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Narasimha Rao is Prime Minister

Swearing in today: Unanimous choice after Pawar withdraws

From K. K. Katyal

NEW DELHI, June 20.

Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, who was today elected the leader of the Congress(I) Parliamentary Party, is the new Prime Minister. He will be sworn in tomorrow at 12-50 p.m.

According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique, the President appointed him to this post in his capacity as the leader of the largest single party in the new Lok Sabha. Mr. Rao was asked to prove his majority within four weeks.

The communique was brief and couched in a matter-of-fact style. It said: "Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao called on the President this evening. The President has personally handed over a letter to Mr. Rao which reads as follows: 'As the leader of the Congress(I), the largest party in the Lok Sabha, I appoint you as the Prime Minister of India and invite you to form the Council of Ministers. I advise you to establish your majority in the Lok Sabha within four weeks.'"

Events moved fast after the Congress(I) Parliamentary Party meeting in the afternoon. Mr. T. Chandra Sekhar Reddy, its secretary, gave the President a letter saying that "Mr. Rao has been duly and unanimously elected and declared the leader." Mr. Rao's call on Mr. Venkataraman followed.

Smooth process

The election process was remarkably smooth — in sharp contrast to the heat, even acrimony, witnessed in the last four days. His name was proposed by Mr. Arjun Singh, Madhya Pradesh party chief, and seconded by Mr. Shiv Shankar, former Union Minister and five others. Earlier, Mr. K. Karunakaran, Congress(I) leader from Kerala, explained the procedure adopted for ascertaining the views of the party members. They had found a vast majority in favour of Mr. Rao, there being not a single dissenting voice, he said. Mr. Rao and Mr. Sharad Pawar, Maharashtra Chief Minister, addressed the members after Mr. Sitaram Kesari, party treasurer, who was in the chair, declared the new leader elected.

The way for unanimity was cleared when the other contender, Mr. Pawar, withdrew from the race for leadership and pledged support to Mr. Rao and favoured a unanimous decision.

In a statement, Mr. Pawar welcomed the acceptance by Mr. Rao of the "demand for ascertaining the views" of the parliamentary party members on the leadership issue. "I want to clarify," he said, "that my whole endeavour was for no other purpose except the affirmation of the democratic principle in the functioning of the party. It is my firm conviction that only a united and democratic Congress can respond to the as-

pirations of the people for a strong and stable government." The Congress(I) alone, he said, could respond to the aspirations of the people for a strong and stable government and pull the country out of the deep economic quagmire and restore the confidence and credibility of the nation.

Pawar's decision voluntary

Mr. Pawar's decision was voluntary and unilateral and not part of a deal. There was nothing to substantiate the earlier impression that he might bargain for the number two position or the post of Deputy Prime Minister. Mr. Pawar himself dispelled this impression, in a talk with correspondents after the leader's election.

Asked about the possibility of his becoming the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Pawar replied, with a categorical "no." "I do not believe in such posts. I have always advocated one centre of power." Will he join the Union Cabinet? "What is wrong with Maharashtra?" He, it was clear did not like to move to Delhi.

It was the realistic assessment of the mood and attitude of the party MPs, specially the newly-elected Lok Sabha members, that led Mr. Sharad Pawar to bow out of the race of leadership. The first realisation that he might not get the support of the majority in a contest — even in secret ballot — came yesterday morning. Till then he was sure of impressive backing and, as such, the demand in the Congress(I) camp for a decision through contest was synonymous with affirmation of support for Mr. Pawar while the plea for a consensus was regarded as the campaign slogan of the Rao camp.

Yesterday morning's meeting at Kerala House of the party seniors from the South — Mr. K. Karunakaran and Mr. A. K. Antony from Kerala, Mr. Janardhan Reddy, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr. G. K. Moopanar from Tamil Nadu (supported by assurances of support to their decision by the Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr. Bangarappa) proved a turning point. This was a clear loud signal that the Southern States, which provide the bulk of the Lok Sabha members, were solidly (except three or four Rajya Sabha members) with Mr. Rao. Mr. Pawar could not have ignored this development. In his meetings with individual party members during the course of the day — beginning, ironically, with Mr. M. L. Fotedar, and including Mr. P. Chidambaram — he sought to explain the rationale of his decision to enter the leadership contest. Obviously, he did not want to be misunderstood.

