

RAJYA SABHA POLLS Ramesh, five others set to be elected unopposed

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Hyderabad

The decks have been cleared for the election of union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh, former Andhra Pradesh chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and four others to the Rajya Sabha from the states.

The nominations of all six candidates were Saturday found in order during the scrutiny, said legislature secretary and returning officer S Rajasadam.

Ramesh, Janardhan Reddy, veteran leader V Hanumantha Rao and former bureaucrat JD Seelam, all of the ruling Congress party, and industrialist Y Sujana Chowdary, chairman of Sujana Group of Companies and G Sudharani of the main opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Friday filed their nominations.

With only six candidates in fray for as many seats and their papers in order, they are all set to be declared elected unopposed.

The returning officer will make an announcement in this regard Monday, the last day for withdrawal of nominations.

US soldier charged over Afghan civilian deaths

BBC ONLINE

US soldier Jeremy Morlock has been charged in the deaths of three Afghan civilians.

Morlock, 22, from Wasilla, Alaska, will face three counts of premeditated murder and one count of assault.

He entered the US Army in June 2006 and was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in July last year.

The charges against Morlock involve three separate alleged events, according to US media reports.

The incidents are alleged to have taken place between January and May at or near Forward Operating Base Ramrod in Afghanistan.

Morlock returned to a state base in the US state of Washington on Thursday and was arrested and placed in pre-trial confinement on Friday.

Myanmar seeking to develop nuke weapons

Reveals report

REUTERS, Bangkok

Military-ruled Myanmar is seeking to develop a clandestine nuclear program with the intent to produce an atomic bomb, according to an investigation by an exiled anti-government group.

A five-year investigation by the Norway-based Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) concluded that Myanmar, formerly Burma, was a long way from producing a nuclear weapon but had gone to great lengths to acquire the technology and expertise to do so.

If true, it would mark the first Southeast Asian country with nuclear ambitions and alter the strategic landscape of a fast-growing region whose big countries -- from Indonesia to the Philippines and Thailand -- are closely allied with Washington.

A report by DVB, made public this week, cited a US nuclear scientist assessing evidence provided by Sai Thein Win, a Burmese defence engineer trained in Russia in missile technology. He said he had defected after working in factories built to develop weapons of mass destruction.

"Burma is trying to build pieces of a nuclear program, specifically a nuclear reactor to make plutonium and a uranium enrichment program," said co-author Robert Kelley, a former director of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Kelley told Reuters that Myanmar's machin-

ery and equipment appeared to be of a poor quality and that it was a long way from developing a ready-to-use atomic weapon. "They have 1,000 things left to do and are doing them one at a time," he said.

US SENATOR STAYS AWAY

Nevertheless the report prompted a US Senator, Jim Webb, to cancel a trip to Myanmar on Thursday, which he said would be "unwise and inappropriate" in light of the claim.

Accounts of suspected nuclear plans surfaced last year, but Myanmar has never confirmed or denied any nuclear ambitions.

"This new information is the glue that fixes the pieces together," Kelley told Reuters. "Sai provided hundreds of colour photos, dozens of technical drawings and a document which helps us see the program's organizational structure."

Previous claims by defectors suggest Myanmar had enlisted the help of nuclear-armed North Korea, with which it reportedly agreed a memorandum of understanding on military cooperation during a visit by a top junta general to Pyongyang last year.

Admiral Robert Willard, head of the US Pacific command, said he was unaware of nuclear cooperation between the two states, but was "certainly concerned about the relationship between North Korea and Burma given our lack of visibility in both regimes."

India vows to repair relations with Pakistan

AFP, Washington

India pledged Friday to go "more than half the way" to repair relations with Pakistan but said it has received support from the United States to keep a careful eye on its neighbour.

Indian Foreign Minister SM Krishna has accepted an invitation to visit Islamabad next month despite continued Indian concerns about Pakistan-based Islamic militants blamed for the deadly 2008 siege of Mumbai.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh "has always been saying that you tackle those who are responsible for the Mumbai attack and I'm willing to go more than half the way," Krishna told a news conference on a visit to Washington.

"Things have not exactly gone as per our estimates, but nonetheless we cannot give up. We will have to keep engaging Pakistan," he said.

Pakistan's Supreme Court last week upheld the freedom of the founder of Lashkar-e-Taiba, a group blamed for the Mumbai attacks that left 166 people dead, rejecting a government appeal not to release him from house arrest.

Krishna said his visit to Islamabad was meant to overcome a "trust deficit" between India and Pakistan, which have fought three full-fledged wars since their separation at birth in 1947.

But Krishna said he shared India's concerns about Pakistan to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during a "strategic dialogue" on Thursday.

"The message that I get from the US administration is that they are aware of our concerns and that they are not going to do anything which would adversely affect India's interests," Krishna said.

Lahore on high alert

85 arrested

ANI, INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Lahore

Following intelligence inputs and threats, provincial authorities have declared a high alert in Lahore fearing more terror strikes.

According to sources, intelligence agencies have warned concerned authorities that extremists are on the look for carrying out more attacks similar to last Friday's brazen terror siege of the two Ahmedi mosques in the city.

