors | NDA   | UPA   | Others |
|-----------------------|----------|-------|-------|--------|
| Karnataka             | 225      | 46    | 121   | 58     |
| Kerala                | 140      | 1     | 41    | 98     |
| Madhya Pradesh        | 231      | 165   | 56    | 10     |
| Maharashtra           | 288      | 188   | 93    | 7      |
| Manipur               | 60       | 37    | 22    | 1      |
| Meghalaya             | 59       | 14    | 39    | 6      |
| Mizoram               | 40       | 5     | 34    | 1      |
| Nagaland              | 60       | 50    | 2     | 08     |
| Odisha                | 147      | 10    | 16    | 121    |
| Punjab                | 117      | 18    | 77    | 22     |
| Puducherry            | 30       | 8     | 17    | 5      |
| Rajasthan             | 200      | 161   | 24    | 15     |
| Sikkim                | 32       | 21    | 11    | 0      |
| Tamil Nadu            | 234      | 0     | 98    | 134    |
| Telangana             | 119      | 8     | 13    | 98     |
| Tripura               | 60       | 0     | 3     | 57     |
| Uttar Pradesh         | 403      | 325   | 56    | 22     |
| Uttarakhand           | 70       | 57    | 11    | 2      |
| West Bengal           | 294      | 6     | 39    | 249    |
| Total (Assembly)      | 4,852    | 2,204 | 1,288 | 1,360  |

## Electoral votes

| Party/Alliance | Party Consist | Lok Sabha Votes | Rajya Sabha | State Assemblies Votes | Total Votes | Percentage |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|------------|
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|------------|

|   |   | es          | Vot<br>es  |         |                     |               |
|---|---|-------------|------------|---------|---------------------|---------------|
| NDA   | BJP,<br>SHS,<br>TDP,<br>LJSP,<br>SAD,<br>RLSP,<br>AD,<br>GFP,<br>MGP<br>AINRC<br>,<br>JKPD<br>P,<br>NPF,<br>NPP,<br>PMK,<br>SDF,<br>SWP | 237,<br>888 | 49,5<br>60 | 239,923 | 527,<br>371         | 48.10%        |
| Other<br>Parties  | AIAD<br>MK<br>,YSRC<br>P,<br>JD(U),<br>BJD,<br>TRS,I<br>NLD &<br>IND  | 50,2<br>68  | 20,5<br>32 | 63,107  | 133,<br>907         | 12.20%        |
| <b>Government Total</b> (Including Non<br>NDA Parties' support) |   |             |            |         | <b>661,<br/>278</b> | <b>60.30%</b> |
| UPA   | INC,<br>IUML,   | 34,6<br>92  | 46,0<br>20 | 93,137  | 173,<br>849         | 15.90%        |

|                         |   |            |            |         |                     |               |
|-------------------------|---|------------|------------|---------|---------------------|---------------|
|                         | RSP,<br>KC<br>(M),<br>DMK   |            |            |         |                     |               |
| Other<br>Parties        | AITC,<br>CPI(M)<br>,<br>NCP,S<br>P,<br>BSP,<br>AAP,<br>RJD<br>AIUDF<br>, JDS,<br>JMM,<br>AIMI<br>M,<br>CPI,<br>JKNC | 60,1<br>80 | 47,4<br>36 | 152,776 | 260,<br>392         | 23.80%        |
| <b>Opposition Total</b> |   |            |            |         | <b>434,<br/>241</b> | <b>39.70%</b> |

## Chapter 58

# HOW IS THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA ELECTED ?

The President of India is elected by an electoral college - but that is only the tip of the iceberg.



As Pranab Mukherjee nears the end of his five-year presidential term, the Opposition parties are yet to prop up a consensus candidate while the Government, too, is in consultations within its party and allies on a probable nominee. The President cannot be elected by the people of the state themselves. If the case was such, the President could claim direct power of the people since they voted for her. In 1848, Louis Napoleon, who was elected as head of state by a direct vote of the people,

overthrew the French republic and claimed he was the emperor since he had been directly elected. Keeping this incident in mind, the President of India is elected indirectly.

### **But what does indirect mean?**

The President of India is elected by an electoral college. This college comprises the elected representatives of the government that form the government after being elected in the state assembly and national elections. The citizens of the country directly elect these representatives. It is these elected representatives who then vote for the President, in theory representing the people who would ideally vote for the President. Nominated members of state assemblies and the two Houses are not allowed to participate in the presidential election as they have been nominated by the President herself. Issuing whips to garner votes for a particular candidate is also prohibited.

### **All MPs and MLAs have a certain number of votes**

However, a lengthy calculation designates the value of votes of every elected MLA and

MP. For the MLA, the number is decided by the total population of the state divided by the number of elected members to the legislative assembly, further divided by 1000. The population data is taken from the 1971 census. This census will be used until 2026.

For example, the total population of Madhya Pradesh in 1971 was 30,017,180. The total number of elected members of the legislative assembly is 230. So the value of vote of an MLA will be:

$$\frac{30,017,180}{1000 * 230}$$

The value of the vote of an MP is decided by dividing the total value of votes of all MLAs of the whole country, divided by the total number of elected MPs in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

The total value of the state vote is calculated by multiplying the value of vote of one MLA with the total number of elected MLAs.



### **How do these MLAs and MPs vote?**

Unlike a traditional ballot, where the voter casts one vote only for her selected candidate, a presidential election ballot does not follow this system. What it follows is the Single Transferable Vote system. According to this, each voter marks out her preference for the presidential candidate. If there are five candidates for example, the voter will give five preferences. It is mandatory to give a first preference as the vote will be declared invalid in its absence. However, if the voter doesn't give other preferences, the vote will be considered valid.



*First President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad.*

## **Vote Quota**

The vote quota has come about as a result of Proportional Representation which ensures equal representation to all groups. Simply casting votes or indicating preference is not enough as the person with the most number of votes or first preference does not win the presidential election. The total number of valid votes decide how many votes will a candidate need in order to be declared winner. This number is divided by two and added to one to form the benchmark of winning. For example, if there are 50,000 valid votes, then the candidate would require  $(50,000/2)+1$ , which is equal to 25,001 votes.

Should any candidate fail to reach the vote quota, the candidate with the minimum number of votes is eliminated and her votes are transferred to the other candidates on the basis of the second preference. If the vote quota is achieved, a winner emerges but if it doesn't, the candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated again and others get her votes on the basis of the third preference.



*First woman President of India, Pratibha Patil, who served as Head of the State before Pranab Mukherjee.*

Once the vote quota is achieved by one candidate, the winner is announced.

Consider this example. Out of four candidates, A, B, C, and D, the results of the first preference counting are:

A: 19,000

B: 8,000

C: 13,000

D: 10,000

In this case, candidate B will be eliminated and her votes will be distributed to the rest of the candidates on the basis of the second preference. Post this, suppose, A gets 3000

votes, C gets 2000 votes and D gets 3000 votes. The new results are:

A: 22,000

C: 15,000

D: 13,000

Now, candidate D gets eliminated with, suppose, A getting 2,000 votes and C getting 11,000 votes.

A: 24,000

C: 26,000

Exceeding the vote quota, candidate C will be declared as the President of India.

## **Chapter 59**

# **ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA**

Article 52 States that there shall be a President of India. The executive powers of the Union shall be vested in the President. He, as the head of a state, symbolises the nation. In some democratic systems, the head of the state is also the head of the government and, therefore, he will also be the head of the political executive. The US Presidency represents this form. In Britain, the monarch is the symbolic head, representing the British nation. The powers of the Government are vested in the political office of the Prime Minister. In Indian Parliamentary democracy we have adopted the latter form. The President of India is the first citizen and represents the Indian nation and does not, therefore, belong to any particular political party. He is elected by the representatives of the people through an Electoral College.

Article 54 of the constitution says:

"The President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of

-

(a) The elected members of both Houses of Parliament and

(b) The elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States (including National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Pondicherry vide the Constitution 70th amendment Act, 1992)."

Thus in the election of the President the citizens play no direct part and he is elected indirectly by the representatives or the people, like the American President but no special electoral college is elected, as in the case of America. Another point of difference that may be noted is that the election of the President of India is by the system of proportional representation, by the single transferable vote, as provided by Article 55(3) of the Constitution, while the American President is elected by the straight vote system.

### **Preference For Indirect Election**

The process of election of the President of India is original and no other Constitution contains a similar procedure. The question was considerably debated in the Constituent Assembly. It was argued by many members that the electoral college consisting of the

elected members of Central Legislature as well as those of the Legislative Assemblies of the States was not sufficiently representative of Peoples' will. Some members, therefore, favoured the system of direct election by the people instead of an indirect round-about method, because such a system would be most democratic and it would make the President a direct choice of the nation. This was, however, not accepted. The main reasons which influenced the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly for determining indirect Presidential election are:

(1) Firstly, in a country following the Cabinet system of Government, the office of titular Chief Executive is a technical one, to the extent that its duties are largely prescribed by other authorities (usually by the Legislature), which requires specific competence for the performance of its duties from the incumbent. Very few voters can be competent to judge wisely of the technical abilities of the candidates for any particular office of this type, having specific, limited and defined functions.

(2) Secondly, if the direct election of the President were adopted, the Presidential

candidate who has to carry on an election campaign from one corner of the country to another will certainly be put up by some party or the other, which may cause political excitement and generate party feelings. Thus the man elected to the Presidential office through this means will never be able to forget his party affiliations. So the ideal of getting a non-party man outside the turmoil of party passions and reasonably respected by all factions to assume the role of the head of the State will be defeated. Further, as India is almost a sub-continent with crores of enfranchised citizens, it would be impossible to provide an electoral machinery for the purpose of smooth and successful Presidential election.

(3) Lastly, a directly elected Chief Executive may not be content with his position of a mere constitutional head and can claim to derive his authority directly from the people. So, if he wanted to assume real power, it would lead to a constitutional deadlock and an inevitable clash with the Cabinet or real executive. This would definitely produce a confusion of responsibility.



Such a contingency had happened when under the French Constitution of 1848 the President of the French Republic, Louis Napoleon, was elected by the direct vote of the people, and by exploiting this system, he had overthrown the Republic to establish the empire with himself as emperor. To prevent the recurrence of such a contingency, the French people in their later constitutions discredited and abandoned the system of electing the head of State by the direct vote of the people.

### **Middle Course**

A middle course was chosen by the framers of the Indian Constitution in order to make the Presidential office more broad-based. The electoral college for Presidential election has been expanded so as to include the elected members of the State Assemblies all over India, which means that the President is chosen by the nation as a whole, indirectly, through the elected representatives of the people and is thus not the representative of a particular constituency but of the nation. Through this device he is also not necessarily to be a man of the majority party in Parliament. This has also the additional advantage of

investing the President with greater moral independence and authority which would have not been possible, had he been a man virtually elected by the majority party in Parliament.

This indirect election of the President of India takes place with the participation of both directly elected members of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies, and indirectly-elected members of Rajya Sabha. Each citizen of India is represented in Parliament and the State Legislative Assembly, because, the members of Lok Sabha and MLAs are elected on the basis of universal adult suffrage. The members nominated by the President have no right to vote in this election. Similarly, the members of the Legislative Councils of the State Legislatures, wherever they exist, have also been excluded from the electoral college.

### **Some Pertinent Questions**

The Presidential election is not free from difficulties. Election of the President can be held even if some seats in the Electoral College are vacant. Such election cannot be called in question on the ground of any vacancy existing for whatever reasons,

among the members of the Electoral College electing a person either as President or Vice-President. Further, a President in office can change the composition of the Electoral College by dissolving one or more hostile Legislative Assemblies under Article 172(1) or 174(26) or under 356(1) of the Constitution of India.

Under such circumstances how can there be uniformity in the scale of representation? Is it under "as far as practicable?" Article 71(4), therefore, may be construed as repugnant to the purposes embodied in Article 55(4). Further, Article 55 is conspicuously silent on whether there will be representation of all or each State in the Presidential election, although there is vacancy in the electoral College. It only provides for "the different States." Since there is no guarantee to ensure non-vacancy in the Presidential Electoral College, the phrase, "the elected members of Legislative Assemblies of States" means only those who are actually in office at the time of Presidential Election.

The elected members of a suspended Assembly are entitled to take part in the Presidential election. For example, the

MLAs of Rajasthan participated in the Presidential Election in 1967 though the Assembly was kept under suspended animation under Article 356(1) (c) of the Constitution.

So also the MLAs of Bihar had cast their votes in the Presidential Election of 1969. But holding of election at a time when the House of the People stands dissolved could be simply a dangerous practice. In view of these possible mischiefs, neither the Constitution nor the Eleventh Amendment provided for any remedy against creation of calculated or premeditated vacancies in the electoral college.

The framers of the Constitution have not provided against election of the President by a lame-duck Electoral College. It is generally expected that a newly-elected Electoral College will elect the President but the new Electoral College might not have come into existence when the Presidential Election is due or the term of the House of People is extended under Article 83(2) of the Constitution. If the term of the House is extended, the President may be elected by the lame-duck Electoral College. Under Article 56(1)(c), the President continues in

office until his successor enters upon the office. It can neither be extended nor postponed under normal circumstances.

The Presidential election must be held before the expiration of his term of office. The Election Commission shall issue the notification on or as soon as conveniently may be, after, the sixtieth day before the expiration of the term of office of the outgoing President or Vice-President, as the case may be. The election of the President must be completed within the time fixed by Article 62(1). Thus, the time limit is mandatory.

In case of death, resignation or removal by impeachment, the election of the President by the lame-duck Electoral College is imperative. There is scope for the exercise of discretion by the Election commission of India in favour of the party in power by completing the election by the lame-duck Electoral College within the prescribed period of sixty days. But there should be a categorical provision in the constitution prohibiting such Presidential election by the Electoral College.

However, the architects of the constitution intended an extensive electoral college as a necessary institutional prerequisite for their own conception of the office. The Presidential constituency is wider than the constituencies meant for electing the members of the Union Parliament. It also does not embrace the entire national electorate. Consequently, the incumbent does not remain responsible to the Union Parliament alone. Being indirectly elected, the President is not likely to develop political ambitions so as to provide alternate political leadership. The nature of composition of the Presidential Electoral College has made him the golden thread of Federal relationship. In the context of the recently-emerging federal trends of the Indian constitutional system and the radical changes in the political scene after 1967, the Presidential office is pregnant with possibilities of far-reaching consequences and even as the actual balancing-wheel of our federal polity.

### **Procedure for the Election of the President**

The Constitution provides for the election of the President by the system of proportional

representation by means of the single transferable vote. The Constitution also provides for weighting of votes in the election of the President based on two fundamental principles. First, to secure as far as possible, uniformity in the scale of representation of different States of the Union, which emphasises the similarity in the status of the States of the Union. And secondly, to secure parity between the States as a whole and the Union in order to work up the idea of federal compact. For the purpose of securing such uniformity and parity the following method is laid down. this method makes the Presidential election complicated.

