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Mayawati ends alliance with SP, says BSP will fight all polls alone

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI,
JUNE 24



Mayawati with Akhilesh Yadav. Express file

ENDING HER alliance with the Samajwadi Party (SP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Monday declared that her party would contest all future elections, "small and big", on its own.

Earlier this month, while saying that the BSP would contest the Uttar Pradesh Assembly by-polls on its own, Mayawati had said that it was not a "permanent break" from the SP. She had said that she could work with SP leader Akhilesh Yadav again in the future if he "fulfills his political duties".

But in a series of tweets in Hindi on Monday, Mayawati said: "Everyone is aware that forgetting the differences in the past, as also the anti-BSP and anti-Dalit decisions like reservation in promotions and the law and order situation during the SP rule in 2012-17, the BSP adhered to the 'gathbandhan dhama' with the SP in the interest of the country."

"But the SP's behaviour after the Lok Sabha elections has forced the BSP to think whether it will be possible to defeat the BJP in the future. This is not possible. Therefore, in the interest of the party and the movement, the party will contest all small and big elections on its own strength," she said.

She did not elaborate on what she meant by the SP's behaviour. When contacted, SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said party president Akhilesh Yadav had already made it clear that the SP would fight elections on its own if the alliance was broken. Mayawati made the announcement a day after she held a party meeting in Lucknow on Sunday to review the party's performance in the Lok Sabha elections.

Sources said that Mayawati, while addressing the meeting, blamed the SP for the defeat of the alliance in the Lok Sabha polls. According to sources, she accused the SP leadership of ignoring Muslims in distribution of tickets. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



BEFORE THE BUDGET

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at Parliament on Monday. Anil Sharma

JHARKHAND ATTACK

Police recorded victim's 'confession' on bike theft, did not mention assault

ABHISHEK ANGAD
SARAIKELA-KHARSAWAN
(JHARKHAND), JUNE 24



Tabrez Ansari. Video grab

A FEW hours after Tabrez Ansari was attacked by a mob, which accused him of theft and allegedly forced him to chant "Jai Shri Ram" and "Jai Hanuman", Jharkhand Police recorded a "confession statement" from the 22-year-old — but without a single line on the assault that was recorded by the attackers on their mobile phones.

Ansari was arrested by police after the assault on June 18 for theft and sent to judicial custody. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

EXPRESS NETWORK

PUSHED OFF TRAIN FOR NOT SAYING JAI SHRI RAM: MADRASA TEACHER PAGE 10

He died on Saturday, after he was rushed to the civil hospital in Saraikela-Kharsawan district and later to the Tata Main Hospital in Jamshedpur.

On Monday, police arrested 11 residents of Ghatkidih village, where the attack took place, and suspended two police personnel.

"We had registered a case against the villagers when we were informed of the beating. We arrested one accused initially, and later 10 others. We found that the officer in charge of Kharsawan police station and an ASI did not handle the matter **CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**

CITES PERSONAL REASONS

RBI Dy Governor who disagreed quits six months before term ends

Viral Acharya differed with RBI Governor on rate cuts, inflation

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 24

RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Viral V Acharya, a strong votary of the central bank's independence and seen as having differed with Governor Shaktikanta Das on the inflation trajectory, growth prospects and policy rates, has resigned from his post, a little over six months before his term was scheduled to end.

Confirming his resignation, the RBI said, "A few weeks ago, Acharya submitted a letter to the RBI informing that due to unavoidable personal circumstances, he is unable to continue his term as a Deputy Governor of the RBI beyond July 23, 2019."

Though Acharya put in his papers "weeks ago", the RBI is yet to take a decision on his release. "Consequential action arising from his letter is under consideration of the competent authority," the central bank said in a statement Monday.

Acharya, 45, joined the RBI in January 2017 and was its youngest Deputy Governor, post economic liberalisation, in charge of the monetary policy department. He had differed with Governor Das on inflation issues and repo rate reduction in monetary policy reviews this year.