Intelligence reports had declared Friday and Sunday as most sensitive days.

Lahore police detained 85 people in raids conducted here in the capital of Pakistan's Punjab province, following a terror alert that militants could carry out attacks during Friday prayers, police said.

Police set up check posts at Lahore's entry and exit points and conducted strict checks of vehicles, a police officer, Chaudhry Shafiq, was quoted as saying by Xinhua.

Over 70 people were killed and at least 100 injured in attacks May 28 on two places of worship of a minority group.

CYCLONE PHET 13 killed in Pakistan

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Islamabad

Storms lashed many areas in Pakistan's Punjab province, killing at least 13 people and causing disruption of power supply, media reports said.

At least 10 people were killed Friday after two houses collapsed in Lahore, the provincial capital, while two people were killed and three injured in a wall collapse in Gujranwala. An old godown collapsed in Hafizabad killing one and injuring two, Xinhua reported citing a statement from a private TV news channel.

The storm also disrupted electricity supply, as 58 grid stations of the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) tripped.

Mumbai attacker Kasab appeals against death penalty

BBC ONLINE

The sole surviving gunman of the Mumbai (Bombay) attacks of November 2008 has requested legal representation to appeal against his death penalty.

Over 170 people died when militants including Mohammad Ajmal Amir Kasab attacked various targets.

His request to appeal against his conviction and sentence is under consideration and a new lawyer will be appointed within days, officials say.

Kasab was sentenced last month after he was found guilty of mass murder.

He was also convicted of waging war against India. The Bombay High Court has yet to confirm the death sentence.

Ten gunmen attacked Mumbai on 26

November 2008 killing 166 people. All of them except Kasab were killed.

Kasab - a Pakistani national - has now written a one-page letter in Urdu requesting the state government to appoint a lawyer to act on his behalf.

The letter says he is not satisfied with the verdict and sentence and needs a lawyer to explain it in detail to him, officials say.

"We received the letter and have already forwarded it and presented his case. He wants to voice his grievances about some points which he thinks were not considered by the court," said KK Sonawane, from the Legal Aid Panel of the Bombay High Court.

Kasab also argued in the letter that he has no relatives in India who will take up his case, so he needs free legal aid.

Afghanistan ready for peace with Taliban

REUTERS, Kabul

Afghan tribal elders and religious leaders agreed on Friday to make peace with the Taliban, handing President Hamid Karzai a mandate to open negotiations with the insurgents who are fighting foreign forces and his government.

Karzai had called the "peace jirga" to win national support for his plan to offer an amnesty, cash and job incentives to Taliban foot soldiers while arranging asylum for top figures in a second country and getting their names struck off a UN and US blacklist.

"Now the path is clear, the path that has been shown and chosen by you, we will go on that step-by-step and this path will inshallah, take us to our destination," he told the delegates gathered in a tent under heavy security.

He urged the Taliban, who have virtually fought tens of thousands of US-led Nato forces and the Afghan army to a bloody stalemate, to stop fighting.

Peace jirga in Afghanistan

Jirga: Pashtu and Dari word for assembly or traditional gathering convened in times of trouble

1,600 delegates picked by government, including just 300 women

12,000 security personnel in four-layer cordon

200 foreign observers invited

Major historical jirgas

1709 First known jirga, Pashtun leaders voted to rise up against Persian rulers

1879 Voted to go to war against British invaders

1916 Ruled on Afghan position in WWI, resulting in neutrality

1964 King Mohammad Zahir Shah called jirga to amend constitution to introduce democracy

2002 Hamid Karzai voted in as transitional leader

2003 Approved Afghanistan's post-Taliban constitution

Meeting aimed at reaching national consensus on how to approach peace talks with the Taliban

Delegates to elect chairman, two deputies; divide into 28 groups to discuss and propose ideas

An Afghan boy stands at the Choras Valley in Uruzgan province, January 2010

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2.	Senior Lecturer/Lecturer	Electrical & Electronic Engineering	02

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Teaching: A good teaching record is essential. Students' evaluation of teaching must be complemented by peer evaluation, e.g. review of course/reading materials. Publication requirement may be somewhat relaxed for an excellent teaching record stretching over a period of time.

Publications: Minimum eight articles in international journals (or equivalent) are required of which at least four should be in reputed journals. At least four articles should be published during the last four years with at least two published in reputed journals.

Service: Service to the university and the community should be treated as an additional qualification, but can not substitute for teaching record and publications.

Assistant Professor: Ph.D. in the relevant field from a reputed university is a minimum requirement.

Teaching: Teaching experience at the university level will be a plus point.

Publications: One article in a reputed international journal (or equivalent) is required. However, one article in any reputed journal will be preferred.

Service: Service to the university and the community should be treated as an additional qualification, but can not substitute for teaching record and publications.

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Lecturer: Masters Degree with minimum five years' university education from a reputed university is a minimum requirement. The candidate must have excellent academic results.

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4. For Associate Professor Position, at rank requirement of journal papers can be relaxed at most by one with papers published in conference proceedings as outlined in Note 3. above.
5. The candidate shall be principal author in half of the total publications required as well as at rank publications requirement level.
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