In order to secure uniformity in the scale of representation of the different States it is provided that every elected member of the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) of a State has to cast as many votes as there are multiples of one thousand in the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the State by the total number of elected members of the Assembly, and if, after taking the said multiples of one thousand, the remainder is not less than five hundred, the votes of each member referred to above are further increased by one. To put it in

simpler words, each member of the electoral college who is a member of a State Legislative Assembly will have a number of votes calculated as follows:

Total Population of the State

-----  
Divided by 1000

Total number of elected members in the Legislative Assembly.

Fractions exceeding one half being counted as one.

The following illustrations explain the method of calculation:

(i) "The population of Andhra Pradesh is 43,502,708. Let us take the total number of elected members in the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh to be 294. To obtain the number of votes which each such elected member will be entitled to cast at the election of the President we have first to divide 43,502,708 (which is the population) by 294 (which is the total number of elected members), and then to divide the quotient by 1,000. In this case the quotient is 147,968.3945. The number of votes which



each such member will be entitled to cast would be  $147,968.3945/1000$  i.e. 148.

(ii) Again, the population of Punjab is 1,35,51,060. Let us take the total number of elected members of the Legislature of Punjab to be 117. Now applying the aforesaid process, if we divide 1,35,51,060 (i.e. the population) by 117 (i.e. the total number of elected members), the quotient is 115821.0256. Therefore, the number of votes which each member of the Punjab Legislature would be entitled to cast is  $115,821.0256/1000$  i.e. 116.

Each elected member of either House of Parliament shall have such number of votes as may be obtained by dividing the total number of votes assigned to the members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States under sub-clauses (a) and (b) by the total number of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament, fractions exceeding one-half being counted as one and other fractions being disregarded.

Total number of votes assigned to the elected members of the State Assemblies

-----

Total number of elected members of both Houses of the Parliament

Fractions exceeding one-half being counted as one.

For the Presidential election, the population of a State is taken to be the population at the last preceding census.

### **Proportional Representation**

Article 55(3) of Indian Constitution requires that the President should be elected in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

The underlying principle of proportional representation is to prevent the exclusion of minorities from the benefits of the State, and to give each minority group an effective share in the political life. The aim of proportional representation is to give every division of opinion among electors corresponding representation in national or local assemblies. In the ordinary mode of election known as "straight voting system", what happens is that a candidate getting the support of the numerically largest group is elected, although the combined strength

of all other candidates representing different other parties may far out-number his supporters. The result is that the elected candidate cannot be said to represent the opinion of the majority of the electorate as a whole. The following illustrations will amply reveal this fact.

In Nandigram South (Midnapore) constituency of the West Bengal State, the following is the ledger of polling:

P.C. Jena (Congress) 15,320

Bhupal Panda (Communist Party) 14,926

I.C. Mahapatra (Jan Sangh) 5,204

K.L. Bera (KMPP) 3,184

38,634

It may be noticed that though 23,314 people voted against the Congress and only 15,320 in favour of it, yet the seat went to Congress.

This kind of anomaly is sought to be avoided by the system of Proportional Representation, and it is claimed that if this system is practised all the parties or shades of

political opinion amongst the electorate will secure the number of seats in the elected body according to their respective strength amongst the electorate.

### **How the Single Transferable Vote System Works**

The best known form of Proportional Representation is that of the "Single Transferable Vote", which means that each elector has only one vote, irrespective of the number of seats to be filled up. For instance, if there are six seats to be filled up, the elector does not cast six votes but indicates six successive preferences, by marking his first preference and the succeeding preferences with the appropriate numerals against the name of candidates printed on his ballot paper.

### **Quota of Votes**

In the ordinary straight voting system a candidate who secures the highest number of votes is declared elected, while under the Proportional Representation system any member who secures the necessary quota of votes is declared elected. There are several ways of finding out the quota, but the most common method is to divide the total

number of valid votes cast by the total number of seats in the constituency plus one and add one to the quotient. The formula may be represented as follows:

Total number of valid votes cast

Quota = -----+ 1

Total number of seats to be filled + 1

Supposing there are 100 valid voting papers and four seats are to be filled up. In order, therefore, to determine the quota 100 is divided by 4 plus 1, i.e. 5 and the quotient arrived at, namely 20, is increased by one so that the quota is 21. After the quota is fixed, any candidate whose total number of first preference votes is equal to or exceeds the quota is forthwith declared elected.

### **Distribution of Surplus Votes**

Each successful candidate's surplus votes of first preferences which are now of no use to him, are transferred to other candidates proportionately to the second preferences indicated on the whole of his papers (except that the second preferences shown for any other candidate already elected are ignored and the third preferences on those papers

taken instead). The point is that every vote shall be made effective and not allowed to go waste, while under the ordinary system of representation, the votes of many electors are of no use.

### **Elimination of the Bottom Candidate**

If all the seats are filled upon this second count, the election is completed. But if all the required number of candidates do not reach the quota by the distribution of surplus first preferences votes of the candidates who have received more than the quota, the process is reversed by dropping out the candidate who has the least number of first preferences. The whole of his votes are transferred to the other not yet elected candidates in accordance with the next available preferences shown on his papers (next available means next excluding candidates already elected). If this does not suffice to fill the remaining seat or seats, the process is repeated by the exclusion of the candidate now at the bottom of polls and the transfer of his votes as a whole in accordance with the next available preferences shown on his papers. Eventually in this way all seats are filled.

Irrespective of the fact that a number of seats may have to be filled, this system postulates one vote for each voter with the reservation that this single vote is transferred to other candidates. This is the reason why this system is known as "single transferable vote system."

The question of proportional representation in one sense can arise only in a multiple-member constituency when there are several seats to be filled up. In that case, the surplus votes are transferred to or distributed amongst the different candidates in order to get the number of members required to be elected, according to the procedure indicated above. Under the Constitution of India members of the Upper House of Parliament and of the State Legislature are elected according to the above formula.

### **How Proportional Representation Works in the Election of the Indian President**

In the case of the election of the President and the Vice-President there is, however, only one member to be elected. In this case, the Government of India has, nevertheless,

prescribed the manner in which the proportional representation is to work. The method prescribed is generally known as the "alternative vote" in a single-member constituency. The following illustration would explain it more fully.

The total number of valid votes is 15,000 and there are four candidates, A,B,C,D. Suppose, they have polled votes as follows:

A ..... 5,250

B ..... 4,800

C ..... 2,700

D ..... 2,250

In the ordinary system of election by simple majority vote, A would be elected forthwith since a voter in this system marks only one preference and as such no question of counting any further preferences, say the second or the third, arises. In the case of the "alternative vote system" it is, however, not so, as it may be that the second best candidate may be declared elected, as against the candidate who might have secured the majority of first preference



votes. In the illustration mentioned above the quota will be -

15,000

----- +1 = 7501

1 + 1

No candidate who secures less than 7,501 votes can, in this case of election through the system of proportional representation, be elected. It thus follows that if a candidate is able to secure 7,501 or more first preference votes in his favour, he is immediately declared elected and there does not remain any need to take a second or subsequent count. But if, as in the given case, no candidate has secured this quota, the subsequent preferences have to be counted, until a candidate securing the prescribed limit of votes is found out. The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Election Rules 1952 prescribes the procedure for counting up the subsequent preferences as follows:

"- If at the end of the first or any subsequent count, the total number of votes credited to any candidate is equal to, or greater than, the quota, or there is any one continuing

candidate, that candidate is declared elected.

- If at the end of any count, no candidate can be declared elected -

(a) exclude the candidate who upto that stage has been credited with the lowest number of votes;

(b) examine all the ballot papers in his parcel and sub-parcels, arrange the unexhausted papers in sub-parcels according to the next available preferences recorded thereon for the continuing candidates; count the number of votes in each such sub-paragraph and credit it to the candidate for whom such preference is recorded; transfer the sub-paragraph of all the exhausted papers; and

(c) see whether any of the continuing candidates has, after such transfer and credit, secured the quota. If, when a candidate has to be excluded under clause (a) above, two or more candidates have been credited with the same number of votes and stand lowest on the poll, exclude that candidate who has secured the lowest number of first preferences votes, and if that number also was the same in the case of two

or more candidates, decide by lot which of them shall be excluded.

All sub-parcels of exhausted papers referred to in clause (b) above, shall be set apart as finally dealt with and the votes recorded thereon shall not thereafter be taken into account."

It would, therefore, be seen that in case where no member has obtained the quota votes fixed for election, the prescribed method of transfer of votes follows a process of elimination of the candidate who is at the lowest rung in the order of polling according to the first preference and so on, till at last such a candidate is found who has obtained the quota of votes or if there is no such candidate, all candidates except one are, one after the other, eliminated from the field. The candidate who survives the process of elimination is in such a case returned as the President or Vice-President, as the case may be.

An application of this process to the illustration given above would reveal that D will be the first to be eliminated, and the second preferences recorded in the 2,250 ballot papers on which he has obtained the

first preference will be transferred to the remaining candidates, namely A, B, and C. Supposing in these 2250 ballot papers the second preferences are recorded as follows:-

In favour of A ..... 300

B ..... 1050

C ..... 900

These will be transferred and added to the first preferences in favour of A, B and C as follows:-

A .....  $5,250 + 300 = 5,550$

B .....  $4,800 + 1050 = 5,850$

C .....  $2,700 + 900 = 3,600$

Now in the second count, therefore, C having obtained the last number of votes is eliminated and 3,600 votes secured by him are once again transferred to A and B in the order of third preferences recorded thereon.

Suppose the third preferences on the 3,600 ballot papers recorded in favour of A and B are 1700 and 1900 respectively the result of this second transfer would then be as under:

$$A \dots 5,550 + 1,700 = 7,250$$

$$B \dots 5,850 + 1,900 = 7,750$$

B having, therefore, in this case secured the quota of votes is elected and it is no longer necessary to count the fourth preference. The illustration thus shows that although B had secured lesser number of first preferences votes as compared to A, yet B is elected by virtue of the second preferences obtained by him. This apparently anomalous result is justified on the reasoning that if the views of the electors are assessed through the doctrine of proportional representation it is clearly revealed that B is preferred and supported by a numerically larger number of electors than A and as such he is the one elected by a majority.

The present system of election for the President has been adopted under the Constitution of India, in order to maintain the neutrality of the head of State, which both the ceremonial functions in any federation and the specific powers under a parliamentary system demand and also to render it acceptable to as wide a body of opinion as possible. But it should be

remembered that the presidential office can be kept above political turmoils only if the majority party at the Centre willingly consults minority parties also before a nomination is announced. This is desirable because, despite the provision that for the election of the President the votes of the members of Parliament be equal to those of the Assemblies of all the States taken together, the possibility cannot be set aside that State Legislatures may at any time be dominated by parties other than the party in power at the Centre and in such a case they might be able to defeat a nominee of the majority party at the Centre.

**Chapter 60**  
**RAM NATH KOVIND ELECTED**  
**INDIA'S 14<sup>th</sup> PRESIDENT, TO**  
**TAKE OATH ON JULY 25**

Giving India its second Dalit President, former Bihar Governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind today won the presidential election with a very comfortable margin against Opposition nominee Smt. Meira Kumar.



After final round of counting, Shri Ram Nath Kovind got 2,930 votes with a value of 702,044 out of a total of 10,69,358.

With the backing of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and few other parties, Shri Kovind's victory in the race to

the Rashtrapati Bhavan was a cakewalk and much expected.

Incumbent Shri Pranab Mukerhjee's last day as president will be on July 24 and Shri Kovind Ji's oath-taking as India's 14<sup>th</sup> President will be on the day after.

President-elect Shri Ram Nath Kovind will be administered oath by the Chief Justice of India Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar in the Central Hall of Parliament.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee had also taken charge on July 25, 2012.



## **Chapter 61**

# **MAN FROM INDIA'S LOWEST CASTE ELECTED PRESIDENT**

A relatively unknown political operator and member of India's lowest Dalit caste has been elected as the country's 14<sup>th</sup> President.

Shri Ram Nath Kovind, who until recently was Governor of the Eastern State of Bihar, won an overwhelming majority to beat opposition Congress party candidate, Meira Kumar, a former parliament speaker and also a member of the Dalit community.

Shri Kovind secured 2,930 votes in a secret nationwide ballot involving near to 5,000 lawmakers from the central parliament and state legislatures. Shri Kumar received 1,844 votes.

The election of 71-year-old Kovindji, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate, is widely viewed as part of a strategy by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to widen support among India's 200 million-strong Dalit community.

Kovind Ji is the second Dalit to become Indian president, after K. R. Narayanan, in

office from 1997 to 2002. Dalits, who are often referred to as untouchables, occupy the lowest rung on India's caste system. Traditionally viewed as "impure" the group continues to grapple with persecution and exclusion.

Kovindji, a lawyer by training who has practiced in both the Delhi High Court and Supreme Court, has never held popularly elected office and lacks an independent power base. For the last two years he has occupied the Governorship of Bihar, a position appointed by the Prime Minister. He also served as the national spokesman of the BJP between 2010 and 2012.



### **Ceremonial role**

Though the five-year post is largely ceremonial, Kovindji's election will help

strengthen PM Modi's grip on power, say analysts.

"PM Modi would not like anyone in Rashtrapati Bhavan (the President's House) who can question him, that's why Shri Kovind was picked," said Shri Satish Misra, a senior fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, an independent think tank based in Delhi.

Unlike the American President, and in line with other Westminster-style governments, the role of India's president lacks any real executive authority. All decisions taken by the president require the approval of the prime minister and the council of ministers.

India's Great Traveling Salesman?

However, each piece of legislation passed by parliament requires the president's sign-off. As a result, the President can delay key legislation taken by the Prime Minister, and can symbolically signal disapproval of controversial bills.

Having a compliant President will help PM Modi if parliament does not cooperate with his agenda. The Prime Minister can pass

ordinances, similar to a US executive order, with the approval of the president, said Shri Shailesh Kumar, a senior analyst with the Eurasia Group.

### **Dalit identity**

Analysts point to the recent rise in mob violence directed at minorities as among the BJP's primary motives in selecting Kovindji. "There's a disillusionment among the Dalits," said Satish Misra. "That's why it's necessary for the ruling party to send a signal that we are with you."

Kovindji is also a member of the the Koli Ethnic Group, an important voting bloc in PM Modi's home State of Gujarat. A survey by the Centre for Study of Developing Societies found that members of the Koli community, many of whom are Dalit, switched their support from the Congress Party to the BJP between 2007 and 2012.