These contacts concluded with a call on Mr. Rao yesterday afternoon, when they talked generally of the methodology of ascertaining the wishes of the MPs. Mr. Rao told him that this

process had already started, with Mr. Karunakaran sounding the members of the two Houses, who were in Delhi. That Mr. Pawar had second thoughts about his candidature was clear from the tenor of his talks.

Surprisingly, his associates led by Mr. Suresh Kalmadi, Rajya Sabha member, sought to keep up the campaign at the same high profile as had been the case on the previous three days. Forcefully dispelling the impression that Mr. Pawar had withdrawn from the contest, Mr. Kalmadi described reports to this effect as a deliberate disinformation campaign. Some in the Pawar camp interpreted it as a formal declaration by their leader to enter the contest.

This was late last night when the Congress(I) Central Parliamentary Board was engaged in discussions on the modalities for ascertaining the views of the MPs. After a prolonged photographic session the Board decided — or reiterated the little-publicised decision taken two days ago — to informally sound the MPs on their preference. At the start, Mr. Arjun Singh and one or two others stressed the importance of keeping the party ranks united. The suggestion that the MPs be informally sounded for their preferences was made by Mr. Pawar. This process, Mr. Rao explained, had already started — by Mr. Karunakaran. At Mr. Pawar's suggestion, Mr. S. S. Ray, West Bengal chief, was asked to help Mr. Karunakaran.

As planned, the four-hour exercise to find out the consensus of the party MPs began at 9 a.m. Mr. Karunakaran and Mr. Ray recorded each member's preferences. As this process was nearly half way through the sheet after sheet of the recorded papers showed preference for Mr. Rao. Mr. Pawar's associates informed him of the trend and he chose to withdraw from the contest.

Within minutes, Mr. Pawar accompanied by his associates went to Mr. Rao's residence and handed him the first copy of a press statement, containing a pledge of support to him. It was released soon after.

Meets Sonia

UNI reports:

Mr. Rao met Mrs. Sonia Gandhi at 10, Janpath, soon after he was elected the CPP(I) leader.

Before driving to 10, Janpath, Mr. Rao visited Rajghat, Shakti Sthal and the samadhi of Rajiv Gandhi and paid homage to the leaders. He also visited the Congress(I) headquarters at 24, Akbar Road and the election control room there, before leaving for Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Live telecast

Doordarshan will telecast live the swearing-in of Mr. Rao as the ninth Prime Minister.



Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, who will become the ninth Prime Minister of the country after the swearing-in ceremony at 1250 hours on Friday said: "As an individual, I feel utterly humbled, but as a representative of the party I feel like a colossus."

Tenth Lok Sabha constituted

From Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, June 20.

The Tenth Lok Sabha was constituted today with the Election Commission issuing a formal notification including a list of 502 members duly elected to the new House. The Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. T. N. Seshan, met the President, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and formally conveyed to him that the new House had been constituted.

The remaining results — elections were held in 511 constituencies — would be notified separately by the Commission. They had been delayed for various reasons: some had been announced but could not be included in the notification as the relevant papers did not reach the Election Commission in time.

The election process was formally set in motion on April 19 with the Presidential notification followed by the notification of the Election Commission.

The election process was spread over more than two months. With social and political tensions reaching a fever pitch over the Mandal and Mandal issues, the need for strengthening security arrangements led the Commission to suggest a three-phase poll. And, with the delinking of Assam and Punjab it virtually became a six-phase poll, with elections in Assam split into two phases. The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi on May 21 night following the first day of polling set the election process back by nearly three weeks.

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Kalyan Singh to head BJP Govt. in U.P.

From Our Special Correspondent

LUCKNOW, June 20.

The first BJP Ministry in Uttar Pradesh headed by Mr. Kalyan Singh is likely to be sworn in on Monday. The quick decision of the central leadership to put the mantle on Kalyan Singh, underlines the significance being accorded to the backward classes, whose support it secured, besides, of course, the overwhelming backing of the upper castes to grab power in the politically most crucial State of the country.

Incidentally, the BJP's performance in the Assembly elections held simultaneously, has not been comparable with its showing for that to the Lok Sabha. With results for 400 out of 404 Assembly seats, which went to the polls declared, the BJP has notched up as many as 209. Owing to repoll, results of 4 seats — Bhatparani, Deoria, Copachit and Barhaj — all in eastern U.P. are yet to be known.

