

## BJP increases lead over Cong in Karnataka

Agency  
Bengaluru, May 15

The BJP today looked on course to emerging as the single largest party in the Karnataka Assembly as it led in 102 constituencies, according to trends available for 195 of the state's 222 seats polling for which was held on May 12, officials said. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was trailing by over 11,000

votes in Chamundeshwari, and leading by a slender margin of around 200 votes in Badami. The ruling Congress was ahead in 53 seats, while the JD(S) of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda in 37. Trends for 27 seats were not yet available. Candidates of the BSP, a JD(S) ally, Karnataka Pragnyanvantha Janatha Party, and an independent were leading the

field in one constituency each. In the outgoing Assembly, the Congress had 122 seats, BJP and JD(S) 40 each, and smaller parties and independents 22 seats. BJP's chief ministerial candidate, B S Yeddyurappa, was ahead in Shikaripura by a margin of over 9,800 votes, while JD(S) state president H D Kumaraswamy was leading in both Ramanagara and Channarayana.

Prominent among those trailing include ministers Ramannatha Rai (Bantwal), H C Mahadevappa (T Narasipura), Santosh Lad (Kalagatagi) and Vinay Kulkarni (Dharwad). Senior BJP leader K S Eshwarappa from Shivamogga, state minister Kagodu Timmappa from Sagara, and the chief minister's son, Yatindra, from Varuna were leading over their rivals.

## BSF jawan killed as Pakistan violates ceasefire along LoC in Jammu

Agency  
Jammu, May 15

A Border Security Force jawan was killed in ceasefire violation by Pakistani army along the International Border (IB) in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior BSF official said today.

The firing from across the border comes barely four days ahead of the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the state, and also ended months of lull in the border skirmishes along the IB which saw heavy Pakistani firing and shelling earlier this year. Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked and indiscriminate firing on forward posts in the Mangachak area around 11.30 pm last night and was effectively retaliated by the jawans guarding the IB, the

officer said seeking anonymity.

He said heavy firing between the two sides continued for an hour during which Constable Devender Singh was hit by a stray bullet through the loophole of his picket.

He was immediately evacuated to a hospital but could not survive, the officer added.

He said intermittent firing between the two sides was still continuing when last reports were received.

The incident came barely 24 hours after BSF noticed suspicious movement of a group of five persons, believed to be terrorists and attempting to sneak into this side, along the IB in Hiranagar sector of nearby Kathua district, prompting a massive search operation and sounding of a high alert in

Jammu.

Army also pressed helicopters into service during the search operation which entered the second day today, the official said.

Singh's death took the number of persons killed in over 700 incidents of Pakistani shelling along the IB and Line of Control (LoC) in the state — highest this year — to 33. The deceased included 17 security personnel. Prime Minister is scheduled to arrive in Jammu and Kashmir on May 19.

There has been a lull in firing along the IB over the past three months after intense border skirmishes in January and February, which led to many casualties and forced civilians to flee their homes. However, the frequent ceasefire violation by Pakistan was going on along the LoC.

## Koreas to hold high-level talks on Wednesday

Agency  
Seoul, May 15

North and South Korea have agreed to hold high-level talks on May 16 to discuss ways to enforce the Panmunjom Declaration, Seoul's Unification Ministry said on Tuesday.

The officials from both sides would meet in the Panmunjom border village in the Peace House inside the demilitarized zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas, Xinhua quoted a statement as saying. The Panmunjom Declaration was announced on April 27, after the third and historical inter-Korean summit between South Korean President

Moon Jae-in and top North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. In the declaration, they agreed to complete denuclearisation and the alteration of the current armistice agreement to a peace treaty by the end of 2018.

The two leaders had agreed to hold senior-level talks to discuss follow-up measures to enforce the declaration. The Korean Peninsula had remained technically at war as the 1950-53 Korean War ended in armistice. Seoul had proposed for the dialogue on Monday, but Pyongyang wanted it on Wednesday, which has now been agreed upon.

The five-member North

delegation, led by Ri Songwon, chairman of the Peaceful Reunification Committee will include railway, sports and inter-Korean economic cooperation officials.

The South Korean delegation will be headed by Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon. Under the Panmunjom Declaration, the two Koreas agreed to connect and modernise railways and roads in the east transport corridor and between Seoul and Sinuiju in North Korea.