"Until now, Dalits never voted for the BJP. But in 2014, some percentage of the votes went to the BJP," Misra added. "The fact remains that Dalits constitute over 20% of the Indian population and they're a vote bank."

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NDA से राष्ट्रपति पद के उम्मीदवार घोषित किये गए बिहार के राज्यपाल रामनाथ कोविंद का उत्तर प्रदेश के कानपुर शहर से बहुत ही गहरा नाता है। रामनाथ कोविंद का जन्म कानपुर देहात जिले के डेरापुर के एक छोटे से गाँव परींख में 1 अक्टूबर 1945 को हुआ था। इनके माता का नाम श्रीमती फूलमती और पिता का नाम मैकूलाल था। आप अपने पांच भाइयों में सबसे छोटे थे। श्री कोविंद जी का विवाह 30 मई 1974 को हुआ था। आपकी पत्नी का नाम सरिता देवी है जो जो टेलीफोन विभाग में कार्यरत थीं।



### प्रारंभिक शिक्षा :

रामनाथ कोविंद जी की प्रारंभिक शिक्षा संदलपुर के गाँव खानपुर परिषदीय प्रारंभिक व पूर्व माध्यमिक विद्यालय से

हुई. इसके बाद वह कानपुर पढाई करने के लिए गए जहाँ उन्होंने कानपुर के BNSD inter college चुन्नीगंज से हाईस्कूल व इंटर की पढाई पूरी की. जिसके बाद आपने DAV college से बी.कॉम किया. इसके बाद डीसी लॉ कॉलेज से वकालत की पढाई करने के बाद दिल्ली पढाई करने चले गए. दिल्ली में रह कर सिविल सर्विसेज के तीसरे प्रयास में ही आईएस की परीक्षा पास की लेकिन मुख्य सेवा के बजाये एलायड सेवा में चयन होने पर नौकरी छोड़ दी.

#### **करियर की शुरुआत :**

आपातकाल के बाद जून 1975 में उन्होंने दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट में वकालत से करियर की शुरुआत की. 1977 में जनता पार्टी की सरकार बनने के बाद रामनाथ कोविंद तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री श्री मोरार जी देसाई के निजी सचिव बने.

#### **राजनैतिक करियर की शुरुआत :**

मोरार जी देसाई के निजी सचिव बनने के बाद वह भाजपा नेतृत्व के संपर्क में आये. श्री कोविंद को भारतीय जनता पार्टी ने 1990 में घाटमपुर लोकसभा का टिकट दिया लेकिन वह चुनाव हार गए. 1993 व 1997 में पार्टी ने उन्हें प्रदेश से दो बार राज्यसभा भेजा. इसके बाद 2007 में कानपुर देहात की भोगनीपुर लोकसभा से चुनाव लादे लेकिन हार गए. रामनाथ कोविंद इसके पूर्व प्रदेश अध्यक्ष लक्ष्मीकांत बाजपेयी के साथ महामंत्री भी रह चुके हैं.

**रामनाथ कोविंद जी के जीवन के महत्वपूर्ण क्षण :**

- रामनाथ कोविंद के जीवन का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण क्षण अगस्त 2015 को आया जब वह बिहार के राज्यपाल घोषित किये गएप्रवक्ता वे बीजेपी के राष्ट्रीय , बीजेपी के दलित मोर्चा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष और अखिल भारतीय कोरी समाज के अध्यक्ष भी रहे हैं.

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राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के लिए भारतीय जनता पार्टी ने अपने प्रत्याशी का ऐलान कर दिया है. एनडीए की ओर से बिहार के मौजूदा राज्यपाल रामनाथ कोविंद राष्ट्रपति पद के उम्मीदवार होंगे. बीजेपी के अध्यक्ष अमित शाह ने सोमवार को प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस के दौरान इसका ऐलान किया. आपको बता दें कि वह काफी लंबे से केंद्रीय राजनीति में भी एक्टिव रह चुके हैं. उन्हें बिहार विधानसभा चुनावों से कुछ समय पहले ही बिहार का राज्यपाल बनाया गया था.



*NDA के उम्मीदवार होंगे कोविंद*

**जानें रामनाथ कोविंद के बारे में कुछ खास बातें...**

- वर्ष 1994 से 2006 के बीच दो बार राज्यसभा सदस्य रह चुके रामनाथ कोविंद उत्तर प्रदेश के कानपुर से हैं. पेशे से



वकील कोविंद भाजपा के अनुसूचित जाति मोर्चा के प्रमुख भी रहे हैं.

- राष्ट्रपति का उम्मीदवार बनाए गए रामनाथ कोविंद उत्तर प्रदेश के कानपुर देहात के निवासी हैं

- वे 1977 में पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री मोरारजी देसाई के विशेष कार्यकारी अधिकारी रहे चुके हैं

- कोविंद दो बार राज्यसभा सदस्य रह चुके हैं

- दो बार भाजपा अनुसूचित मोर्चा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष व राष्ट्रीय प्रवक्ता ,उत्तर प्रदेश के महामंत्री रह चुके हैं.

- हरिद्वार में गंगा के तट पर स्थित कुछ रोगियों की सेवा के लिए समर्पित संस्था दिव्य प्रेम सेवा मिशन के आजीवन संरक्षक

- परिवार में पत्नी, एक पुत्र और एक पुत्री है

- केंद्र में मोदी सरकार बनने के बाद कोविंद उत्तर प्रदेश से राज्यपाल बनने वाले तीसरे व्यक्ति थे.

- मेंबर, पार्लियामेंट की SC/ST वेलफेयर कमेटी के सदस्य, गृह मंत्रालय, पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय, सोशल जस्टिस, चेयरमैन राज्यसभा हाउसिंग कमेटी

- मेंबर, मैनेजमेंट बोर्ड ऑफ डॉ. बी.आर. अबेंडकर यूनिवर्सिटी, लखनऊ
- मेंबर, बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर, IIM, कोलकाता
- 2002 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र की महासभा में भारत का नेतृत्व किया.

### **कानपुर देहात में हुआ जन्म**

उन्होंने कानपुर देहात की डेरापुर तहसील के गांव परौख में जन्मे रामनाथ कोविंद ने सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में वकालत से कैरियर की शुरुआत की थी. वर्ष 1977 में जनता पार्टी की सरकार बनने के बाद वह तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री मोरार जी देसाई के निजी सचिव बने थे, इसके बाद भाजपा नेतृत्व के संपर्क में आए.

### **आईएसएस परीक्षा में तीसरे प्रयास में मिली थी सफलता**

परौख गांव में 1945 में जन्मे रामनाथ कोविंद की प्रारंभिक शिक्षा संदलपुर ब्लाक के ग्राम खानपुर परिषदीय प्राथमिक व पूर्व माध्यमिक विद्यालय हुई. कानपुर नगर के बीएनएसडी इंटरमीडिएट परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण करने के बाद डीएवी कॉलेज से बी कॉम व डीएवी लॉ कॉलेज से विधि स्नातक की पढ़ाई पूरी की.

कोविंद ने दिल्ली में रहकर IAS की परीक्षा तीसरे प्रयास में पास की. लेकिन मुख्य सेवा के बजाय एलायड सेवा में चयन होने पर नौकरी ठुकरा दी. जून 1975 में आपातकाल के बाद जनता पार्टी की सरकार बनने पर वे वित्त मंत्री मोरारजी देसाई के निजी सचिव रहे थे. जनता पार्टी की सरकार में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जूनियर काउंसलर के पद पर कार्य किया.

### **मकान को बना दिया बारातघर**

बिहार के मौजूदा राज्यपाल रामनाथ कोविंद अपने तीन भाइयों में सबसे छोटे हैं. कहा जाता है कि परौख गांव में कोविंद अपना पैतृक मकान बारातघर के रूप में दान कर चुके हैं. उनके बड़े भाई प्यारेलाल व स्वर्गीय शिवबालक राम हैं.

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बिहार के भूतपूर्व राज्यपाल रामनाथ कोविंद की जीत लगभग पक्की है और इसका ऐलान 20 जुलाई को हो जाएगा. बस इंतजार इस बात का है कि उनके जीत का अंतर कितना ज्यादा होता है.

17 जुलाई सोमवार हमारा देश अगले राष्ट्रपति के लिए मतदान के लिए तैयार है. इसके लिए एनडीए द्वारा समर्थित रामनाथ कोविंद और विपक्ष की तरफ से मीरा कुमार मैदान में हैं. लेकिन बिहार के भूतपूर्व राज्यपाल रामनाथ कोविंद की जीत लगभग पक्की है और इसकी ऐलान 20 जुलाई को हो जाएगा. बस इंतजार इस बात का है कि उनके जीत का अंतर कितना ज्यादा होता है. जीत के अंतर को बढ़ाने के लिए एनडीए के नेतागण लगातार प्रयासरत भी हैं. जीत का अंतर जितना ज्यादा होगा उतना ही बड़ा विपक्ष को झटका लगेगा.

### आंकड़ों में रामनाथ कोविंद का पलड़ा भारी

हालांकि मीरा कुमार को 17 विपक्षी दलों का समर्थन प्राप्त है, लेकिन वोटों के मामले में वह कोविंद से काफी पिछड़ी दिख रही हैं. आंकड़े इशारा कर रहे हैं कि रामनाथ कोविंद का राष्ट्रपति बनना लगभग तय है.



अगर आंकड़ों की बात करें तो चुनावी निर्वाचक मंडल में एनडीए को बढ़त हासिल है. एनडीए के 5.27 लाख वोट हैं वहीं और यूपीए के 3.53 लाख वोट हैं. यानी आंकड़ों के आधार पर कांग्रेसनीत यूपीए एनडीए से 1.74 लाख वोट पीछे है. अगर बीजेपी विरोधी पार्टियों और यूपीए के वोट एक साथ जोड़ दें तो भी एनडीए 93 हजार वोटों से आगे दिखता है.

रामनाथ कोविंद के समर्थन में एनडीए और गैर एनडीए क्षेत्रीय पार्टियों का 63.1 फीसदी वोट है. वैसे तो एनडीए के पास खुद कमोबेश 48.9 फीसदी वोट है और कई अन्य गैर एनडीए क्षेत्रीय पार्टियों को मिलाकर यह आंकड़ा 63 फीसदी तक पहुंच जाता है.

नीतीश कुमार, नवीन पटनायक और चंद्रशेखर राव ऐसे मुख्यमंत्री हैं खुलकर रामनाथ कोविंद की तारीफ कर चुके हैं. यूपीए के प्रमुख घटक दल और तीन राज्यों में सरकारें चला रही जदयू, बीजद, टीआरएस और वाईएसआरसीपी एनडीए के उम्मीदवार रामनाथ कोविंद को वोट देने का ऐलान कर चुकी हैं.

रामनाथ कोविंद को समर्थन देने वाली गैर एनडीए पार्टियों में जदयू (1.91 फीसदी), एआईएडीएमके (5.39 फीसदी), बीजद (2.99 फीसदी), टीआरएस (2 फीसदी), वाईएसआरसीपी (1.53 फीसदी) और रालोद (0.38 फीसदी) है. एआईएडीएमके के दोनों गुटों ने एनडीए उम्मीदवार को समर्थन देने का फैसला लिया है. इससे कोविंद को मीरा कुमार पर निर्णायक बढ़त हासिल हो जाती है.

इसके अलावा उत्तर प्रदेश में मुलायम सिंह यादव और शिवपाल यादव भी एनडीए प्रत्याशी को समर्थन करने की बात कर चुके हैं. जबकि इनकी पार्टी सपा और इसके मुखिया अखिलेश यादव यूपीए के प्रत्याशी मीरा कुमार के समर्थन में हैं.

### **बढ़ेगा मोदी और अमित शाह का कद**

अगर एनडीए द्वारा समर्थित रामनाथ कोविंद की जीत होती है तो यह तय है कि इस बार के चुनावी नतीजे नरेंद्र मोदी व अमित शाह के कद को और बढ़ाएंगे. पहले से ही पूरी

तरह से पार्टी और सरकार पर मजबूत पकड़ बना चुकी मोदी-शाह की जोड़ी के लिए यह जीत मनोबल को और ज्यादा बढ़ाने वाली साबित होगी. अमित शाह को भी पार्टी के अब तक के सबसे सफल भाजपा अध्यक्ष का खिताब मिल जाएगा. अब तक उनके नेतृत्व में पार्टी ऐसे राज्यों में जीत हासिल कर चुकी है जहां इससे पहले शायद वह कभी मुख्य विपक्षी दल भी नहीं रही.

अब इंतजार 20 जुलाई को खत्म होगा जब वोटों की गिनती होगा और जीत का अंतर आएगा. 25 जुलाई को देश के नए राष्ट्रपति पद भार संभालेंगे.

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lclsmi;Dr mEhmokj

BJP संसदीय बोर्ड की बैठक के बाद BJP के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष अमित शाह ने राष्ट्रपति पद के लिए रामनाथ कोविंद के नाम की घोषणा की है। आइये हम आपको बताते हैं कि कौन हैं रामनाथ कोविंद और कैसा है उनका राष्ट्रपति पद के उम्मीदवार बनने तक का सफर...