However, even if all the 4 elude it, the party has already a clear majority of its own.

Besides, one Shiv Sena candidate has also been returned to the Assembly from Faizabad district, and his support the BJP can count on.

The Janata Dal in the last elections held in 1989 had notched up a total of 207 Assembly seats, out of 421, where elections were then held.

Today's issue has 24 pages, with an 8-page section containing Friday features.

mission. The polling was to have taken place in three phases on May 20, 23 and 26 and later the Assam and Punjab polls were delinked from the rest of the country. Following the assassination of the Congress(I) President, Rajiv Gandhi, the second and third phases were postponed to June 12 and 15. Assam went to the polls scheduled earlier, on June 6 and 8. The Punjab polls are set for June 22.

Deadline met: Mr. Seshan today told presspersons that the election results from nine Lok Sabha constituencies were not available in time for various reasons and the Commission could not include them in the notification constituting the Tenth Lok Sabha. The President had desired that the new House be constituted on or before June 20. The Commission by issuing the notification today met that deadline.

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Campaign ends in Punjab

From Our Special Correspondent

CHANDIGARH, June 20.

The din of electioneering, whatever little there was, in Punjab ended this afternoon for the polling in 11 Lok Sabha and 105 Assembly constituencies, on Saturday.

Elections have been countermanded in the Jalandhar and Faridkot Parliamentary seats and 12 Assembly constituencies owing to the killing of 12 candidates.

An electorate of just over one crore will decide the fate of 185 candidates for the Lok Sabha poll and 1732 for the Assembly.

There was allround relief today at the end of uncertainty about the polling which will initiate the winding up of the four year-long President's rule in the State.

More than 285 companies of paramilitary forces have arrived in the State to make the poll a free fair and peaceful one. The Army has been staging daily flag marches in the border and other sensitive areas to boost voters morale.

The Chief Secretary, Mr. Tejinder Khanna, who is also the Chief Electoral Officer, said that steps have been taken to instil confidence among voters about the secrecy of their ballots. The counting of votes would not be booth-wise or station-wise but after mixing all votes polled in an Assembly segment.

The campaign has been the longest ever in the country's history. It started in the last week of April and witnessed unprecedented bloodshed.

The Congress(I), the CPI(M) and some splinter Akali groups are boycotting the poll. The major parties in the fray are the Akali Dal's headed by Mr. P. S. Badal, Mr. S. S. Mann, Capt. Amrinder Singh and Mr. Kuldeep Singh. The Janjot group of the All India Students Federation, the Samajwadi Janata Party, the CPI the BSP and the BJP.

Prominent contestants: Prominent among the Lok Sabha contesting include Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, Union Minister of State for Home at Ludhiana, the BJP vice president, Dr. Baldev Prakash at Gurdaspur, the Longowal Akalid chief, Mr. Kuldeep Singh at Hoshiarpur and ex-MP Ms. Bimal Khalsa to Ropar.

Prominent contestants for the Assembly include Bhai Manjit Singh of AISSF, the BJP State president, Mr. M. M. Mittal, Capt. Amrinder Singh and Mr. Sukhinder Singh. Neither Mr. Badal Mr. Mann, nor Mr. G. S. Tohra are contesting.

Mr. K. L. Sharma, MP and national vice-president of the BJP, today charged that official machinery was being misused by Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay in Ludhiana. He wanted the Central observers to take note of this.