They also agreed to encourage exchanges, cooperation, visits and contacts at all levels to raise the sense of national

reconciliation and unity. To resolve humanitarian issues, the two sides would hold a reunion of families separated across the border around the August 15 Liberation Day, when the Korean Peninsula was liberated from Japanese colonial from 1910-45.

## PNB misrepresented factual position on LoUs to RBI: CBI charge sheet

Agency  
New Delhi, May 15

Top honchos of Punjab National Bank "misrepresented" the factual position on letters of understanding (LoUs) to the RBI and ignored its warnings when credit facilities worth over USD 2 billion were fraudulently cleared by its branch in Mumbai, according to a CBI charge sheet.

The agency has said then PNBSE 0.11% MD and CEO Usha Ananthasubramanian and her top officials also failed to prevent the fraud despite having knowledge of the modus operandi, according to sources.

Diamond merchants Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi allegedly cheated PNB by availing credits worth over USD 2 billion from overseas banks, on the basis of fraudulent LoUs issued by PNB staff, which were siphoned off by them.

An LoU is a guarantee given by an issuing bank to Indian banks having branches abroad to grant short-term credit to the applicant.

Ananthasubramanian, who is currently the MD and CEO of Allahabad Bank, Executive Directors of Punjab National Bank K V Brahmaji Rao and Sanjiv Sharan, and General Manager (International Banking) Nehal Ahad are four senior bank executives who have been charge-sheeted by the agency.

Giving details of the charges against Ananthasubramanian, the agency sources said she was the MD and CEO of PNB when a similar case of LoU fraud was reported from Indian Overseas Bank, Chandigarh in 2016 where credits were issued by PNB's Dubai branch on the basis of these guarantees.

The modus operandi in the IOB case was similar to the Nirav Modi case. Hence, the top brass of PNB had complete knowledge of the methods involved by fraudsters to cheat the banks using LoUs, the sources said. After the IOB fraud had surfaced, the RBI had issued guidelines and circulars to prevent such frauds in the banks which were allegedly

not implemented in PNB in its entirety, they said.

All these files were processed by Ananthasubramanian and three other top officers — Rao, Sharan and Ahad, which shows they were completely aware of the modus operandi of such frauds being perpetrated, they said.

The Reserve Bank of India had sent a questionnaire to the officials seeking to know the status of LoU issuing process in their bank which was responded to by Ahad in concurrence with his seniors including Ananthasubramanian in which he had stated that all was well in the bank, they said.

This was a clear "misrepresentation" of facts to the RBI by top officials of PNB, they said.

The sources said naming of Ananthasubramanian, who was at the helm of affairs in

Punjab National Bank during 2015-17, in the charge sheet did not mean that her predecessors had been cleared by the agency.

The agency said the time period of the scam was spread between 2011-17 and probe into the role of other officers was underway.

They said the present charge sheet, filed in a special court in Mumbai, primarily deals with the first FIR registered in the case relating to the fraudulent issuance over Rs 6,498.20 crore worth of LoUs to Diamond R US, Solar Exports and Stellar Diamonds.

The agency has not given in detail the role of Mehul Choksi in the present charge sheet. It is likely to come up when the CBI files supplementary charge sheets in the case related to the probe into his Gitanjali Group. The CBI has registered three

separate FIRs in connection with the alleged fraud of USD 2 billion in the public sector bank by the companies of Nirav Modi and Choksi.

Both Nirav Modi and Choksi had left the country before PNB filed the complaint with the CBI.

Senior officials of PNB did not implement the circulars and caution notices issued by Reserve Bank of India regarding safeguarding SWIFT operation through which messages were sent to overseas banks to issue loans to the companies of Nirav Modi, they said.

Reconciliation of bank's core software (called CBS) and SWIFT messages was not done despite repeated circulars caution notices of the RBI which allowed a deputy manager to issue these guarantees bypassing any scrutiny by the bank, they said.

## Gaza deaths spark widespread condemnation of Israel

Agency  
Jerusalem, May 15

Israel faced widespread condemnation on Monday after its forces killed at least 55 Palestinians in Gaza during protests coinciding with the opening of the US embassy in Jerusalem.

Many countries including Britain, France and Russia had already slammed the US decision to move the embassy, while 128 nations have backed a UN resolution condemning Washington's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The US came to the defence of its ally Monday, blaming Hamas for the violence and blocking a resolution at the UN calling for an international investigation, according to diplomats.

