

## BJP TELLS CHIEF MINISTER TO STEP DOWN, SAYS HE HAS LOST MAJORITY

# Make or break moment in Karnataka: Coalition ministers resign to allow reshuffle, stay afloat

Two Independents resign as ministers; Kumaraswamy tries to save his government, says no fear

JOHNSONTA  
BENGALURU, JULY 8

AS TWO Independent MLAs resigned as ministers and withdrew support from the ruling Congress-JD(S) coalition in Karnataka, all 30 ministers of the two parties resigned "voluntarily" Monday to allow a Cabinet reshuffle in a desperate bid to accommodate disgruntled legislators and pull the alliance back from the brink of collapse.

The exit of Independent MLAs H Nagesh and R Shankar, inducted into the Cabinet on June 14 to bolster numbers, reduced the coalition's strength to 104 after 13 MLAs, 10 Congress and 3 JD(S), resigned Saturday. The coalition now comprises 69 Congress MLAs, 34 JD(S) and one BSP MLA compared to the BJP's 107 (105 plus two Independents) in the 224-member House.

Both Independents left for Mumbai to join 14 other rebel MLAs at a hotel where the Youth



JD(S) MLAs leave a Bengaluru hotel for a resort on the city outskirts Monday evening. PTI

Congress staged protests. Hours later, the MLAs were flown to a resort in Goa, according to BJP sources.

The effect of the mass resignations — 21 Congress and nine JD(S) ministers — will become clear Tuesday when a Congress legislature party (CLP) meeting is set to be held and the rebels are

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IN PARLIAMENT  
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### BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



## Budget blues, US job data tank market 793 pts, worst loss in single day this year

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JULY 8

THE STOCK markets took a heavy beating Monday with the benchmark BSE Sensex plummeting 793 points, or two per cent, its biggest single-day loss in 2019 so far, as a combination of Union Budget proposals and a global sell-off triggered a selling spree.

While the fall in benchmark indices was broadly in line with other Asian peers, which slid on strong US jobs data, the central government's move to tax share buybacks, raise tax on the super rich and hike minimum public shareholding in listed companies further disappointed domestic investors.

The Sensex plunged 907 points in the intra-day trade before closing at 38,720.57 points with a loss of 792.82 points, taking the total loss to 1,188 points after the Budget presentation. The broader Nifty of the NSE tanked 252.55 points, or 2.14 per cent, to close at 11,558.60 points.

Global shares were in a muted mood Monday after strong US job

EXPLAINED  
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### Tax moves add to slide

WITH THE BSE Sensex tanking over 790 points, the benchmark index has lost over 1,100 points after Friday's Budget. The government's move to tax share buybacks and hike minimum public shareholding in listed companies are among the reasons that have impacted domestic investor sentiment.

gains tempered expectations that the Federal Reserve will deliver a large rate cut.

Analysts said the government's proposal to raise the tax burden on the ultra-rich could also affect foreign funds that are

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## Lost job for probing train delay, magistrate reinstated 12 yrs later

APURVA VISHWANATH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

IT WAS to be just another day of work for Mintu Mallick as he waited for a Kolkata local train at the Lake Gardens railway station to reach Sealdah on May 5, 2007. A magistrate in Sealdah, he also held additional charge of the railways.

But the Budget Budge to Sealdah local was late that day and it changed Mallick's life.

As the railway magistrate, Mallick decided to take the officials to task and remedy the situation. However, what followed was not the train running on time but protests against him, and being compulsorily retired from service.

Last week, after 12 years, the



Hope the train is on time now, says Mallick

Calcutta High Court reinstated Mallick and said he was wrongfully dismissed from service. The High Court also lauded his intentions even as it concluded that he had exceeded his jurisdiction.

"This judicial officer foolishly thought that he could single-handedly take on the smuggler mafia," the High Court said in its verdict on July 4.