**रामनाथ कोविंद का अब तक का सफर**

- राम नाथ कोविन्द का जन्म एक अक्टूबर 1945 में उत्तर प्रदेश के कानपुर जिले की (वर्तमान में कानपुर देहात जिला ), तहसील डेरापुर के एक छोटे से गाँव परौख में हुआ था।
- कोविन्द का सम्बन्ध कोरी या कोली जाति से है जो उत्तर प्रदेश में अनुसूचित जाति के अंतर्गत आती है।
- वकालत की उपाधि लेने के बाद दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय में वकालत प्रारम्भ की।
- वह 1977 से 1979 तक दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट में केंद्र सरकार के वकील रहे।
- 8 अगस्त 2015 को बिहार के राज्यपाल के पद पर नियुक्ति हुए।
- वर्ष 1991 में भारतीय जनता पार्टी में शामिल हुए।



- वर्ष 1994 में उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य से राज्य सभा के निर्वाचित हुए।
- वर्ष 2000 में पुनः उत्तरप्रदेश राज्य से राज्य सभा के लिए निर्वाचित हुए।
- कोविन्द लगातार 12 वर्ष तक राज्य सभा के सदस्य रहे।
- वह भारतीय जनता पार्टी के राष्ट्रीय प्रवक्ता भी रहे।
- वह भाजपा दलित मोर्चा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष और अखिल भारतीय कोली समाज अध्यक्ष भी रहे।
- वर्ष 1986 में दलित वर्ग के कानूनी सहायता ब्यूरो के महामंत्री भी रहे।

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राष्ट्रपति के लिए एनडीए उम्मीदवार रामनाथ कोविंद के लिए आगरा इस बार खास है। सोमवार को देश में राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के लिए विधानसभाओं में चुने हुए विधायक और संसद में राज्य सभा और लोक सभा के सदस्य वोट डालेंगे। इन सब के बीच इस बार राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव में आगरा की भूमिका कुछ अलग हो चुकी है।

पहली बार देश में राष्ट्रपति के लिए दोनों उम्मीदवार दलित हैं। दरअसल आगरा को दलितों का गढ़ कहा जाता है। इसलिए आगरा के विधायकों और सांसदों के सामने दुविधा खड़ी हो सकती थी लेकिन एनडीए उम्मीदवार रामनाथ कोविंद उत्तर प्रदेश से आते हैं इसलिए उनका पलड़ा भारी है।

**इसलिए हुआ खास**

पहली बार आगरा में सभी विधायक और सांसद भाजपा के हैं। सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि उनके सामने उम्मीदवार भी दलित हैं। इन दोनों कारणों को लेकर राष्ट्रपति चुनाव आगरा के लिए खास हो चुका है।

राष्ट्रपति चुनाव में जनसंख्या के हिसाब से उत्तर प्रदेश में एक विधायक का मत वैल्यू 208 है। इस हिसाब से आगरा से भाजपा विधायकों के मत का मूल्य 1872 हुआ। जो एनडीए

उम्मीदवार को ही जाएगा। पहली बार ऐसा हो रहा है कि आगरा से किसी भी राष्ट्रपति उम्मीदवार को सभी विधायकों का मत मिल रहा है। वहीं लोक सभा सदस्यों के मत का मूल्य 708 है। ऐसे में आगरा से दो लोकसभा सदस्य हैं। भाजपा के खाते में दोनों हैं। लोक सभा सदस्यों का मत वैल्यू 1416 हो रहा है।

### ये हैं विधायक

**आगरा कैंट :** डॉ गिरराज सिंह , **आगरा दक्षिण :** योगेन्द्र उपाध्याय , **आगरा ग्रामीण :** हेमलता दिवाकर , **एतमादपुर :** राम प्रताप सिंह, **खेरागढ़ :** महेश कुमार गोयल , **फतेहपुर सिकरी:** उदयभान सिंह चौहान , **फतेहाबाद:** जितेन्द्र वर्मा, **बाह :** रानी पक्षालिका सिंह, **आगरा उत्तर :** जगन प्रसाद गर्ग ये सभी भाजपा के विधायक हैं। इसमें योगेन्द्र उपाध्याय, उदयभान सिंह चौहान और जगन प्रसाद गर्ग को छोड़कर सभी छह विधायक पहली बार राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव में वोटिंग करेंगे। सभी नौ विधायकों का मत वैल्यू 1872 है।

### ये हैं सांसद

फतेहपुर सिकरी लोकसभा से पहली बार सांसद बने चौधरी बाबूलाल के लिए राष्ट्रपति चुनाव में मतदान करने का पहला अवसर होगा। आगरा में लोकसभा की दो सीटें हैं। दोनों पर भाजपा का कब्जा है। प्रो रामशंकर कठेरिया आगरा और

चौधरी बाबूलाल फतेहपुर सिकरी से सांसद हैं। दोनों सांसदों का मत वैल्यू 1416 है।

### **इस पेन से होगा मतदान**

राष्ट्रपति चुनाव में अपना वोट देने आए सांसदों और विधायकों को मतदान केंद्र के भीतर अपना पेन ले जाने से मना कर दिया गया है। सभी सांसद व विधायक विशेष रूप से डिजाइन किये गए पेन से मतपत्र पर निशान (मार्कर) लगाएंगे। राष्ट्रपति चुनाव गोपनीय मतपत्र के जरिये होता है। इसमें पार्टियां अपने सदस्यों को किसी खास उम्मीदवार के पक्ष में वोट डालने के लिये व्हिप जारी नहीं कर सकतीं।

### **20 को होगी वोटों की गिनती**

20 जुलाई को वोटों की गिनती होनी है। 25 जुलाई को शपथ ग्रहण समारोह होगा। देश के चीफ जस्टिस नए राष्ट्रपति को पद और गोपनीयता की शपथ दिलाएंगे।

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एनडीए के राष्ट्रपति पद के प्रत्याशी रामनाथ कोविंद बुधवार को झारखंड की राजधानी रांची पहुंचे . मुख्यमंत्री आवास में रघुवर दास ने उनका भव्य स्वागत किया गया. इस दौरान मुख्यमंत्री ने बुके शॉल देकर सम्मानित किया . इसके बाद झारखंड के सांसदों और विधायकों ने रामनाथ कोविंद से मुलाकात की.



इस दौरान रामनाथ ने भगवान बिरसा मुंडा और सिंदो कान्हू के प्रति द्वा प्रकट की और कहा कि भारतीय संविधान ही मेरी विचारधारा है। उन्होंने झारखंड की जनता के प्रति

आभार प्रकट किया और कहा कि मेरे प्रति सबकी आस्था भारतीय परंपराओं और संस्कारों का सम्मान है.

इस दौरान सीएम रघुवर दास ने कहा कि कोविंद ने बिहार के राज्यपाल के तौर पर कार्य कर पद की गरिमा बढ़ाई . झारखंड की सवा तीन करोड़ जनता की तरफ से कोविंद का स्वागत हैं. राजनाथ को राष्ट्रपति उम्मीदवार बनाने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री मोदी और अमित शाह को धन्यवाद . ये एक ऐतिहासिक पल है. कोविंदको नई दिशा देंगे.

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देश के चालीस राजनीतिक दलों के समर्थन, 776 सांसदों में 534 सांसदों के साथ और 29 में 20 राज्यों के मुख्यमंत्रियों के सपोर्ट से रायसीना की रेस में रामनाथ कोविंद की जीत पक्की है। निर्वाचक मंडल के कुल 10,98,903 मतों को समर्थन की कसौटी पर कसें तो रामनाथ कोविंद को 6,82,677 वोट यानि कुल मतों का दो तिहाई हिस्सा मिलना तय है। वहीं दूसरी तरफ विपक्ष की उम्मीदवार मीरा कुमार के पास 3,76,261 मत हैं, जो कुल कॉलेजियम का एक तिहाई हिस्सा यानि 34 प्रतिशत है।

अगर आम आदमी पार्टी और बाकी बचे निर्दलीय भी मीरा कुमार का समर्थन करेंगे तो भी यह आंकड़ा चालीस प्रतिशत से कम ही रहता है।



गैर एनडीए दलों ने भी दिया रामनाथ कोविंद का साथ  
रामनाथ कोविंद को एनडीए के अलावा अन्य कई दलों का  
समर्थन है। इनमें जेडीयू के पास 1.91 फीसदी वोट, बीजेडी  
के पास 2.99 फीसदी वोट, टीआरएस के पास 2% वोट,  
AIADMK के एक गुट के पास 5.39 % और वाईएसआर  
कांग्रेस के पास 1.53% वोट है। इन दलों ने भी कोविंद के  
पक्ष में मतदान किया है। यानि रामनाथ कोविंद के हिस्से में  
एनडीए और गैर एनडीए दलों के समर्थन से करीब 63  
प्रतिशत मत हैं। ऐसे में मतों के गुणा-भाग के हिसाब से भी  
साफ है कि रामनाथ कोविंद की जीत पक्की है।



### मोदी-शाह की जोड़ी की रणनीतिक जीत

रामनाथ कोविंद के नाम की जब घोषणा की गई थी तो  
इसका किसी ने अनुमान तक नहीं लगाया था। तमाम  
कयासों को धता बताते हुए पीएम मोदी और बीजेपी के  
राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष अमित शाह ने रामनाथ कोविंद के नाम का  
एलान किया तो विपक्ष चकरा गया। दलित परिवार से आने  
वाले कोविंद का वंशवाद या भ्रष्टाचार से दूर-दूर का नाता



नहीं है। सार्वजनिक जीवन में सादगी की ऐसी मिसाल कि बिहार के सीएम नीतीश कुमार ने झट से इनके समर्थन का एलान कर दिया। नीतीश के इस एलान के बाद तो विपक्ष अचानक बचाव की मुद्रा में आ गया। जाहिर है विपक्ष के पास विरोध का कोई आधार नहीं बच गया। ऐसे में साफ है कि यह मोदी-शाह की जोड़ी की एक और रणनीतिक जीत है।

### **विपक्ष की कमजोर रणनीति हुई एक्सपोज**

एक तरफ पीएम मोदी और अमित शाह की स्पष्ट रणनीति थी, तो दूसरी तरफ विपक्ष विशेधाभास में उलझा हुआ था। आदिवासी उम्मीदवार उतारने से लेकर गोपाल कृष्ण गांधी तक के नाम की चर्चा चली, लेकिन विपक्ष मोदी-शाह की रणनीति की काट नहीं निकाल पाया। अंत में वंशवाद की प्रतीक मीरा कुमार को सामने लाना मजबूरी बन गई। दरअसल विपक्ष यह साबित करना चाहता था कि वह भी दलित को ही राष्ट्रपति बनाना चाहता था। लेकिन रामनाथ कोविंद का नाम घोषित होने के दो दिन बाद मीरा कुमार का नाम सामने आने से लोगों के बीच संदेश यह गया कि विपक्ष ने प्रतिक्रियात्मक फैसला लिया।

### **सोनिया की स्वार्थी राजनीति से बिखरा विपक्ष**

राष्ट्रपति चुनाव को लेकर उम्मीद की जा रही थी कि विपक्ष एक साझा और मजबूत उम्मीदवार पेश करेगा। लेकिन कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष की स्वार्थी राजनीति के कारण विपक्ष बिखर गया। स्वार्थी राजनीति इसलिए कि कांग्रेस कभी भी गैर

कांग्रेसी दलों की राय को महत्व नहीं देती है। बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार की बात तक को तवज्जो नहीं दी गई, वहीं बीएसपी की अध्यक्ष मायावती की भी बात अनसुनी कर दी गई।

इसके साथ ही कांग्रेस अपने उम्मीदवार का नाम आगे करने से भी कतराती रही। ऐसे में गैर कांग्रेसी दलों का विश्वास कांग्रेस पार्टी से टूट गया।



**दलित Vs दलित लड़ाई बनाने की कुत्सित कोशिश**  
कांग्रेस ने मीरा कुमार को उम्मीदवार बनाया तो इसे दलित Vs दलित बनाने की कांग्रेस की एक और कोशिश के तौर पर देखा गया। लोगों को यह समझ नहीं आया कि कांग्रेस ने आखिर ऐसा क्यों किया?

दरअसल बीते सत्तर वर्षों में कांग्रेस ने यही तो किया ही है। अगर रामनाथ कोविंद के नाम का एलान हो गया तो कांग्रेस उन्हें एनडीए का कैंडिडेट न मानकर एक दलित नेता के तौर पर ही समर्थन दे दिया होता। लेकिन कांग्रेस ने दो दलितों को ही आपस में लड़वा दिया।



### **मीरा कुमार के अपमान का जिम्मेदार है कांग्रेस**

सारे समीकरण जब रामनाथ कोविंद की जीत को आश्वस्त कर रहे हैं तो कांग्रेस ने मीरा कुमार को क्यों बनाया उम्मीदवार? दरअसल कांग्रेस दलितों या उनकी समस्याओं को लेकर गंभीर नहीं है।

अगर कांग्रेस को दलितों से इतना ही प्यार है तो उसे चाहिये था कि मीरा कुमार को पिछले चुनाव में ही उम्मीदवार बनाते। लेकिन ऐसा नहीं किया गया। दरअसल जब नीतीश कुमार ने रामनाथ कोविंद का समर्थन कर दिया तो उन्हें घेरने की राजनीति के तहत ऐसा किया गया। लालू प्रसाद के इशारे पर नीतीश को एक्सपोज करने के लिए कांग्रेस ने ये चाल चली।

अब जबकि मीरा कुमार की हार सुनिश्चित है तो यह तो जरूर कहा जा सकता है कि कांग्रेस ने दलितों को एक-दूसरे से लड़ाने के लिए मीरा कुमार को उम्मीदवार बना दिया, जो दलितों का अपमान है।

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मुख्यमंत्री श्री वसुन्धरा राजे ने कहा कि एनडीए के राष्ट्रपति पद के उम्मीदवार श्री रामनाथ कोविंद वंचितों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए हमेशा आगे रहे हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि हमें इस बात का पूरा विश्वास है कि भारत के राष्ट्रपति के पद पर आसीन होकर श्री कोविंद देश को उन्नति के शिखर पर पहुँचाएंगे।

उन्होंने श्री कोविंद का राजस्थान आगमन के लिए आभार प्रकट करते हुए विश्वास दिलाया कि उन्हें प्रदेश की ओर से पूरा समर्थन मिलेगा।



राजग के राष्ट्रपति पद के उम्मीदवार का जयपुर दौरा

श्रीमती राजे ने गुरुवार को 8, सिविल लाइंस पर कहा कि भारतीय जनता पार्टी ने श्री कोविंद के सार्वजनिक जीवन की उपलब्धियों को उनकी उम्मीदवारी का आधार बनाया है। उन्होंने जीवनभर कमजोर वर्गों में शिक्षा के प्रसार के लिए बहुत काम किया है। उन्होंने कहा कि श्री कोविंद की सेवाभावना का अंदाजा इसी से लगाया जा सकता है कि उन्होंने सरकारी सेवा को छोड़कर राजनीति जैसे कठिन पथ को समाज सेवा के लिए चुना।



मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि श्री रामनाथ कोविंद एक आदर्श राजनीतिज्ञ होने के साथ ही एक अच्छे कानूनविद् भी हैं। उन्होंने राज्यसभा सांसद के रूप में अनुसूचित जाति-जनजाति कल्याण, गृह मामले, पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस, सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता, विधि एवं न्याय विषयों की संसदीय समितियों के सदस्य की भूमिका निभाई। साथ ही, वर्ष 2002 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र में भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हुए न्यूयॉर्क में संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा को भी सम्बोधित किया।

श्रीमती राजे ने कहा कि श्री कोविंद की योग्यताओं की वजह से ही उनको एनडीए के घटक दलों के अलावा अन्य राजनीतिक दल भी समर्थन दे रहे हैं। उन्होंने बिहार के राज्यपाल के रूप में भी उल्लेखनीय काम किया है, जिसकी सभी प्रशंसा कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि जब वे देश के राष्ट्रपति बनेंगे तो उनके नेतृत्व में निश्चित रूप से देश तरक्की के नये आयाम स्थापित करेगा। मुख्यमंत्री ने श्री कोविंद को विश्वास दिलाया कि राजस्थान से भाजपा एवं समर्थक दलों के अलावा अन्य विधायक भी उनका साथ देंगे।