Here are some of the reactions from around the world following Monday's violence: The White House blamed the bloodiest day in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in years on Hamas, the Islamist movement that runs the Gaza Strip.

"The responsibility for these tragic deaths rests squarely with Hamas," said White

House spokesman Raj Shah. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also blamed Hamas, and defended his country's use of force, saying "every country has the obligation to defend its borders".

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas condemned Israeli "massacres", saying "the US is no longer a mediator in the Middle East," and that the new embassy was tantamount to "a new American settler outpost" in Jerusalem.

Hamas vowed the protests would continue. "We say clearly today to all the world that the peaceful march of our people lured the enemy into shedding more blood," senior Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya said.

Turkey announced it was recalling its ambassadors to the United States and Israel "for consultations". "Israel is wreaking state terror. Israel is a terror state," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said. "What Israel has done is a genocide."

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, said: "Those responsible for outrageous

human rights violations must be held to account."

UN chief Antonio Guterres said he was "particularly worried" about the developments.

Amnesty International said the bloodshed was an "abhorrent violation" of human rights, and "appear to be wilful killings constituting war crimes". Human Rights Watch also denounced the "bloodbath".

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini urged "utmost restraint".

"Dozens of Palestinians, including children, have been killed and hundreds injured from Israeli fire today, during ongoing mass protests near the Gaza fence. We expect all to act with utmost restraint to avoid further loss of life," Mogherini said in a statement. French President Emmanuel Macron "condemned the violence of the Israeli armed forces against protesters" in a telephone conversation with Abbas and Jordan's King Abdullah II. He also reaffirmed criticism of the US decision to move the embassy to Jerusalem.

### ADMISSION NOTICE (Academic Session 2018-19)



#### South Asian Institute of Rural and Agricultural Management

Affiliated to Manipur University (A Central University)

The South Asian Institute of Rural and Agricultural Management (SAIRAM) was established by the South Asian Rural and Agricultural Management Foundation (SARAM), registered as a Non-Profit making Company under the Indian Companies Act 2013 and affiliated with Manipur University (A Central University). The institute desires to achieve academic, profession and research excellence using innovative, creative, collaborative and sustainable practices.

#### ADMISSION TO THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMMES:

Course	Duration
1. Bachelor of Science (B.Sc)* in i) Agriculture ii) Horticulture iii) Biotechnology	4 years 4 years 3 years
2. Bachelors in Business Administration (BBA)**	3 years
3. Short-term Skill Development (STS)*** in Plant Micro propagation Techniques, Medicinal Plant	6 months
4. Certificate Courses in Foreign Language (CCFL)**** in i) Japanese ii) Chinese iii) Korean iv) Thai	6 months

\*Eligibility for admission to B.Sc. Programmes: 10+2 pass with 50% marks in aggregate (45% marks for SC & ST Candidates and 47% marks for OBC Candidates) in Science with Biology as a subject

\*\*Eligibility for admission to BBA Programmes: 10+2 pass with 50% marks in aggregate in any discipline (45% marks for SC and ST candidates and 47% marks for OBC Candidates)

\*\*\*Eligibility for admission to Short Term Courses: 10<sup>th</sup> pass in any discipline

\*\*\*\*Eligibility for admission to Certificate Courses in Foreign Language: 10+2 pass in any discipline

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HOW TO APPLY: Candidates can get the Application Form from the Office of the Institute on payment of Rs. 500/- (Rs. 300 for SC & ST Candidates) during office hours. Application forms can also be downloaded from the institute's website: [www.sairam.org.in](http://www.sairam.org.in) and submit the duly filled in application form with relevant documents. The candidates who downloaded the application form from the website should pay the application fee of Rs. 500/- (Rs. 300 for SC & ST Candidates) at the time of submission of the form in cash or Demand Draft drawn in favour of SOUTH ASIAN RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT (SARAM) FOUNDATION, payable at Imphal

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

Date of issue of Application form : 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 onwards

Last date for submission of duly filled in Application Form : 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2018

Last date for admission/offer forms for respective programmes : 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

SELECTION PROCEDURE: Application forms will be shortlisted and merit list will be prepared based on the marks they secured in their 10+2 certificate examination.

#### SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM

The duly filled in and signed application forms with self attested copies of relevant documents should be submitted to the undersigned on or before 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2018

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