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WILL MOVE SUPREME COURT, SAY DISQUALIFIED MLAs

Karnataka Speaker disqualifies 14 Cong, JD(S) rebels, trust vote today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JULY 28

A DAY before the trust vote, Karnataka Assembly Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar on Sunday disqualified 11 Congress and three JD(S) rebel MLAs under the anti-defection law, thus ending their hopes of being inducted into the BJP government.

Another three Congress MLAs were disqualified for anti-party activities on July 25. This effectively reduces the strength of the Assembly from 225 to 208

members (including a nominated Anglo Indian member).

The BJP, which formed a one-man government headed by B S Yediyurappa on July 26 after the Congress-JD(S) government lost the trust vote, now has a clear majority of 105 legislators, apart from the support of one Independent MLA. The Congress strength is down to 67 and the JD(S) to 34; the House also has one BSP MLA.

Yediyurappa, who was asked by Governor Vajubhai Vala to prove his majority, is expected to comfortably win the trust vote on



Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar in Bengaluru on Sunday. PTI

Monday. "On Monday, 100% I will prove majority," PTI quoted Yediyurappa as saying on Sunday. The 11 Congress MLAs who

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were disqualified on Sunday are: Prathapgouda Patil, B C Patil, Shivaram Hebbar, S T Somashekhar, Byrathi Basavaraju, Anand Singh, Roshan Baig, N Munirathna, K Sudhakar, M T B Nagaraj and Shrimanth Patil. The three from the JD(S) are Vishwanath A H, Narayana Gowda and K Gopaliah.

On July 25, the Speaker had disqualified Congress MLAs Ramesh Jharkiholi, Mahesh Kumatahalli and R Shankar (an Independent who later merged with Congress).

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Ex-aide under probe for routing funds via overseas firm to Mallya

Whistleblower filed complaint against Mallya's former executive assistant

KHUSHBOONARAYAN
MUMBAI, JULY 28

FOLLOWING A whistleblower's complaint, a Bengaluru-based company incorporated in March 2018 and run by Vijay Mallya's former executive assistant has come under the scanner of investigative agencies for its alleged association with the fugitive businessman.

The whistleblower, in the complaint to United Breweries Ltd, has alleged that the liquor firm's export agent — Ultimate Branding Worldwide, run by V Shashikant, Mallya's former executive assistant — is exporting Kingfisher Beer at a discounted price to a "front" company overseas, that, in turn, sells it at a premium to buyers in UAE, Malaysia and Singapore. The profit generated through this, according to the complaint, is allegedly being "repatriated" to Mallya through "overlapping transactions" to fund his "daily maintenance and legal expense".

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is probing Mallya under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA),



No connection: Mallya

searched the office of Ultimate Branding Worldwide on July 24, following the whistleblower's complaint.

The complaint said that Ultimate Branding, which has "monopolistic rights for exporting and trading all brands of Kingfisher beer since March 2018" is exporting beer to Tammy International FZE in Sharjah, a company allegedly owned by Shashikant's son-in-law. It alleged that Ultimate Branding is getting commission from UBL for "getting business" and also "getting significant margins in USD in trading of Kingfisher beer in international markets via front companies".

Before 2018, UBL's export

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WORLD



IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL PARTIES MEET

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The victims were on their way to Rae Bareilly district jail. ANI

Unnao rape victim injured, her two aunts killed in accident

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JULY 28

THE UNNAO rape victim, who had accused BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar of sexually assaulting her in 2017, and her lawyer were critically injured and two of her aunts were killed when the car in which they were travelling collided with a truck in Gurubakshganj area of Rae Bareilly on Sunday afternoon.

Police said the victims were going to Rae Bareilly district jail, where the rape victim's uncle is lodged. Additional Director General of Police, Lucknow zone, Rajeev Krishna, confirmed that the two women who died in the accident are the rape victim's aunts.

The 19-year-old rape victim and the lawyer, who was driving the car, are undergoing treatment at the trauma centre of King George's Medical University in Lucknow, where

their condition is critical, said Additional Superintendent of Police, Rae Bareilly, Shashi Shekhar Singh.

The victim's family accused MLA Sengar of planning the accident. Sengar, MLA from Bangarmanu in Unnao, is lodged in Sitapur district jail.

"MLA Kuldeep Singh and his associates planned the attack to threaten us so that we stop pursuing the case. Everyone in the village knew they were going to Rae Bareilly jail," said the rape victim's cousin in Unnao.

Gurubakshganj Station House Officer Rakesh Singh said his team rushed the injured to the district hospital, where one of the aunts of the rape victim died. Doctors referred the other three injured to Lucknow hospital, where the second aunt died.

Lalganj (Rae Bareilly) Circle Officer Laxmikant Gautam said the truck driver, identified as Ashish, has been arrested and

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BJP calls J&K core group to Delhi for 'urgent meeting'



In Srinagar on Sunday. Shuaib Masoodi MORE REPORTS, PAGE 6

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, JULY 28

AMIDST UNCERTAINTY and speculation over the deployment of additional forces in the Valley, the Central leadership of the BJP has summoned members of the party's core group in Jammu and Kashmir for an "urgent meeting" in Delhi on Tuesday.

The meeting is likely to be chaired by BJP working president J P Nadda and will also be attended by general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh. The possibility of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah meeting the party's J&K unit leaders has not been ruled out.