#### **राष्ट्रपति पद की गरिमा पर खरा उतरूंगा – श्री कोविंद**

बैठक को सम्बोधित करते हुए श्री रामनाथ कोविंद ने कहा कि राष्ट्रपति का पद सबसे अधिक गरिमामय होता है। इस पद को डॉ. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद, डॉ. एस. राधाकृष्णन, डॉ. ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम जैसे महान व्यक्तियों ने सुशोभित किया है। उन्होंने विश्वास दिलाया कि वे राष्ट्रपति चुने जाने पर भारत के संविधान के अनुसार कार्य करते हुए इस पद के मापदण्डों पर खरा उतरने का प्रयास करेंगे। बिहार में मैंने राज्यपाल के तौर पर उस पद की गरिमा को कभी आंच नहीं आने दी।



श्री कोविंद ने अपनी प्राथमिकताएं गिनाते हुए कहा कि देश एवं सभी प्रदेशों का सर्वांगीण विकास, सभी धर्मों एवं वर्गों के लोगों के साथ न्यायपूर्ण एवं समान व्यवहार, आधुनिक शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देना और देश के युवाओं की आकांक्षाओं एवं आशाओं की पूर्ति करने पर उनका विशेष ध्यान रहेगा।

### **सैद्धान्तिक लड़ाई तो 2014 में हो चुकी – श्री नायडू**

केन्द्रीय शहरी विकास एवं गरीबी उन्मूलन मंत्री श्री वेंकैया नायडू ने विपक्षी पार्टियों के उम्मीदवार के 'सैद्धान्तिक लड़ाई' के दावे को खारिज करते हुए कहा कि राष्ट्रपति पद के लिए होने वाला चुनाव सैद्धान्तिक लड़ाई नहीं है, क्योंकि सैद्धान्तिक लड़ाई तो वर्ष 2014 में हो चुकी है और देश की जनता ने अपना मत दे दिया था। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारे देश में राष्ट्रपति का कार्य संविधान के अनुसार आमजन के अधिकारों का संरक्षण करना है।

श्री नायडू ने कहा कि श्री कोविंद के व्यक्तित्व, कृतित्व और नेतृत्व को ध्यान में रखकर ही उनको राष्ट्रीय जनतांत्रिक गठबंधन की ओर से राष्ट्रपति पद के लिए उम्मीदवार बनाया गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी और भारतीय जनता पार्टी के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्री अमित शाह ने सभी विपक्षी दलों को भी साथ लेकर राष्ट्रपति पद का उम्मीदवार तय करने की कोशिशें की थीं लेकिन विपक्षी राजनैतिक दलों ने तब कोई संतोषजनक जवाब नहीं दिया और आम सहमति से अलग होकर अपने उम्मीदवार की घोषणा कर दी।



केन्द्रीय मंत्री ने बताया कि एनडीए के घटक दलों के अलावा अनेक क्षेत्रीय दलों और निर्दलीय विधायकों तथा सांसदों के साथ-साथ कई राज्यों में विपक्षी पार्टियों के विधायकों एवं सांसदों ने श्री कोविंद को उनके व्यवहार, विनम्रता और व्यक्तित्व के कारण बिना शर्त समर्थन दिया है। इस प्रकार श्री कोविंद दो तिहाई से भी अधिक मत हासिल कर देश के अगले राष्ट्रपति बनने वाले हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि अभी तक श्री



कोविंद 22 राज्यों का दौरा कर मतदाताओं से समर्थन की अपील कर चुके हैं।

भाजपा के राष्ट्रीय महासचिव श्री भूपेन्द्र यादव ने उपस्थित सांसदों एवं विधायकों को मतदान की प्रक्रिया से अवगत कराते हुए कहा कि प्रदेश से सांसदों एवं विधायकों के कुल वोटों का मूल्य करीब 48 हजार है। इनमें से 45 हजार राजग के उम्मीदवार के समर्थन में हैं।



इस अवसर पर केन्द्रीय मंत्री श्री पी.पी. चौधरी एवं श्री सी.आर. चौधरी, राज्य मंत्रिमण्डल के सभी सदस्य, प्रदेश प्रभारी अविनाश राय खन्ना एवं सहसंगठन मंत्री श्री वी. सतीश, भाजपा प्रदेशाध्यक्ष श्री अशोक पन्नामी, बिहार से सांसद श्री जनार्दन सिंह सिंगरीवाल, गुजरात से सांसद श्री राजेशभाई चुडासमा, राजस्थान से लोकसभा एवं राज्यसभा के सदस्य, भाजपा के विधायक, जमींदारा पार्टी की विधायक श्रीमती कामिनी जिंदल एवं श्रीमती सोना देवी, निर्दलीय विधायक श्री माणिक चन्द सुराणा, श्री रणधीर सिंह भिंडर एवं श्री नरेन्द्र चौधरी, राज्य विधानसभा के सदस्य उपस्थित थे।

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राष्ट्रपति पद के लिए भाजपा के उम्मीदवार रामनाथ कोविंद ने बतौर सांसद कई मुद्दे उठाए थे, जिनमें टेलीविजन पर एडल्ट सामग्री पर रोक से लेकर एक हजार रुपये के नोट पर बी आर अंबेडकर की तस्वीर प्रकाशित करने की मांग शामिल है.



कोविंद 1994 से लेकर 2006 के बीच दो बार राज्यसभा के सदस्य रहे.

इस दौरान उन्होंने कई बार अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के लिए आरक्षण के अलावा पिछड़े समुदायों के उत्पीड़न के बारे में सवाल किया था.

एक बार उन्होंने सवाल किया था कि आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन के कुछ उद्घोषकों ने कब से श्रोताओं का स्वागत राम-राम से करना शुरू किया और क्या इसे बंद कर दिया गया है. अगर हां तो क्यों.

कोविंद ने 1962 के भारत-चीन युद्ध पर जनरल हैंडरसन ब्रुक्स रिपोर्ट को सार्वजनिक किए जाने की मांग की थी.

राज्यसभा के अभिलेखाकार के अनुसार जुलाई 1996 में उन्होंने वयस्क फिल्मों और बिना सेंसर वाले कार्यक्रमों के प्रसारण पर रोक लगाने की मांग की थी. उन्होंने हिंदी फिल्मों के गीतों पर आधारित कार्यक्रम चित्रहार के प्रारूप में बदलाव को लेकर भी सवाल किया था.

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एक संत ने रामनाथ कोविंद के बारे में कुछ दिन पहले ही भविष्यवाणी कर दी थी कि वे जल्द ही सर्वोच्च पद पर बैठेंगे और वह भविष्यवाणी अब सच होती दिख रही है। आचार्य रामभद्राचार्य ने देश के शीर्ष पद के लिए एनडीए के उम्मीदवार रामनाथ कोविंद को सर्वोच्च पद पर बैठने की भविष्यवाणी पहले की कर दी थी।

चित्रकूट में एक कार्यक्रम में बिहार के राज्यपाल के रूप में रामनाथ कोविंद ने जब आचार्य रामभद्राचार्य से आशीर्वाद लिया था, तब उन्होंने उनको देश के सर्वोच्च पद पर आसीन होने का आशीर्वाद दिया था।



रामभद्राचार्य महाराज ने डेढ़ महीने पहले एक कथा के दौरान बिहार में मुलाकात होने पर रामनाथ कोविंद को आशीर्वाद देते हुए कहा था कि आपको जल्द ही देश का बड़ा संवैधानिक पद संभालना है। उस समय संत के आशीर्वाद को रामनाथ कोविंद ने शायद गंभीरता से नहीं लिया था लेकिन अब संत की भविष्यवाणी सत्य हुई तो रामनाथ कोविंद के साथ गए राज्यसभा सांसद ने अब आचार्य रामभद्राचार्य से मिलने का समय लिया है। आचार्य रामभद्राचार्य इन दिनों लखनऊ में रामकथा के आयोजन में व्यस्त हैं।



डेढ़ महीने पहले बिहार के सीतामढ़ी जिले में चित्रकूट के प्रसिद्ध संत आचार्य रामभद्राचार्य कथा सुनाने आए थे। इसी दौरान 3 मई को बिहार के तत्कालीन राज्यपाल और अब एनडीए के राष्ट्रपति पद के प्रत्याशी रामनाथ कोविंद उनसे आशीर्वाद लेने गए थे। सीतामढ़ी को सीता माता की जन्मस्थली के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त है।

### विकलांग विश्वविद्यालय भी संचालित करते हैं

मुलाकात के दौरान रामभद्राचार्य ने रामनाथ कोविंद को आशीर्वाद देते हुए कहा था कि जल्द ही देश के बड़े संवैधानिक पद को संभालना होगा। उस समय रामनाथ कोविंद ने संत के वचन को हंसकर टाल दिया था। जन्म से नेत्रहीन रामभद्राचार्य चित्रकूट में विकलांग विश्वविद्यालय भी संचालित करते हैं।

### मैं तो आपको कहीं और देखना चाहता हूँ

मध्य प्रदेश के चित्रकूट में इसी वर्ष रामनाथ कोविंद बिहार के राज्यपाल के नाते स्व. नानाजी देशमुख के शताब्दी वर्ष पर आयोजित अखिल भारतीय कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में पहुंचे। वहां वह आचार्य रामभद्राचार्य विश्वविद्यालय के चांसलर परम पूज्य जगत गुरु रामभद्राचार्य जी से मिलने गए। जब कोविंद जी उनसे आशीर्वाद ले रहे थे, तब जगत गुरु रामभद्राचार्य जी ने कहा था कि मैं तो आपको कहीं और देखना चाहता हूँ।

इसके बाद सीतामढ़ी में उनकी रामकथा थी। रामभद्राचार्य जी ने रामनाथ कोविंद से आग्रह किया कि 3 मई को पुनोराधाम सीताजी की जन्मस्थली पर आएंगे तो बिहारवासियों को अच्छा लगेगा। रामनाथ कोविंद ने गुरु रामभद्राचार्य जी को आश्चर्य किया कि पुनोराधाम अवश्य आएंगे।

जानकी नवमी के एक दिन पहले रामनाथ कोविंद पटना से मां जानकी जी की जन्मस्थली पुनोराधाम पहुंचे। वहां पर जगत गुरु रामभद्राचार्य जी से जब कोविंद जी आशीर्वाद ले रहे थे, तब रामभद्राचार्य जी ने कहा कि तुम्हें पुनः कह रहा हूं कि आने वाले दिनों में तुम भारत के सर्वोच्च पद पर विराजित होंगे, मैं आंखों से देख नहीं सकता पर आध्यात्मिक शक्ति के आधार पर जो देख रहा हूं तुम्हारा स्थान सर्वोच्च है।

### **...और सच हो गई संत की भविष्यवाणी**

रामभद्राचार्य जी की भविष्यवाणी अब सच हो गई है। उन्होंने रामनाथ कोविंद के बारे में जो कहा था आज वह चरिचार्थ होता दिख रहा है। इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि रामनाथ कोविंद राष्ट्रपति नहीं बनेंगे। राष्ट्रपति पद के लिए वे एनडीए के उम्मीदवार हैं और एनडीए के पास उनकी जीत के लिए पर्याप्त बहुमत है। ऐसे में अब रामनाथ कोविंद का राष्ट्रपति बनना तय माना जा रहा है और इसके साथ ही रामभद्राचार्य जी की भविष्यवाणी भी सत्य हो गई है।

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राष्ट्रीय जनतांत्रिक गठबंधन ने अपने राष्ट्रपति उम्मेदवार की घोषणा कर दी है और वो हैं बिहार के राज्यपाल श्री रामनाथ कोविंद। घोषणा के तुरंत बाद से ही हर तरफ श्री रामनाथ कोविंद का नाम सुर्खियों में है। पिछले 2 दिनों से श्री कोविंद मीडिया में सुर्खियों में आए हुए हैं। आइए जानते हैं श्री रामनाथ कोविंद की ज़िन्दगी के कुछ अहम पहलुओं को।



### प्रारंभिक जीवन एवं शिक्षा

कोविंद का जन्म 1 अक्टूबर 1945 को उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य के कानपुर देहात जिले के परौन्ख गाँव में हुआ था। उनके पिताजी एक साधारण किसान थे। श्री रामनाथ कोविंद ने



कानपुर विश्वविद्यालय से वाणिज्य में स्नातक तथा एल०एल०बी० की डिग्री हासिल करी।

### **अधिवक्ता के तौर पर श्री कोविंद का करियर**

कानपुर कॉलेज से कानून में स्नातक होने के बाद, कोविंद नागरिक सेवा परीक्षा की तैयारी के लिए दिल्ली गए थे। उन्होंने अपने तीसरे प्रयास पर यह परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण की। लेकिन वे शामिल नहीं हुए क्योंकि उन्हें आईएएस के बजाय एक संबद्ध सेवा के लिए चुना गया था और इस तरह से कानून का अभ्यास करना शुरू कर दिया। दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय में 1977 से 1979 तक के केन्द्रीय सरकार के वकील थे और उन्होंने 1983 से 1993 तक सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में केंद्र सरकार के स्थायी वकील के रूप में कार्य किया।

1978 में वे भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का एक वकील बन गए। दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट और सुप्रीम कोर्ट में 1993 तक लगभग 16 साल के लिए। उन्होंने दिल्ली के बार कौंसिल के साथ 1971 में एक वकील के रूप में भी नामांकित किया था।

एक वकील के रूप में उन्होंने नई दिल्ली में निः शुल्क कानूनी सहायता सोसायटी के तहत समाज, महिलाओं और गरीबों के कमजोर वर्गों को मुफ्त कानूनी सहायता प्रदान की। उन्होंने 1977-1978 के बीच भारत के तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री मोरारजी देसाई के व्यक्तिगत सहायक के रूप में भी कार्य किया।

### **भाजपा में श्री कोविंद**

वे 1991 में भाजपा में एक वकील के रूप में 16 साल की सेवा के बाद शामिल हुए। उन्होंने 1998 से 2002 के बीच भाजपा दलित मोर्चा के अध्यक्ष और अखिल भारतीय कोली समाज के अध्यक्ष के रूप में सेवा की है। उन्होंने पार्टी के राष्ट्रीय प्रवक्ता के रूप में भी कार्य किया। उन्होंने देहरापुर में अपने पितृसत्तालय को आरएसएस में दान दिया। उन्हें घाटमपुर और भोगनिपुर विधानसभा क्षेत्रों के उम्मीदवार के रूप में चुना गया था, लेकिन दोनों चुनावों में हार गई।

