

## Buoyed by Karnataka, opposition sees federal front taking shape

Agency  
New Delhi, May 20

The Congress-JD(S) combine's success in defeating BJP's efforts to form a government in Karnataka boosted the morale of opposition parties who are trying to create a 'federal front' with Congress as a partner but not as leader of the pack ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Opposition parties are expected to turn the swearing in of JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy in Bengaluru into a show of strength, as the JD(S) and Congress leadership have invited leaders of all regional parties for the event. Though the decision to back Kumaraswamy puts Congress back in the reckoning at a time when it looked to have suffered another poll defeat, the federal front will see some leverage in the alacrity with which the party accepted JD(S) as the lead player. Reactions from politicians like West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu, Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav,

BSP chief Mayawati, Telangana CM K Chandrababhan Rao, DMK's M K Stalin, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal among others poured in as they called up H D Deve Gowda and Kumaraswamy. Banerjee greeted JD(S) and Congress leaders and said it was "victory of the regional front" and of democracy. "Democracy wins. Congratulations Karnataka. Congratulations Deve Gowdaji, Kumaraswamyji, Congress and others. Victory of the regional front," she tweeted. BJP's defeat gave estranged ally TDP a reason to cheer as also DMK. The Trinamool chief has mooted a federal front of regional parties and was in touch with prominent opposition leaders after the Karnataka assembly poll results threw up a fractured verdict. She spoke to former PM Deve Gowda, Kumaraswamy and Naidu, among others, over the phone. While Congress has clawed out of a difficult situation, Saturday's developments will be read by federal front leaders as evidence that the party has

recognised the need to compromise its "individual" interest and work with other regional parties. According to regional party sources, "this is the idea of a federal effort to counter BJP which has been using all its resources and unethical means to capture power". Another regional party leader said, "This should be a learning experience for Congress... it should allow other parties legitimate space and it will benefit Congress like it did in Karnataka." At the same time, Congress has shown that it can use the talent of its lawyer-MPs and experience of office to mount a determined legal challenge that succeeded in paring the time for a trust vote from 15 days to just 28 hours.

## Govt earns Rs 1,400 crore as revenue from e-tourist visa

Agency  
New Delhi, May 20

The government has earned Rs 1,400 crore as revenue from the highly successful e-Visa scheme, offered to

citizens of 163 countries visiting India as tourists, since its launch in 2014.

Union Home Ministry officials said the popular e-Visa scheme was availed by 19 lakh tourists in 2017 and it is expected that more than 25 lakh tourists will avail the facility in 2018. Since its launch in 2014, the e-Visa scheme has earned revenue of more than Rs 1,400 crore, a senior home ministry official said. The e-Visa fees are divided into four slabs of zero, USD 25, USD 50 and USD 75 which were fixed on reciprocity and depending on nationality.

The e-Visa scheme has been implemented by the foreigners division of the home ministry with a view to improve the efficiency and transparency of various services being provided to foreign nationals.

The facility is now available for nationals of 163 countries for entry into India through 25 international airports and five sea ports.

Under the e-visa scheme, an applicant, when an online application is submitted, receives an e-mail authorising him or her to travel to India after it has been approved.

The tourist can travel with a print-out of this authorisation, another official said.

On arrival, the visitor has to present the authorisation to the immigration authorities who would then allow the entry into the country.

The e-Visa scheme also covers business and medical categories, apart from tourism. Visitors on e-Visa could stay in India for two months.

The window for application under e-Visa scheme has been increased from 30 days to 120 days and duration of stay on e-Visa has been increased from 30 days to 60 days with double entry on e-tourist and e-business visa and triple entry on e-medical visa.

With a view to promote cruise tourism, cruise tourists with e-Visas has been exempted from the requirement of biometric enrolment till December 31, 2020 as many of the cruise ships coming to India are mega ships with 2,000-4,000 passengers on board.

## Pak to give greater administrative and financial authority to PoK, Gilgit-Baltistan

Agency  
Islamabad, May 20

Pakistan's top civil and military leaders have decided to give greater administrative and financial authority to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, the region through which the controversial USD 50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passes. During a meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC) - the top civil and military body - Sartaj Aziz, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission and the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan, yesterday briefed the Committee on the PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan reform proposals, an official statement said.

The meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi reviewed these proposals and after detailed deliberations a consensus

was reached on the "devolution of greater administrative authority and financial powers" to the PoK government and the Gilgit-Baltistan government, according to the statement. The details of administrative and financial reform have not been shared so far.

However, there was also consensus over retention of the PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan Councils as advisory bodies; and the grant of a five-year tax holiday to Gilgit-Baltistan so as to create adequate incentives for the development of the region and bring it at par with the other areas of Pakistan.

Gilgit-Baltistan is treated as a separate geographical entity by Pakistan. Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh are four provinces of Pakistan.

India has termed as "entirely unacceptable" any possible attempt by Pakistan to declare the Gilgit-Baltistan region, bordering the disputed Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, as the fifth province. India has protested to China over the CPEC which goes through Gilgit-Baltistan region.

It is believed that China's concerns about the unsettled status of Gilgit-Baltistan prompted Pakistan to change its status.

Earlier media reports had said that Pakistan plans to elevate the constitutional status of the region to provide legal cover to the CPEC.

The NSC also endorsed that FATA shall be merged with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa along with the introduction of the administrative and judicial institutional structures and laws of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the statement said.

The Committee directed the concerned ministries to work out the constitutional, legal and administrative modalities for the merger in consultation with all parties in the Parliament.

The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Defence & Foreign Affairs Khuram Dastgir Khan, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gen Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Naval and Air forces, ISI chief and other senior civil and military officials.

## Sports

### India lose to France in Thomas Cup Final

Agency  
Bangkok, May 20,

India today lost to France in Thomas Cup Final 1-4 at Bangkok.

Indian male shuttlers made a disastrous start to their campaign as they lost to France in a group A opening match. The defeat will jeopardise their chances of qualifying for the knockout stage.

World No. 18 B Sai Praneeth gave India a positive start, defeating France's Brice Leverdez 21-7 21-18 to take a 1-0 lead, but none of the other players could step up.

In the second match, World No 38 Arjun M.R. and Ramchandran Shlok lost to Bastian Kersaudy and Julien Maio 13-21 16-21. Swiss Open champion Sameer Verma, ranked 21, was then handed the responsibility of bringing India back in the contest but he went down 18-21 22-20 18-21 to Lucas Corvee, ranked 43rd, in the second singles as France grabbed a 2-1 lead.

World No 70 Arun George and Sanyam Shukla then took the field in the second doubles match but they were no match for 103 ranked Thom Gicquel and Ronan Labar, losing 10-21 12-21 in a 28-minute duel. Lakshya Sen then fought hard before losing 20-22 21-19 19-21 to Toma Junior Popov in the third singles. India will next face Australia tomorrow.

### India lose to South Korea, 0-1 in Final

Agency  
Donghae, May 20,

The Indian women's Hockey team lost to South Korea, 0-1 in the Final of Asian Champions Trophy at Donghae City today. Youngsoul scored the match's only goal as the hosts defeated the defending champions. Yesterday, in their final round-robin match, both teams had played out a 1-1 draw. Today's was India's first defeat of the tournament.

## C'garh: Naxals blow up police vehicle; 5 cops killed, 2 injured

Agency  
Raipur, Mar 20

Five Chhattisgarh police personnel were killed and two others injured when Naxals blew up their vehicle with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district today, police said.

DIG (Dantewada Range) Ratan Lal Dangi said the Naxals triggered the blast between Chholnar and Kirandul villages when a joint team of the Chhattisgarh Armed Force and the District Force, in an SUV, was escorting a

vehicle carrying material for road construction work.

"Three personnel belonging to the CAF and two of the District Force were killed in the IED blast while two others sustained injuries," the official said.

The ultras also looted the weapons of the police personnel, he said, adding that reinforcement was rushed to the spot soon after the incident.

Road construction work is underway between Kirandul and Palnar villages in Dantewada.

Further details are awaited.

## Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Hijam Deveeka**, w/o Rajkumar Dinesh Singh of kwakeithel thokchom leikai, Imphal West 1, Manipur do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Hijam Deveeka Devi**, as I have assumed my new name **Hijam Deveeka**.

Sd/-  
Hijam Deveeka

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



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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 (SARAF), 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 (SARAF) 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 of 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

#### Director

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