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DAY AFTER 13 MLAs RESIGN IN KARNATAKA

Kumaraswamy back from US, goes into huddle with Cong to save govt

BJP preparing to form alternative govt, say leaders

JOHNSON TA & LIZ MATHEW
BENGALURU, NEW DELHI, JULY 7

KARNATAKA CHIEF Minister HD Kumaraswamy returned to Bengaluru Sunday night after a 10-day US trip and began holding a series of meetings from the airport itself with leaders of his party JD(S) and its ally Congress in a bid to rescue the coalition government.

The coalition was pushed to the brink Saturday after 13 Congress and JD(S) MLAs submitted their resignations to bring its number to 105, on par with the BJP, in the 224-member Assembly even as several other rebels are reported to be waiting to exit. The resignations of the 13 MLAs, at least 10 of whom have moved to a Mumbai hotel, are yet to be accepted by the Speaker.

In Delhi, BJP sources told *The Indian Express* that the party is prepared to form an alternative government but will wait for the decision of the Speaker on the resignations, after which it would make a formal move.

"We, in the BJP, are prepared



for any eventuality. But we don't want to rush, we want to watch things closely. We are waiting for decisions of the Speaker and the Governor," BJP general secretary P Muralidhar Rao told *The Indian Express*. "Let things become clear, let there be no ambiguity," he said.

In Bengaluru, among those who received Kumaraswamy at the airport was the chief of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Bengaluru Police, which is probing a ponzi scheme allegedly run by the IMA (1 Monetary Advisory) Group of companies in which two government officials are among those arrested.

According to sources, one of the triggers for six Bengaluru MLAs of the JD(S) and Congress



Karnataka CM HD Kumaraswamy arrives in Bengaluru, Sunday, from the US; (below) Rebel MLAs from Karnataka outside Sofitel Hotel in Mumbai, Sunday. PTI/Express

to feature among the rebels is a move by the SIT to arrest Assistant Commissioner for Revenue (Bangalore North), L C Nagaraj on July 5 for allegedly re-

ceiving a bribe of Rs 4.5 crore from the IMA Group. The SIT's preliminary investigations have revealed that at least

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Centre readies list of land assets for disinvestment

AANCHAL MAGAZINE, SANDEEP SINGH & SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 7

THE GOVERNMENT has prepared a "substantial inventory" of land assets that can be monetised, and the process of such sales will be finalised very soon. The Centre is also keen on strategic sales, and three fresh expressions of interest will be announced next week, Department of Investment Public Assets Management Secretary Atanu Chakraborty told *The Indian Express*.

Chakraborty said many measures in the Budget, like raising the limit of public shareholding in listed companies, will help in attracting fund flows to the equities market.

"In strategic disinvestment, we go case-by-case. Air India has already been announced, but that's just one case. Next week, we will announce three more expressions of interest. Therefore, there would be a continuous

EXPLAINED

Strong political will needed

THE GOVERNMENT has bet on disinvestment and land asset monetisation to raise over Rs 1 lakh crore this year. A virtuous cycle for sell-off and land asset sale can be set in motion if there is strong political will. This can help raise significant resources, especially when the economy is slowing and tax revenues are not so buoyant.

conveyor belt where we will keep putting products," he said. The government has a list of 29 companies that will be put up

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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

FOREIGN BONDS A CALCULATED RISK
BY NEELKANTH MISHRA
PAGE 10

Kalburgi case probe: Final training camp in estate near Mangalore

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, JULY 7

THE PROBE by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Karnataka Police into the shooting of Kannada scholar M M Kalburgi, 77, at his Dharwad residence on August 30, 2015, has revealed that just days before the incident, a final training camp was allegedly held for the suspected killers on the rubber estate of a businessman from the Mangalore region.

A key suspect in the murder, Praveen Prakash Chatur, 27, who was arrested by the SIT on May 31 this year, took police to a rubber plantation at Dharamsthal in Dakshina Kannada district last month and identified it as the place where he was allegedly trained before the murder.

Police have identified Chatur as the rider of the motorcycle that brought the alleged shooter, Ganesh Miskin, 27, to the home of Kalburgi.