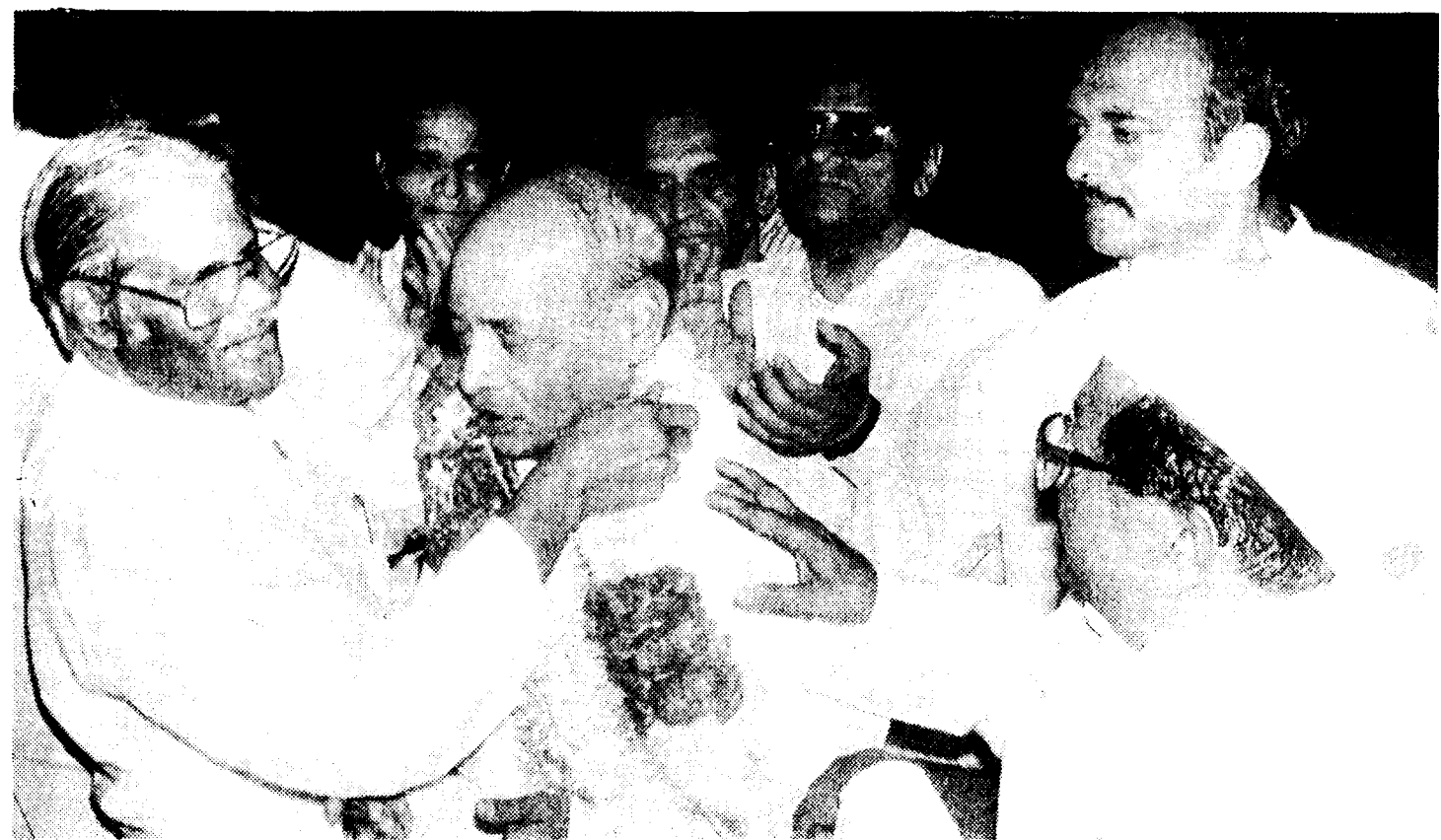
Security beefed up: The check militants who are out to prevent the smooth conduct of poll, security forces have fanned out in the revenue border district of Gurdaspur and Amritsar.

The Deputy Inspector General of Police, Mr. R. S. Chalia, who is in charge of the two districts told UNI that so far 250 companies of the paramilitary forces have been deployed in the two border districts and another 26 companies were expected to arrive. The security forces, comprising the State police force and the Army, had fanned out in the two districts and any attempt by the militants to scuttle the polling in any particular constituency would be foiled.

All in the game



"I think you'll have to restrain your extravagant election mood and try to be austere from now on...."



The Congress(I) Parliamentary Party secretary, Mr. Chandra Sekhar Reddy, garlanding Mr. Narasimha Rao after the latter was elected CPP(I) leader. The party treasurer, Mr. Sitaram Kesari (wearing a cap), looks on.

Many SSLC top rankers from mofussil towns

MADRAS, June 20.

The overall percentage of passes among school candidates in the SSLC Public Examination held in April this year comes to 59.4 with girls faring much better than the boys. The pass percentage for girls is 64.5 while that for boys is 55.8.