While confirming the meeting, sources in the state unit said no agenda has been conveyed to them.

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EXPLAINED Speculation on J&K plan

GIVEN UNION Home Minister Amit Shah's emphatic assertion in Parliament of the BJP's views on Article 370, every small change in the state's security detail leads to frenetic speculation on the Centre's 'agenda'. It hasn't helped that there has been no formal word from the BJP state unit leadership to soothe these apprehensions among the public.

PM: People of Kashmir want to join mainstream

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the "people of Kashmir are eager to join the national mainstream" and the "power of development is stronger than the might of bullets and bombs".

In his address to the nation through his Mann Ki Baat, Modi said: "I read a very interesting comment on MyGov.in. This comment came from Muhammad Aslam, who lives in Shopian, Jammu & Kashmir. He

wrote, 'I like listening to the programme Mann Ki Baat. I am happy to let you know that I played a positive active role in organising the community mobilisation programme, 'Back to Village', in my state. I feel such programmes should be organised every quarter. Simultaneously, there should be a provision for online monitoring too'."

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THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW
'WE WANT TO GET MONEY INTO HANDS OF PEOPLE... PUMP UP CONSUMPTION THROUGH PUBLIC SPEND ON INFRA'
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
UNION FINANCE MINISTER

Convicted in graft case, Sikkim CM seeks disqualification waiver

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

SIKKIM CHIEF Minister Prem Singh Tamang's fate now rests with the Election Commission (EC) as he is learnt to have recently requested a waiver of the remaining period of his disqualification to retain the post.

Tamang, who was appointed on May 27, needs to be elected to the Assembly within six months of his appointment. However, he



Prem Singh Tamang was appointed on May 27. File

is barred from contesting polls as he has been convicted in a corruption case.

Tamang served a year in prison, between 2017 and 2018, after he was found guilty of misappropriating government funds in a cow distribution scheme while he was the minister of animal husbandry in the 1990s. He was released on August 10, 2018. Under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, those convicted and imprisoned under the Prevention of Corruption Act are disqualified from contesting elections

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INSIDE



BJP MISUSING GOVT AGENCIES TO ROPE IN OPP LEADERS, SAYS PAWAR
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TIGER REPORT TODAY, COUNT SET TO RISE
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Letter alerts Rlys staff on 'emergency situation' in Valley, officials say 'no basis'

BASHAARAT MASOOD & AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
SRINAGAR, NEW DELHI, JULY 28

A LETTER purportedly issued by the office of the Senior Divisional Security Commissioner, Railway Protection Force (RPF), Srinagar, asking employees to stock ration and drinking water, not to keep their families in Kashmir, and to restrict leave due to the "emergency situation" has added to the fear and speculation in the Valley.

The Ministry of Railways im-

mediately "revoked" the letter and said the officer "was not authorised to issue such a letter and did not have the approval of the competent authority to do so either".

According to a clarification issued by the ministry, the Senior Divisional Security Commissioner of Ferozpur Railway Division had proceeded on a one-year study leave last week. The officer who issued the letter was "next in line" to occupy that post.

According to the letter, a "precautionary security meeting" was held on July 27, by

Sudesh Nuyyal, Assistant Security Commissioner (ASC), RPF, Budgam, after inputs from "different security agencies" regarding "forecast of deteriorating situation in Kashmir Valley and issue of law and order for a long period".

Saying that "precautionary security measures" were discussed, the letter asks Railways officials to purchase, in advance, dry ration for at least four months "to meet any crisis situation", "store drinking water for at least seven days consumption", "keep their pitthu bag

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A natural spokesperson with 'humungous' erudition, Reddy knew essence of politics lay in talking, debating

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SEEMA CHISHTI
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

"Is'm' is a subtle suffix, so discreet, so vestigial it is as a word-ending that one can miss it altogether; as in alcoholism and altruism, as in nudism or nihilism. So totally as an appendage to the word to which it is joined, 'ism' curls into itself like the human tail-bone. It is there, but we do not see it..."

FROM *Ten Ideologies*, his most recent book and an exposition of several ideologies in the world, these are not lines one would expect a six-time MP and four-time MLA of our times to have penned. But for anyone who has spent any time with him, this is vintage Sudini Jaipal Reddy.

At the apogee of the Janata Dal days, in 1997-98, Reddy knew exactly what to tell inquisitive reporters. If there was a crisis in the United Front (UF) government, a solemn Reddy would say, "I am here as the spokesper-



S JAIPAL REDDY
1942-2019

son of the Janata Dal, not the UF." When the Janata Dal hit turbulence, he would brush off queries by saying exactly the opposite: "I am here as the government spokesman, not the party's." Those were days when reporters jostled with ministers emerging from the Prime Minister's residence, before security, centralisation and fencing got in the way.

Reddy's ability to get people talking and debating — recognising that these are the essence of politics — made him a natural spokesperson of the cause he represented. As spokesperson

for the Congress, he was perhaps amongst the last of the tribe before the job required one to be just a smart quipper, with lines programmed for TV bites alone.

It was Reddy's stint as Minister of Information and Broadcasting during the United Front days that saw the setting up of the Prasar Bharati, aimed to be an independent state broadcaster with the promise of information as a public good.

This year would have marked 50 years of Reddy's first election that saw him becoming MLA of

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