Acharya, who will be returning to New York University as CV Starr Professor of Economics, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

EXPLAINED

Exit adds to challenge

WHILE ACHARYA'S departure is not a complete surprise, given that the friction between him and the government on issues related to RBI's independence have surfaced on multiple occasions, the composition of the monetary policy committee will progressively turn more dovish as Acharya was on the more hawkish side. Acharya joins the list of technocrats in economic policy-making who have chosen to quit after disagreeing with the government.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



In reply to SC, EC reiterates stand on RS seats: Separate polls in Gujarat

ANANTHAKRISHANG
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) on Monday reiterated that the two Rajya Sabha seats which fell vacant in Gujarat following the election of BJP leaders Amit Shah and Smriti Irani to the Lok Sabha were casual vacancies, and there was nothing in the law which said separate elections should not be held for them.

In its affidavit in reply to a petition filed by the Gujarat Congress seeking simultaneous elections to the two seats, the EC told the Supreme Court that "the (Representation of the People) Act clearly includes every vacancy arising prior to the expiration of the term of a member of the Council of States within the ambit of casual vacancy... There is no provision in law that requires that if there are multiple casual vacancies, they must be filled up by a single bye-election".

The affidavit, filed by EC counsel Amit Sharma, said it "has consistently considered every vacancy arising prior to the expiration of a member's term as a casual vacancy" and "has therefore consistently held separate elections for each vacancy... **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

CHANCE TO BETTER INDIA-U.S. TIES
BY CRAJA MOHAN
PAGE 12

Doors open for talks with Hurriyat, but only within Constitution: BJP

NAVEED IQBAL & ARUN SHARMA
SRINAGAR, JAMMU, JUNE 24

TWO DAYS after Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik signalled that separatist Hurriyat leaders were ready for talks, BJP national vice-president and J&K in-charge Avinash Rai Khanna said Monday that "our doors are open for anyone who wants to talk while keeping their faith in the Constitution of India."

His remarks also come after Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq told *The Indian Express* that the Hurriyat would respond "positively" if "meaningful dialogue" is initiated by New Delhi.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event in Srinagar, Khanna said that though there is no formal offer from the Centre, "What I'm saying, is an offer. Develop faith in the country's Constitution and assist in maintaining the law and order situation, then we can talk." He also said that Prime

Minister Narendra Modi has created such an atmosphere in the country that any person can contribute to the peace process. Khanna's remarks assume significance with BJP president Amit Shah taking over the Union Home Ministry in the second Modi government.

The J&K BJP unit, too, said that the Hurriyat would need to "publicly acknowledge the indisputable status of Jammu and Kashmir and that it is an integral **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

After Mamata order, TMC leaders face demands for refund of 'cut money'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JUNE 24

WITH THE BJP rapidly making inroads in West Bengal, TMC chief and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asked her party leaders last week to ensure that "cut money" or illegal commissions allegedly charged by some workers to help people avail government benefits are refunded.



Told party leaders to return commission

This, however, has led to an unusual situation: TMC leaders are being targeted by many seeking such refunds. Police **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

At Ground Zero of AES, govt schemes have little impact



Saroj Devi, mother of 12-year-old Sunny who died of AES, in Muzaffarpur. Ritesh Shukla

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

SANTOSH SINGH
MUZAFFARPUR, VAISHALI,
JUNE 24

■ Rajesh Manjhi, from Harvanshpur village in Vaishali, lost his seven-year-old daughter to AES a fortnight ago. Manjhi, with just a ration card to show for the government's role in his life, has now moved to Lalganj, about 10 km away, with his five children, to escape the shadow of disease.

■ Raj Kishor Ram, who lost his four-year-old son to AES a fortnight ago, lives in a thatched house in Muzaffarpur's Jagamathpur Dok village. Again, his only link to the government is a ration card.

latest AES outbreak in Bihar that has led to 130 deaths so far — their lives have largely been untouched by state and central schemes, from health and nutrition to sanitation and social welfare.

With the Supreme Court Monday seeking a report on the outbreak, *The Indian Express* spoke to 12 families of AES victims in this arc, all of them from SC and EBC communities, and found none of them even had a toilet at home.

Most of them said the only benefit they get from the government is the 5 kg of rice or wheat for each member and kerosene at subsidised rate through ration cards. Some said they have received Ayushman Bharat health cards that entitle them to cashless medical care in government or private hospitals for up to Rs 5 lakh. But then, they said, no one has told them how to use the cards.

When contacted, Bihar Health Minister Mangal Pandey **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

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