### **राज्यसभा में श्री कोविंद**

वह निर्वाचित हुए और अप्रैल 1994 में उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य से राज्य सभा के सांसद बने। उन्होंने मार्च 2006 तक कुल बारह साल का कार्य किया, दो लगातार शब्दों की। संसद के सदस्य के रूप में उन्होंने अनुसूचित जातियों के कल्याण के लिए संसदीय समिति में सेवा की। जनजाति, गृह मामलों, पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस, सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता, कानून और न्याय। उन्होंने राज्य सभा आवास समिति के अध्यक्ष के रूप में भी कार्य किया। एक सांसद के रूप में अपने करियर के दौरान एम.पी. L.A.D. योजना, उन्होंने उत्तर प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड में स्कूल की इमारतों के निर्माण में मदद करके ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में शिक्षा पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया। एक सांसद के रूप में, वह थाईलैंड का दौरा किया। अध्ययन पर्यटनों पर नेपाल, पाकिस्तान, सिंगापुर,

जर्मनी, स्विटजरलैंड, फ्रांस, यूनाइटेड किंगडम और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका।

### **अन्य नियुक्तियाँ**

उन्होंने डॉ बी आर अंबेडकर विश्वविद्यालय, लखनऊ के प्रबंधन बोर्ड और आईआईएम कोलकाता के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स के रूप में सेवा की है। उन्होंने संयुक्त राष्ट्र में भी भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व किया है और संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा को अक्टूबर 2002 में संबोधित किया है।

### **राज्यपाल के तौर पर श्री रामनाथ कोविंद**

8 अगस्त 2015 को, भारत के राष्ट्रपति ने उन्हें बिहार के राज्यपाल नियुक्त किया। 16 अगस्त 2015 को, पटना उच्च न्यायालय के कार्यकारी मुख्य न्यायाधीश इक्बाल अहमद अंसारी ने श्री कोविंद को बिहार के 36 वें राज्यपाल के रूप में शपथ दिलाई। यह समारोह राज भवन, पटना में हुआ।

राज्यपाल के रूप में, उन्हें अपात्र शिक्षकों को बढ़ावा देने, विश्वविद्यालयों में अयोग्य उम्मीदवारों की निधियों का प्रबंधन और नियुक्ति के लिए अनियमितताओं की जांच के लिए एक न्यायिक आयोग का गठन करने के लिए प्रशंसा की गई।

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**ih, evkseayk, rksujthz elah mlg**  
**jk l huk fgYI Hktuk plgrsgš**

देश के 14वें राष्ट्रपति के चयन के लिए मतदान हुआ। मुकाबला एनडीए के रामनाथ कोविंद और कांग्रेस नेता मीरा कुमार के बीच था। चुनाव में रामनाथ कोविंद की जीत लगभग तय मानी जा रही है। राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के नतीजे अनुमान के मुताबिक रहे तो एक अक्टूबर 1945 को कानपुर देहात के पाराउख गांव में जन्मे कोविंद देश के दूसरे दलित राष्ट्रपति होंगे। कोविंद के पिता मैकूलाल पाराउख गांव के चौधरी थे। कोविंद के भाई प्यारेलाल के अनुसार उनके पिता मैकूलाल वैद्य भी थे और गांव में किराने और कपड़े की दुकान भी चलाते थे। प्यारेलाल कहते हैं, “हम एक सामान्य मध्यमवर्गीय जीवन जीते थे। कोई संकट नहीं था। सभी पांच भाइयों और दो बहनों को शिक्षा मिली। एक भाई मध्य प्रदेश में अकाउंट अफसर के पद से रिटायर हुए हैं। एक और भाई सरकारी स्कूल में टीचर हैं। रामनाथ वकील बन गए। बाकी अपना कारोबार करते हैं।”

कोविंद की शुरुआती पढ़ाई-लिखाई स्थानीय स्कूल में हुई। कानपुर देहात के खानपुर टाउन से उन्होंने 12वीं की पढ़ाई करके वो उच्च शिक्षा के लिए कानपुर चले गए। कानपुर विश्वविद्यालय से उन्होंने वाणिज्य और विधि (लॉ)

की पढ़ाई की। प्यारेलाल के अनुसार कोविंद बचपन से ही “मेधावी” छात्र थे। वकालत की पढ़ाई करने के बाद कोविंद लोक सेवा आयोग (यूपीएससी) की परीक्षा की तैयारी के लिए दिल्ली चले गए। दिल्ली में ही वो हाई कोर्ट और सुप्रीम कोर्ट में वकालत करने लगे। कोविंद साल 1977 से 1979 तक केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट में वकील थे। जब केंद्र में जनता पार्टी की मोरारजी देसाई सरकार बनी तो कोविंद पीएम के निजी सचिव बने। जनता पार्टी से भारतीय जनसंघ के धड़े ने अलग होकर भारतीय जनता पार्टी का गठन किया था। जनता सरकार के गिर जाने के बाद 1980 से 1983 तक वो सुप्रीम कोर्ट में केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से स्टैंडिंग काउंसिल रहे। उन्होंने 1993 तक दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट और सुप्रीम कोर्ट में कुल 16 सालों तक प्रैक्टिस की है। दिल्ली प्रवास के दौरान ही 1990 के दशक में उनकी मुलाकात उज्जैन के रहने वाले जन संघ के नेता हुकुम चंद से हुई थी जिनकी वजह से वो राष्ट्रीय स्वयं सेवक संघ और बीजेपी से जुड़ गए।

रामनाथ कोविंद सक्रिय रूप से राजनीति में तब आए जब 1991 में बीजेपी ने उन्हें घाटमपुर लोक सभा से पार्टी का टिकट दिया लेकिन वो चुनाव हार गए। सांसद बनने में कोविंद भले ही विफल रहे हों लेकिन पार्टी के अंदर उनका कद साल दर साल बढ़ता गया। वो बीजेपी राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जाति-जनजाति मोर्चा के अध्यक्ष, महामंत्री और प्रवक्ता पद पर रहे। प्यारेलाल कहते हैं, “वो समर्पित बीजेपी नेता हैं।

हमने कभी नहीं सोचा था कि वो इस ऊंचाई तक पहुंचेंगे। पूरे परिवार को उन पर गर्व है।” साल 1994 में बीजेपी ने उन्हें पहली राज्य सभा का सांसद बनाया। पार्टी उन्हें पहला कार्यकाल खत्म होने पर दोबारा राज्य सभा भेजा और साल 2006 वो उच्च सदन के सांसद रहे। साल 2007 में कोविंद ने भोगनीपुर विधान सभा सीट से भी चुनाव लड़ा था लेकिन उन्हें हार का सामना करना पड़ा।

v/;k 74  
**dlfon th ,d vuqKuc) 0;fDr gā**

जब से भारतीय जनता पार्टी सत्ता में आई है तब से कोई न कोई चौंकाने वाला फैसला लिया जा रहा है। ऐसा ही एक फैसला भाजपा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष अमित शाह ने भारत के 14वें राष्ट्रपति पद के लिए रामनाथ कोविंद के नाम की घोषणा के साथ लिया। रामनाथ कोविंद की पहचान एक दलित चेहरे के रूप में अहम रही है। छात्र जीवन में कोविंद ने अनुसूचित जाति, जनजाति और महिलाओं के लिए काम किया। रामनाथ कोविंद का नाम राष्ट्रपति पद के उम्मीदवारों की होड़ में बिल्कुल नहीं था। रामनाथ कोविंद उत्तर प्रदेश से भाजपा के दलित नेता हैं। कोविंद दो बार राज्यसभा के सदस्य रहे, सरकारी अधिवक्ता रहे, 1971 में बार काउंसिल के लिए नामांकित हुए, दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय-सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में 16 वर्ष तक प्रैक्टिस की। रामनाथ कोविंद का जन्म 1 अक्टूबर, 1945 को उत्तर प्रदेश के कानपुर देहात में हुआ। कोविंद ने कानपुर विश्वविद्यालय से बीकॉम और एलएलबी की पढ़ाई की है। गवर्नर ऑफ बिहार की वेबसाइट के मुताबिक कोविंद दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय में 1977 से 1979 तक केन्द्र सरकार के वकील रहे थे। 1980 से 1993 तक केन्द्र सरकार के स्टैंडिंग काउंसिल रहे। 1994 में रामनाथ कोविंद उत्तर प्रदेश से राज्यसभा के लिए सांसद चुने गए। वह 12 वर्ष तक राज्यसभा सांसद रहे। वे कई संसदीय समितियों के सदस्य भी रहे हैं। रामनाथ कोविंद गवर्नर्स

ऑफ इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट के भी सदस्य रहे हैं। 2002 में कोविंद ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र की महासभा को सम्बोधित किया। कोविंद ने कई देशों की यात्रा भी की है। 12 वर्ष की सांसदी में कोविंद ने शिक्षा से जुड़े कई मुद्दों को उठाया। ऐसा कहा जाता है कि अधिवक्ता रहने के दौरान कोविंद ने गरीब दलितों के लिए मुफ्त में कानूनी लड़ाई लड़ी। भाजपा से जुड़े सूत्रों की मानें तो रामनाथ कोविंद की छवि पार्टी के वरिष्ठ नेताओं के बीच में बहुत अच्छी है और यही बात उनके राजग के राष्ट्रपति पद के उम्मीदवार बनने में मददगार साबित हुई। हालांकि रामनाथ कोविंद ने 2012 में भ्रष्टाचार के एक मामले में पूर्व भाजपा अध्यक्ष बंगारू लक्ष्मण के बचाव में गवाही दी थी। 2012 में 'सीबीआई बनाम बंगारू लक्ष्मण' मामले में कोविंद उन दो गवाहों में से एक थे जिन्होंने बंगारू लक्ष्मण के पक्ष में गवाही दी थी। कोविंद ने अपनी गवाही में कहा था कि वे लक्ष्मण को 20 से भी अधिक वर्षों से एक साधारण और ईमानदार व्यक्ति के रूप में जानते हैं जो बाद में भाजपा के अध्यक्ष बने। 2001 में तहलका द्वारा किए गए एक स्टिंग ऑपरेशन के समय बंगारू लक्ष्मण भाजपा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष थे। उन्हें 2012 में भ्रष्टाचार निवारण अधिनियम के तहत दोषी पाया गया था। अपनी गवाही में कोविंद ने न्यायालय के सामने कहा कि वो लक्ष्मण से तहलका की खबर प्रसारित होने के बाद मिले थे और लक्ष्मण ने उन्हें बताया कि किस तरह से उन्हें इस मामले में फंसाया जा रहा है। साथ ही कोविंद ने ये भी कहा



कि उन्हें नहीं पता कि लक्ष्मण ने रिश्तत ली है या नहीं, लेकिन न्यायालय ने लक्ष्मण को दोषी पाया।

रामनाथ कोविंद का पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री मोरारजी देसाई से प्रगाढ़ लगाव था। मोरारजी देसाई अपनी साफगोई के लिए जाने जाते थे। कोविंद भी उसी तरह साफगोई पसंद थे। मोरारजी देसाई को जीवन में अनुशासन प्रिय था। कोविंद की जीवनशैली भी कमोबेश अनुशासनबद्ध है। साफतौर पर कोविंद के स्वभाव के विपरीत है कुछ मांगना, उनके इसी गुण ने उन्हें हमेशा नेपथ्य में रखा। गुजरात चुनाव में कोविंद बेहद सक्रिय रहे। वजह साफ थी कि कोली जाति जिससे रामनाथ कोविंद आते हैं इसकी गुजरात में भारी संख्या है। कोविंद ने गुजरात चुनावों में लगातार प्रदेशभर का भ्रमण किया। लगभग दस दिनों पहले भी उन्होंने गुजरात के कोली समाज के एक समारोह में शिरकत की। दिलचस्प ये है कि प्रचार के दौरान कोविंद ने कभी इस तरह की कोशिश नहीं की कि वो मोदी और बड़े नेताओं के आसपास दिखें। गुजरात के एक बड़े नेता ने कहा कि 'कोविंद हमेशा अपने काम से काम रखते हैं. जैसी कार मिले उसमें सफर करते थे और अपने काम को अंजाम तक ले जाते थे।' लगभग यही अनुमान बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार का भी रहा। जिस वक्त कोविंद को राज्यपाल पद के लिए चुना गया, मोदी और नीतीश में घनघोर विरोध था। उस समय बिहार चुनाव की सरगर्मी तेज थी। नए राज्यपाल से अपेक्षा थी कि वो राज्य सरकार और मुख्यमंत्री से टकराव की

स्थिति में रहेगा। केन्द्र सरकार को खुश करने का यह आसान नुस्खा था। पर ऐसा हुआ नहीं। लगभग दो वर्ष से कोविंद ने नीतीश कुमार से बहुत सौहार्दपूर्ण संबंध रखे। कोई भी टकराव की स्थिति नहीं आने दी। शायद यही वजह है कि नीतीश कुमार और उनका जेडीयू कोविंद के समर्थन में उतर आया। रामनाथ कोविंद की पृष्ठभूमि भी इससे सहायक रही। रामनाथ कोविंद मोरारजी देसाई के अनुयायी जरूर हैं पर व्यवहारिक राजनीतिज्ञ भी हैं। उन्होंने मोरारजी देसाई की साफगोई और अनुशासन को अपनाया है। शायद यही वजह है कि अपने राजनीतिक जीवन के काफी समय बाद वो भाजपा विचारधारा से स्वाभाविक रूप से जुड़ गए। फिर भी वो संघ विचारधारा से बाहर ही हैं। प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी को उनका ये गुण भा गया। दिलचस्प यह है कि विपक्ष को भी रामनाथ कोविंद का विरोध करना मुश्किल हो रहा है। जब रामनाथ कोविंद भाजपा के राष्ट्रीय प्रवक्ता की जिम्मेदारी सम्भाल रहे थे तो भी वे खबरिया चैनलों पर नहीं दिखते थे। मीडिया में उनकी मौजूदगी न के बराबर रही है। उस दौर में मीडिया में पार्टी के दूसरे प्रवक्ता रविशंकर प्रसाद, प्रकाश जावड़ेकर और शाहनवाज हुसैन जैसे नेता ही छाए रहते थे। पार्टी के अंदर उनकी गिनती वकालत और कानूनी मामलों की अच्छी समझ रखने वालों में होती रही है। लेकिन साथ ही साथ उनकी सादगी की चर्चा भी लगातार हुई है। पार्टी मुख्यालय और पार्टी के राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारिणी में भी वे बगैर किसी तामझाम के दिखते थे।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने कहा है कि रामनाथ कोविंद एक बेहतरीन राष्ट्रपति साबित होंगे। उन्होंने ट्वीट किया, 'मुझे यकीन है कि कोविंद बेहतरीन राष्ट्रपति साबित होंगे और गरीबों एवं वंचित समुदायों की मजबूत आवाज बने रहेंगे। कानूनी क्षेत्र के उत्कृष्ट अनुभव के साथ संविधान को लेकर उनके ज्ञान और उनकी समझ से देश को लाभ होगा। किसान के बेटे कोविंद ने अपना पूरा जीवन गरीबों और वंचितों की सेवा में समर्पित कर दिया है।'

v/;k 75  
**dkoa th tkrxr igplj ls**  
**tWuk vU;k glk**

“मैंने जैसे स्वयं सफलता पाई, वैसे तुम लोग भी मेहनत करो।” यह शब्द राष्ट्रपति पद के लिए राजग के उम्मीदवार रामनाथ कोविंद ने अपने भतीजे को कहे थे और इंडियन एक्सप्रेस की एक रिपोर्ट में इसका उल्लेख किया गया था। यह एक पंक्ति ही इस महानुभाव को सटीक शब्दों में परिभाषित करती है। अन्य कई खूबियों के साथ कोविंद अपने प्रयासों से सफलता की सीढ़ियां चढ़ने वाले व्यक्ति हैं।