The estate has been identified as belonging to a Mangalore businessman, K Ananth Kamath, who is known to be associated with the radical Sanatan Sanstha and its affiliate Hindu Janajagruti Samiti (HJS), police sources said.

The name of Kamath, who is the owner-managing director of Mangalore-based KMK Group with interests in marketing, real estate and agriculture, had figured earlier in the SIT probe of the September 5, 2017, murder

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Centre nod to drilling, Telangana forest officer says won't let anyone in

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, JULY 7

WITH THE Centre granting "in-principle" clearance for uranium exploration in Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Telangana, despite objections by forest officers, Telangana's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests P K Jha has said they won't allow anyone inside to drill unless full approval is given by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. "We did not allow it till now though the proposal is two-three years old," Jha told *The Indian Express*.

The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), had submitted a proposal to carry out survey and drilling of boreholes



In-principle nod to drill for uranium in tiger reserve

in four blocks of the reserve, of which three are located inside its core tiger protection area known as Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary. "The aim is to establish uranium deposits in these areas," the DAE had said.

The Centre gave the clearance at a May 22 meeting, with a Forest Advisory Committee of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests

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Deora eyes Delhi role, joins Scindia, others in quitting Congress post

MANOJ CG & ZEESHAN SHAIKH
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, JULY 7

THE YOUNG vs old battle in the Congress was out in the open on Sunday as two close associates of Rahul Gandhi, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Milind Deora, made public their resignation from their respective party posts ahead of the Congress Working Committee meeting.

This will mount pressure on the elders to follow suit even as the party is battling turmoil triggered by Rahul's resignation as party president, taking responsibility for the Lok Sabha election defeat. Both Deora and Scindia told *The Indian Express* they had resigned several days ago.

Says looking forward to 'a national role to help Cong'

In a statement, Deora interestingly added that he was looking forward to "playing a national role to help stabilise the party". This comes a day after Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh demanded that a "young leader" take over as Congress president.

While the obvious choices are considered to be Scindia and Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, Deora, many believe, has now thrown his

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BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY

Author Amish is guest at Express Adda today

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EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 7

IN 2010, the global publishing industry was reeling under the wave of low sales, and bookstores all over the world were on the verge of shutting down, seemingly unable to combat the threat of the e-book. But in India, a first-time author's modern retelling of the life and legend of Lord Shiva captivated the imagination of the masses. The book was *The Immortals of Meluha*, and its author, a 35-year-old who signed his work as Amish.



Amish is the bestselling writer of *The Shiva Trilogy*

Recently named director of the Nehru Centre in London, Amish Tripathi will be the guest at the Express Adda Monday in New Delhi. The Express Adda is a series of informal interactions

organised by The Indian Express Group and features those at the centre of change.

A graduate of IIM-Calcutta, Amish had worked for over a decade in the financial services industry before he decided to drop his surname, and set out to make a name as a writer.

After the thumping success of the first book, he brought out the next two installments of *The Shiva Trilogy* in quick succession — *The Secret of the Nagas* (2011), and *The Oath of the Vayuputras* (2013) — making it, arguably, the fastest-selling book

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WORLD



IRAN ANNOUNCES NEW BREACH OF N-DEAL LIMITS

'PAK JUDGE BLACKMAILED IN SHARIF CASE'
PAGE 13

This 30-year-old mother braved abuse at home and doubts in her village to build toilets for all

One of 55,000 women masons behind ODF tag, Devi is Jharkhand's Swachh Bharat face

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, JULY 7

SUKKU ORAIN is relieved that she does not have to accompany her young daughters in the dark to the bushes near her home any more. Budhlal Munda says the memory of sitting out in the fields is now a

thing of the past. Orain and Munda are among the 400 residents of Gutuotoli village near Ranchi in Jharkhand who say that their "madam sahiba", Foolmani Devi, has changed their lives forever. Devi, 30, heads a team of four women masons who have built 125 toilets in the village under the Swachh Bharat Mission.



Foolmani Devi (right) in Gutuotoli near Ranchi. Abhishek Angad

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The four are among the 55,000 Rani Mistris, or "empowered women masons", trained under an initiative by the Jharkhand government's

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