A total of 5,51,631 candidates were registered through schools and private studies and 4,08,229 through schools alone. The number of candidates who secured aggregate marks of 450 or more out of the maximum 500 came to 1580. The number securing 60 percent and above came to 1,21,675. There has been, however, a decline in the number of candidates securing centum in mathematics this year; it is only 713 compared to 2,312 last year. Eleven candidates have scored centum in science this year and three in social science.

An interesting feature this year is that many among the top three rankers in the subjects hail from the mofussil towns. The top three rankers in selected subjects are: English: 1. G. Rajitha Ranganayaki, St. Theresa's Girls HSS, Karur. 2. K. Raja Rajeswari, Sacred Heart Girls HSS, Thanjavur. 3. I. Beatrice Devapriya, St. Ignatius HSS, Palayamkottai. Tamil: 1. T. Srisathya, SRKM Sarada Model G HSS, Madras. 2. R. Abirami, Jeyarani HS, Pondy. 3. M. Boopathi, Govt. HSS, Manampathy.

Mathematics: 1. K. Ravikumar, Town HSS, Kumbakonam. 2. D. Arunraj, Govt. G HSS, Krishnagiri, and T. Srisathya, SRKM Sarada Model G HSS, Madras. 3. A. Afroj, OLL Girls High School, Kottapalayam. Science: 1. R.

Shanmuga Priya, LF Convent G HSS, Ranipet. 2. F. Peter Damien Genetus, St. Johns HSS, Palayamkottai. 3. P. Ramya, Holy Cross G HSS, Tuticorin. Social Science: 1. D. Arunraj, Govt. G HSS, Krishnagiri. 2. R. Ramachandran, Little Flower HSS, Kumbakonam. 3. R. Ulsy Jeraphin, Sri Ganesar HSS, P. N. Kudieruppu.

80.8 p.c. pass in OSLC: In the OSLC Public Examination held this year, 495 candidates have passed out of the 612 who appeared, the percentage being 80.8. The number of schools who presented candidates for the examination is 21. The first three rankers in the OSLC examination are: Sanskrit (Language Part A): 1. G. Krishnaswamy, Oriental High School, Thanjavur and V. Revathi, Ahobila Mutt Oriental HSS, Madras. 2. K. Santhi, Sri Kamakoti Oriental HS, Villupuram. 3. B. Jayaprakash, Oriental HS, Thanjavur.

Arabic (Language Part A): 1. M. Aafiya, Uswathan Hasana Oriental Arabic (Girls) HSS, Pallapatti. 2. A. S. Fathima, Uswathan Hasana Oriental Arabic (Girls) HSS, Pallapatti, and M. Saifullah, Jamiul Finaus Oriental (Arabic) HS, Pulivaram. 3. A. Thahira Banu, Uswathan Hasana Oriental Arabic (Girls) HSS, Pallapatti.

Mark certificates: The mark certificates will be handed over to all school candidates in Tamil Nadu by the respective schools on June 21 on receipt from the DEOs and the Regional Deputy Directors concerned, according to the Director of Government Examinations, Mr. K. Muruganathan. The SSLC mark certificates of the private candidates will be distributed as usual at the respective examination centres-cum-hall ticket distribu-

tion centres where they had already collected their hall tickets on July 1 and 2 (two days only).

Candidates who desire to have their answer papers re-scrutinised and retotalled must send their applications to the directorate within seven days of the publication of results. The Directorate of Government Examinations had processed the SSLC results quite expeditiously because of the cooperation and help rendered by the Government Data Centre headed by Mr. M. A. Gowrishankar, Director, GDC, according to the officials in charge of examinations.

Boat intercepted off Vedaranyam

Two Sri Lankan Tamils were arrested and about 300 litres of petrol was seized from a boat by Nagapattinam police on Wednesday night. According to information reaching here, the police, acting on a tip off, intercepted the boat about 4 km off the Vedaranyam coast.

Madras Weather	Temperature °C		Rain* mm	Humidity %
	Max.	Min.		
Nungambakkam	35.6	27.0	—	86
Meenambakkam	36.3	27.1	—	73

* From 8-30 a.m. to 8-30 p.m.
** At 8-30 p.m.

FORECAST (valid until Saturday morning): Partly cloudy. Development of thunderclouds towards evening. No significant change in maximum temperature.

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