वह यूके जिला कानपुर के समीपवर्ती एक साधारण से .पी. गांव परोख में पैदा होकर भारतीय संसद, सुप्रीम कोर्ट और फिर पटना के राजभवन में पहुंचे। वह एक सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता और कर्मठ पार्टी वर्कर के रूप में ही अपने जीवन पथ पर अग्रसर रहे हैं। राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ के कार्यकर्ता बनने के बाद वह जनसंघ में काम करते हुए उत्तर प्रदेश में भाजपा के सक्रिय नेता बन गए। अपनी शिक्षादीक्षा के - लिहाज से कोविंद एक वकील हैं। वह एक दशक से भी अधिक समय तक सुप्रीम कोर्ट में सरकार के स्थायी कानूनी सलाहकार और वकील रहे हैं। सिविल सेवा परीक्षा पास करने के बाद जब वह अपने पसंदीदा आईकाडर में न .एस.ए. जा सके और उन्हें एलाइट सेवाओं की पेशकश की गई तो उन्होंने इसे अलविदा कहना ही बेहतर समझा।

1994 में वह राज्यसभा के संसद बने और 2006 तक लगातार दो बार इसी हैसियत में काम करते रहे। संसद में उनके साथी उन्हें एक अत्यंत विनम्र और मृदुभाषी और एकाग्र प्रवृत्ति वाले व्यक्ति के रूप में याद करते हैं। उन्होंने भाजपा अनुसूचित जाति मोर्चा और पार्टी प्रवक्ता सहित अनेक पदों पर भाजपा में सेवाएं दीं। बुरी तरह जाति व्यवस्था में संलिप्त राजनीतिक तंत्र में कोविंद की जातिगत पहचान चर्चा का एक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा बन गई है। कुछ लोगों ने उन्हें उम्मीदवार बनाए जाने को भाजपा की अपने प्रभाव क्षेत्र को विस्तार देने की कवायद करार दिया है, जबकि कुछ अन्य इसे बहुत गजब का राजनीतिक 'मास्टर स्ट्रोक' मानते हैं। कोविंद की दलित पहचान निश्चय ही एक वास्तविकता है, वह एक निम्न मध्यवर्गीय किसान परिवार से संबंध रखते हैं।

उनका भारत के प्रथम नागरिक यानी राष्ट्रपति पद का प्रत्याशी बनना हमारे लोकतंत्र और जीवन मूल्यों की शक्ति के प्रति हमारा श्रद्धा भाव है। हमारे देश में दलित भाईचारे को नए प्रतिनिधित्व की जरूरत है और कोविंद जैसे नेता इस नए दौर के नेतृत्व का प्रतीक हैं। ऐसे लोग नए दौर के दलित चिंतन का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं जो एक सशक्त हो चुके समुदाय के विकासोन्मुखी एक्टिविज्म पर केन्द्रित हैं। नवसशक्त दलित नेतृत्व की उल्लेखनीय विलक्षणता- यह है कि वह सामाजिक पहचान को व्यापक राष्ट्रीय पहचान के अंग के रूप में ही देखते हैं। यह एकजुटतावादी मानसिकता

कोविंद जैसे नेताओं द्वारा अनेक वर्षों तक भाजपा और संघ परिवार की 'एक राष्ट्रिवार एक प-' विचारधारा को हृदयंगम करने में से ही पैदा हुई है।

लेकिन यदि हम अपनी परिचर्चा केवल कोविंद की जातिगत पहचान तक ही परिसीमित रखते हैं तो यह न केवल इस व्यक्ति के साथ बल्कि हमारे राष्ट्र की राजनीतिक परिपक्वता के साथ भी भारी अन्याय होगा। ब्रिटिश दौर में लाल पत्थर से बनाए गए और आजकल राष्ट्रपति भवन नाम से विख्यात 340 कमरों वाले आवास व कार्यालय में सुशोभित होने वाले वह न तो प्रथम दलित होंगे और न ही अंतिम। 1997 से 2000 के बीच केनारायणन भी इस महलनुमा इमारत .आर. वासी रह चुके के हैं। नारायणन की तरह कोविंद भी बहुत पढ़ेलिखे और अनुभवी नेता हैं।- राष्ट्रपति पद के इस प्रत्याशी की पूर्व राष्ट्रपति के साथ जो तुलना की जा रही है वह न केवल अवांछित है बल्कि अन्यायपूर्ण भी है। एकदो - असुखद प्रकरणों को छोड़कर गत अनेक दशकों दौरान राष्ट्रपति पद काफी हद तक गैर विवादित रहा है। अपनी प्रवृत्ति और स्वभाव के मद्देनजर कोविंद के लिए इस पद के अनुरूप खुद को ढालना कोई कठिन नहीं होगा।

संसदीय शिष्टमंडलों के रूप में दर्जन से भी अधिक देशों की यात्राओं के दौरान उन्होंने ग्लोबल राजनीति के बारे में जो विशाल अनुभव हासिल किया है वह अब उनके लिए बहुत अनमोल सिद्ध होगा क्योंकि राष्ट्रपति के रूप में उन्हें अनगिनत वैश्विक नेताओं का स्वागत करना पड़ेगा। के .आर.

नारायणन के संबंध में यह स्मरण रखना बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है कि जब वह वर्ष 2000 में पैरिस गए तो वहां क्या हुआ था? तब फ्रांसीसी मीडिया ने भारतीय राष्ट्रपति की सरकारी यात्रा के बारे में रिपोर्ट को यह सुर्खी प्रदान की थी : "एलिसी में एक अछूत।" राष्ट्रपति नारायणन ने तब केवल एकमात्र इंटरव्यू फ्रांस के एक अग्रणी समाचारपत्र 'ली मॉंडे' को दिया था और इस दैनिक ने इस साक्षात्कार को उनकी जाति से जोड़ कर प्रकाशित किया था।

जिस प्रकार फ्रांसीसी मीडिया ने नारायणन की साधारण पृष्ठभूमि को अत्यंत बचकाना और उपहासजनक तरीके से प्रस्तुत किया उससे भारतीय पक्ष राष्ट्रपति सहित बुरी तरह (आहत और परेशान हुआ था। बाद में फ्रांस सरकार को मजबूर होकर खेद व्यक्त करना पड़ा और क्षमा याचना करनी पड़ी। केनारायणन और रामनाथ .आर. कोविंद की भारत के उच्चतम पद तक की यात्रा उनकी व्यक्तिगत पहचान तथा राष्ट्र की सामूहिक इच्छा शक्ति दोनों की दृष्टि से ही गर्व का विषय होना चाहिए। जब डाक्टर जाकिर हुसैन देश के उपराष्ट्रपति बने थे तो कुछ उत्साही लोग उन्हें बधाई देने उनके घर गए थे। ऐसे लोगों ने कहा : "हुसैन जैसे मुस्लिम का भारत में उपराष्ट्रपति बनना इस बात का प्रमाण है कि हमारा सैकुलरवाद कितना सफल है। "

इस पर डाक्टर हुसैन ने लताड़ लगाते हुए इन लोगों को कहा : "एक मुस्लिम का भारत का उपराष्ट्रपति बनना सैकुलरवाद की सच्ची सफलता है। कोई भी व्यक्ति उन्हें

मुस्लिम के रूप में बधाई देने नहीं आया बल्कि लोग उन्हें केवल भारतीय के रूप में देखते हैं।" जानेमाने सामाजिक - मनोवैज्ञानिक जोनाथन हैत अपनी पुस्तक 'द राइट इस माइंड' में दुखी होकर लिखते हैं : "हमारी राजनीति स्वार्थी नहीं बल्कि गुटवादी है।" गुटीय पहचान अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है और यही किसी व्यक्ति को परिभाषित करती है। इसका परिणाम यह होता है कि कुछ घिसीपिटी अवधारणाएं बन - जाती हैं जिससे अंततोगत्वा वैमनस्य और विभाजन बढ़ता है। फलस्वरूप हम अपनी महान राष्ट्रीय विभूतियों को छोटे-टों केछोटे गुनेता बनाकर रख देते हैं। इसका खमियाजा पूरे देश को भुगतना पड़ता है जैसा कि हम केनारायणन .आर. के मामले में देख चुके हैं। यदि कोविंद समाज के किसी वर्ग का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं तो वह है भारत का बहुसंख्यक यानी ग्रामीण, कृषक, आर्थिक एवं सामाजिक रूप में वंचित वर्ग। यह वही वर्ग है जिसका प्रतिनिधित्व प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी करते हैं। उन्हें भी नई दिल्ली के कथित बुद्धिजीवियों ने 'चाय वाला' होने का उलाहना देकर नाक सुकेड़े थे। कोविंद और मोदी दोनों ही असली भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं। वे प्रोलतारी मार्क्स और फिलास्फर सुकरात का एकजुट स्वरूप हैं।



v/;k 76

**dkon th dk in lkyusij  
fy;k tksokyk igyk dne**

एनडीए के राष्ट्रपति पर के कैंडिडेट घोषित किए जाने के साथ ही रामनाथ कोविंद सुर्खियों में आ गए हैं. तमाम लोग इस बात के भी कयास लगा रहे हैं कि एक राष्ट्रपति के रूप में आखिर उनका पहला काम क्या होगा. दावे से तो नहीं कहा जा सकता लेकिन एक बात का अनुमान लगाया जा सकता है.

बात 1997 की है. संयुक्त मोर्चा की सरकार थी और मुलायम सिंह रक्षा मंत्री थे. उस समय रामनाथ कोविंद राज्यसभा से सांसद थे. कोविंद ने राज्य सभा में मांग की कि हैंडरसन-ब्रुक्स रिपोर्ट को सार्वजनिक किया जाए, ताकि 1962 के भारत-चीन युद्ध में भारत की हार के कारणों का पता चले. लेकिन मुलायम सिंह यादव ने यह कह कर रिपोर्ट को सार्वजनिक करने से मना कर दिया कि यह बहुत ही संवेदनशील मुद्दा है.

**क्या है हैंडरसन-ब्रुक्स रिपोर्ट:**

1962 में भारत चीन युद्ध में भारत को मुंह की खानी पड़ी थी. युद्ध खत्म होने के बाद भारत सरकार ने एक रिपोर्ट तैयार करवाई. लेकिन रिपोर्ट आने के बाद उसे रक्षा मंत्रालय ने क्लासीफाइड कह के आलमारी में बंद कर दिया और

सार्वजनिक नहीं किया. कारण बताया गया कि ये काफी संवेदनशील मुद्दा है. तब से लेकर अब तक तमाम सरकारें बनती रही, चाहे वो बीजेपी रही हो या कांग्रेस लेकिन किसी ने भी इस रिपोर्ट को सार्वजनिक नहीं किया.

इस रिपोर्ट को इंडियन आर्मी के दो अधिकारियों लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल हैंडरसन ब्रूक्स और ब्रिगेडियर जनरल परमिंदर सिंह भगत ने तैयार किया इसीलिए इसे हैंडरसन ब्रूक्स-भगत रिपोर्ट भी कहते हैं.

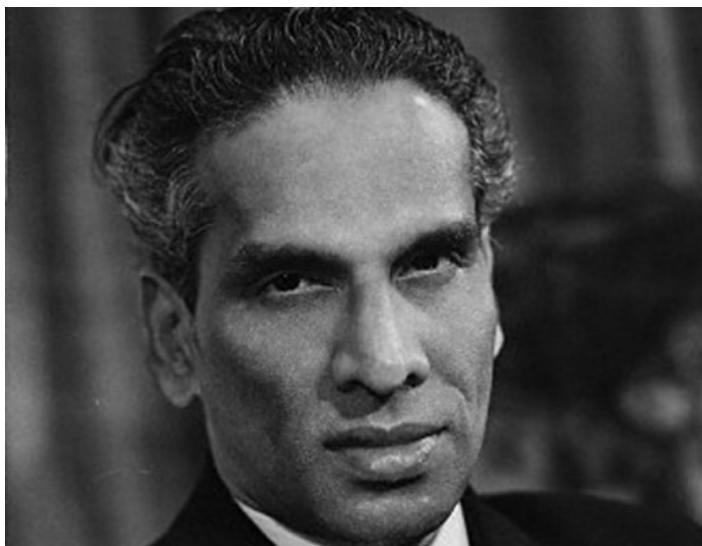
एक ऑस्ट्रेलियन लेखक और पत्रकार नेविल मैक्सवेल के हाथ मार्च 2014 में इस रिपोर्ट का कुछ अंश लग गए. मैक्सवेल उस वक्त 'द टाइम्स ऑफ लंदन' के लिए काम करते थे और वॉर के समय दिल्ली में रहकर इन्होंने रिपोर्टिंग की थी. इसके बाद 1970 में मैक्सवेल ने 'इंडियाज़ चायना वॉर' के नाम से एक किताब भी लिखी जिसने भारत सरकार को काफी नाराज़ किया क्योंकि उस किताब में लिखा गया था कि सरकार के गलत फैसलों के कारण ही भारत, चीन से हार गया. खैर, इस रिपोर्ट को बाद में उन्होंने अपनी वेबसाइट पर इसे अपलोड कर दिया. उनकी मानें तो इंडिया की 'फॉरवर्ड पॉलिसी' के कारण चीन ने चिढ़ के भारत पर आक्रमण किया और पुरानी हो चुकी इंटेलिजेंस इस बात का पता नहीं लगा पाई. जब भी दो देशों के बीच बॉर्डर डिस्प्यूट होता है और कोई एक देश विवादित एरिया में अंदर घुसने की या उसे हड़पने की कोशिश करता है तो इसे 'फॉरवर्ड पॉलिसी' कहते हैं. किसी भी नेता, यहां तक कि तत्कालीन

प्रधानमंत्री नेहरू को भी इस बात का अनुमान नहीं था कि चीन भारत पर आक्रमण कर देगा. इस युद्ध में करीब 2000 भारतीय सैनिक मारे गए और 4000 लोगों को कैद कर लिया गया था.

**किन लोगों को ठहराया गया है दोषी?**

इस रिपोर्ट के जारी कुछ अंशों के आधार पर इन लोगों को जिम्मेदार ठहराया गया है-

**1. कृष्णा मेनन, रक्षा मंत्री:**



रिपोर्ट के अनुसार उस वक्त के रक्षा मंत्री कृष्णा मेनन ने सेना के अधिकारियों के साथ जितनी भी बैठकें की उसमें जिन भी बिंदुओं पर चर्चा हुई उसका रिकॉर्ड अपने पास नहीं

रखा. इसके बहुत भयंकर परिणाम हुए क्योंकि युद्ध के दौरान जो भी निर्णय लिए गए उसके लिए पूरी तरह से किसी को भी ज़िम्मेदार नहीं ठहराया जा सका. उत्तरदायित्व न सिद्ध होने के कारण जो भी फैसले लिए गए वो सभी उतनी गंभीरता से नहीं लिए गए जितनी ज़रूरत थी.

## **2.बी.एम.मलिक, डायरेक्टर इंटेलीजेंस ब्यूरो:**

रिपोर्ट में मलिक और इंटेलीजेंस के ऊपर आरोप लगाया गया है कि उस दौरान जो सूचनाएं इंटेलीजेंस ने जुटाई वो बहुत ही कामचलाऊ तरीके से जुटाई गईं और इनका सूचनाओं का विश्लेषण भी ठीक ढंग से नहीं किया गया. इंटेलीजेंस ब्यूरो को लग रहा था कि भारतीय सेना द्वारा सीमा-पार नये-नये पोस्ट बनाए जाने के बावजूद चीन किसी भी हालत में भारत पर हमला नहीं करेगा. इस मामले में डायरेक्टर जनरल ऑफ इंटेलीजेंस ने मौखिक रूप से जो अनुमान लगाए उसी पर विश्वास कर लिया गया.

## **3.लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल बी.एम. कौल, चीफ ऑफ जनरल स्टाफ:**

रिपोर्ट, पूर्वी क्षेत्र में भारतीय सेना की बुरी हार के लिए लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल बीएम कौल को अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से ज़िम्मेदार मानती है. कौल को इस मामले में बरी नहीं किया जा सकता क्योंकि वो उस समय चीफ ऑफ स्टाफ थे और उन्होंने युद्ध के समय सेना के लिए जिस तरह के लक्ष्य निर्धारित किए थे उसे पूरा कर पाना लगभग असंभव था.

जनरल कौल भी सरकार की इस बात को लेकर आश्वस्त थे कि चीनी सेना आक्रमण नहीं करेगी. उस दौरान NEFA यानी नॉर्थ ईस्ट फ्रंटियर एजेंसी (अभी के अरुणाचल प्रदेश) के एरिया के लिए 4 सैन्य टुकड़ियां बनाई गई थीं जिसकी कमान कौल को दी गई और चीफ ऑफ स्टाफ का पद खाली हो गया. इस 4 सैन्य टुकड़ियों को बनाने के पीछे उद्देश्य था कि युद्ध से संबंधित मामलों में जल्दी निर्णय लिया जा सके और तेजी से ऑपरेशन किया जा सके. हालांकि जिसकी भी सेना के ऑपरेशन के तौर तरीकों के बारे में थोड़ी भी जानकारी है वो इस फैसले को सही नहीं ठहरायेगा.

#### **4.एम.जे. देसाई, विदेश सचिव:**

22 सितंबर 1962 को रक्षा मंत्री के साथ मीटिंग में एम.जे. देसाई ने भी यही बात कही कि चीन कभी हमला नहीं करेगा, ज्यादा से ज्यादा वो एक या दो पोस्ट को कैप्चर कर सकता है.

#### **5.ब्रिगेडियर डी.के. पालित, डायरेक्टर मिलिट्री ऑपरेशन:**

अगस्त 1962 में मिलिट्री ऑपरेशन के डायरेक्टर ब्रिगेडियर डी.के.पालित ने कहा कि चीन भारत की फॉरवर्ड पॉलिसी पर प्रतिक्रिया नहीं करेगा. उनका अनुमान था कि चीन इस स्थिति में नहीं है कि वो भारत से युद्ध कर सके.



ब्रिगेडियर डी.के. पालित

#### 6. जवाहर लाल नेहरू, प्रधानमंत्री-



रिपोर्ट वैसे तो नेहरू के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहती लेकिन नेहरू की फॉरवर्ड पॉलिसी पर सवालिया निशान लगाती है,

जिसकी वजह से भारतीय सेना ने इंडिया-चीन को अलग करने वाली रेखा मैकमोहन लाइन से पार चीन की ओर काफी तक अंदर कई पोस्ट बना लिया था.

#### **7. जनरल वी.एम. थापर, चीफ ऑफ जनरल स्टाफ-**

आर्मी चीफ का ज़िक्र रिपोर्ट में सिर्फ एक जगह है जहां वो रक्षामंत्री कृष्णा मेनन की ऑफिस में हुई मीटिंग में शरीक होते हैं. जनरल थापर इस मीटिंग में कहते हैं कि चीन भारत द्वारा अपनाई जाने वाली फॉरवर्ड पॉलिसी पर लदाख में प्रतिक्रिया कर सकता है और गलवान वैली को कैप्चर करके 1960 की क्लेम लाइन तक पहुंच सकता है. 1960 में चीन ने भारत के सामने प्रस्ताव रखा था कि भारत अक्सई चिन एरिया को चीन का हिस्सा मान ले बदले में चीन अरुणांचल प्रदेश को भारत का हिस्सा मान लेगा.

#### **प्रधानमंत्री और आर्मी चीफ की भूमिका पर चुप है रिपोर्ट:**

रिपोर्ट में तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री जवाहर लाल नेहरू और आर्मी चीफ जनरल वी.एम. थापर की भूमिका के बारे में कोई ज़िक्र नहीं है. हालांकि इस घटना से नेहरू और थापर को काफी झटका लगा.

जिस दिन चीन ने युद्ध के समाप्ति की घोषणा की उसके अगले दिन थापर ने 22 नवंबर 1962 को त्यागपत्र दे दिया और इस घटना के दो साल नेहरू की मृत्यु हो गई.



खैर, अब अगर रामनाथ कोविंद राष्ट्रपति बनते हैं तो राष्ट्रपति बनने के साथ ही वो तीनों सेनाओं के सर्वोच्च कमांडर भी बन जायेंगे जिससे वो इस रिपोर्ट को मंगवाकर पढ़ भी सकते हैं और सार्वजनिक भी कर सकते हैं.



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राष्ट्रपति चुनाव का परिणाम आने के तत्काल बाद प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने ट्वीट किया, 'श्री रामनाथ कोविंद जी को भारत का राष्ट्रपति निर्वाचित होने पर बधाई. उन्हें फलदायक और प्रेरणादायक कार्यकाल के लिए शुभकामनाएं'.



सत्तारूढ़ राजग के उम्मीदवार रामनाथ कोविंद ने गुरुवार को राष्ट्रपति चुनाव में 65 फीसदी से अधिक वोट पाकर भारी बहुमत से जीत दर्ज की. वह देश के 14वें राष्ट्रपति होंगे और 25 जुलाई को शपथ ग्रहण करेंगे.

रामनाथ कोविंद को जीत पर देशभर से बधाई मिलीं. खासकर, राजनेताओं ने जीत को लेकर रामनाथ कोविंद को

बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएं दीं. राष्ट्रपति चुनाव का परिणाम आने के तत्काल बाद प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने ट्वीट किया, 'श्री रामनाथ कोविंद जी को भारत का राष्ट्रपति निर्वाचित होने पर बधाई. उन्हें फलदायक और प्रेरणादायक कार्यकाल के लिए शुभकामनाएं'.

भाजपा के वरिष्ठ नेता लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी ने नव निर्वाचित राष्ट्रपति रामनाथ कोविंद की जीत पर उन्हें बधाई दी. राष्ट्रपति चुनाव में कोविंद की जीत हासिल करने की सूचना मिलने के शीघ्र बाद आडवाणी ने उनसे बात की और उन्हें अपनी शुभकामनाएं दी.

राष्ट्रपति चुनाव में विपक्ष की उम्मीदवार रहीं मीरा कुमार ने गुरुवार को अपने प्रतिद्वंदी रामनाथ कोविंद की जीत पर बधाई दी और कहा कि 'इस चुनौतीपूर्ण समय' में यह निर्वाचित राष्ट्रपति की जिम्मेदारी है कि वह संविधान की सुरक्षा करें.

मीरा कुमार ने कहा कि धर्मनिरपेक्षता, शोषितों और वंचितों के लिए उनकी लड़ाई जारी रहेगी. उन्होंने कहा, 'मैं श्री रामनाथ कोविंद जी को भारत का राष्ट्रपति बनने पर बधाई देती हूं. उनको मेरी शुभकामनाएं. यह उन पर जिम्मेदारी है कि इस चुनौतीपूर्ण समय में वह पूरी भावना से संविधान की सुरक्षा करें'. मीरा कुमार ने खुद को उम्मीदवार बनाने के लिए कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष सोनिया गांधी सहित समर्थन करने वाली 17 पार्टियों के नेताओं का आभार प्रकट किया और

निर्वाचक मंडल के सदस्यों का भी धन्यवाद किया. राष्ट्रपति चुनाव में बड़े पैमाने पर रामनाथ कोविंद के पक्ष में क्रॉस वोटिंग हुई है. गुजरात, गोवा, महाराष्ट्र, पश्चिम बंगाल, त्रिपुरा और दिल्ली में कोविंद के पक्ष में क्रॉस वोटिंग की खबर है. गुजरात की क्रॉस वोटिंग कांग्रेस के लिए बुरी खबर है क्योंकि अगले महीने ही राज्यसभा की तीन सीटों के लिए चुनाव होने हैं. राज्य में इसी साल विधानसभा के भी चुनाव हैं. माना जा रहा है कि शंकर सिंह वाघेला के समर्थक विधायकों ने कोविंद के पक्ष में वोट डाला. गुजरात में कोविंद को 132 वोट मिले और मीरा कुमार को 49. जबकि राज्य में बीजेपी के 121 विधायक हैं और कांग्रेस के 57. इस हिसाब से कम से कम 8 कांग्रेस विधायकों ने कोविंद के पक्ष में वोट दिया. जबकि दिल्ली में आम आदमी पार्टी के कुछ विधायकों के भी कोविंद के पक्ष में वोट डालने की खबर है. दिल्ली में कोविंद को 6 जबकि मीरा कुमार को 55 वोट मिले. जबकि बीजेपी के चार ही विधायक हैं. इस हिसाब से आम आदमी पार्टी के दो विधायकों ने कोविंद को वोट दिया. जबकि 6 वोट वैध नहीं पाए गए. पश्चिम बंगाल में भी दिलचस्प तस्वीर उभर कर सामने आई. वहां कोविंद को 11 जबकि मीरा कुमार को 273 वोट मिले. बीजेपी और उसके सहयोगी दल के 6 वोट हैं. इस हिसाब से कोविंद को कुछ दूसरी पार्टियों के वोट भी मिले.

त्रिपुरा में भी रामनाथ कोविंद को वोट मिले हैं. वहां से कोविंद को सात जबकि मीरा कुमार को 53 वोट मिले. जबकि वहां

बीजेपी का कोई विधायक नहीं है. तृणमूल कांग्रेस के बागी विधायकों ने कोविंद को वोट दिया. महाराष्ट्र में भी कोविंद के पक्ष में क्रॉस वोटिंग की खबर है. वहां कोविंद को 208 जबकि मीरा कुमार को 77 वोट मिले. वहां बीजेपी-शिवसेना के 185 विधायक हैं जबकि कांग्रेस एनसीपी के 83. इस हिसाब से कांग्रेस एनसीपी के कुछ वोट दूसरे खेमे में गए दिखते हैं.

गोवा में बीजेपी की गठबंधन सरकार है. वहां कोविंद को 25 वोट मिले जबकि मीरा कुमार को 11 वोट मिले. वहां बीजेपी और सहयोगी पार्टियों के 22 विधायक हैं जबकि कांग्रेस के 16. यानी मीरा कुमार को उम्मीद से पांच वोट कम मिले.

इसी तरह असम में भी सत्तारूढ़ बीजेपी को विपक्षी खेमें में सेंध लगाने में कामयाबी मिली है. वहां कोविंद को 91 वोट मिले जबकि मीरा कुमार को 35. लेकिन बीजेपी और उसके सहयोगी दलों के पास 87 विधायक ही हैं. कांग्रेस और अन्य विपक्षी दलों के पास 39 विधायक. यानी कोविंद को उम्मीद से चार वोट ज्यादा मिले हैं. इस चुनाव में 21 सांसदों के वोट वैध नहीं पाए गए. जबकि कुछ विधायकों ने भी वोट डालने में गड़बड़ की. 56 विधायक अपने वोट ठीक से नहीं डाल पाए और उन्हें वैध नहीं माना गया. क्रॉस वोटिंग के कई सियासी मायने हैं. ये आने वाले वक्त में कई राज्यों में सियासी समीकरणों के बनने-बिगड़ने का इशारा कर रहे हैं. खासतौर से गुजरात में तस्वीर बेहद दिलचस्प हो सकती है क्योंकि शंकर सिंह वाघेला के बागी तेवर आने वाले दिनों में खुल कर सामने आ सकते हैं.



**The NDA Presidential Candidate Hon'ble Ram Nath Kovind with the Prime Minister Hon'ble Narendra Modi and the Bhartiya Janta Party President Hon'ble Amit Shah**



**The President of India Designate Hon'ble Ram Nath Kovind with the outgoing President of India Hon'ble Pranab Mukherjee**



**The NDA Presidential Candidate Hon'ble Ram Nath Kovind receiving the book "Religious Pluralism" from Dr. P. R. Trivedi, Dr. Utkarsh Sharma and Dr. Tanuja Trivedi**



**The Publications related to Vocational Education for Bihar being presented by Dr. P. R. Trivedi and Dr. U. K. Singh to the then Governor Hon'ble Ram Nath Kovind**



**The Book "Vaishali: Past, Present and Future" being presented by Dr. P. R. Trivedi, Dr. U. K. Singh, Dr. Utkarsh Sharma, Dr. Samir Kumar Singh and Shri M. C. Mishra**



**The first copy of the book "Ram Nath Kovind: from Ranks to Raisina" being presented to the Hon'ble President by Dr. P. R. Trivedi, Dr. Kamlesh Kumar and Dr. Utkarsh Sharma**