While waiting for the train that May day in 2007, Mallick spoke to several passengers about why trains were invariably

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### IN CONVERSATION

Author Amish Tripathi with *The Indian Express* Deputy Editor Seema Chishti and Associate Editor Paromita Chakrabarti at the Express Adda in New Delhi on Monday. Neeraj Priyadarshi

## Let Cong have interim chief, 4 young deputies: Karan Singh

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

TWO DAYS after Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh demanded that a young leader should take over the reins of the Congress, another veteran spoke

out Monday but offered a different solution to the leadership crisis in the party. Karan Singh, who has worked with four generations of leaders from the Nehru-Gandhi family, called

for the appointment of an interim president at the earliest to be assisted by four young working presidents or vice presidents. Singh is likely to meet former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Tuesday with his proposal.

There has been intense

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## With financial probes overlapping, Ministry seeks one lead agency

ANIL SASI  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

THE CORPORATE Affairs Ministry has made a pitch for the need to establish a lead agency for investigations in financial sectors where multiple agencies have overlapping roles.

Citing repeated instances of multiple agencies — Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED),

Economic Offences Wing of state governments and Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) — simultaneously investigating the same set of cases, the Ministry has said this results in the agency that moves first seizing all books of accounts and keeping all information collected to itself.

While this recommendation by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has been made specifically for Unregulated Deposit Schemes (prize chits and money

circulation schemes), indications are that in high-profile cases in other sectors, such as the Punjab National Bank fraud case, multiple agencies ended up investigating the case centred around the public sector bank's Brady House branch.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, a government official said the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, at the highest level, has made a strong pitch for designating a lead

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## 29 dead as UP bus falls into canal on Yamuna Expressway

AMIL BHATNAGAR, SUKRITA BARUAH & SOMYA LAKHANI  
AGRA, JULY 8

TWENTY-NINE PEOPLE died and 23 others were injured after a UP state transport bus travelling from Lucknow fell into a canal on the Yamuna Expressway, about 230 km from New Delhi, early Monday morning. Many of those killed are believed to have drowned in the canal, officials said.

The cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained, but officials suspect the driver allegedly fell asleep at the wheel. The Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) vehicle, registered at Awadh Bus Depot, had 54 people, including the driver and conductor, on board

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FULL COVERAGE  
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### THE EDITORIAL PAGE

GEO-ECONOMICS OF THE UNION BUDGET  
BY SANJAYA BARU  
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## Big guns fall silent on LoC, dip in intensity of ceasefire violations

SUSHANT SINGH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 8

FOR NEARLY three months now, the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan has seen a sharp decline in the intensity of ceasefire violations, with use of high calibre weapons, including artillery guns, coming to a halt. Government officials sug-

gest that it is due to "induced behavioural change" in the Pakistan Army, following the Balakot air strike by the Indian Air Force.

Even though the number of ceasefire violations have only come down from 267 in March to 181 in June, the bigger shift has been in the way both sides have chosen to desist from any

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### VIOLATIONS IN 2019

January	203
February	215
March	267
April	234
May	221
June	181

## Behind so many Indian faces in stands: Priority for ICC-linked fan groups, sheer desperation

EXPRESS AT WORLD CUP

SRIRAM VEERA  
MANCHESTER, JULY 8

AS INDIA take on New Zealand in the World Cup semifinal at Manchester Tuesday, the question that is most likely to pop up, once again, in the minds of millions watching on TV is this: Why are there so many Indians

fans at the stadium in England?

The answer, possibly, lies in a meeting at Lord's two years ago, just before the Champions Trophy, when Indian cricket fan group Bharat Army's founder Rakesh Patel met Steve Elworthy, the ICC's in-charge for fan experience. Patel recalls telling Elworthy that his group can offer that "experience" at the stadiums. "We can do it, none of your current partners can offer it," Patel says he told the ICC official.

Elworthy was interested and the Bharat Army mustered 1,500 fans for that tournament. At this World Cup, the Bharat Army was drafted as the official travelling and tours partners — along with



Fans at India's match against West Indies at Old Trafford on June 27. Bharat Army promised ICC a 'fan experience'. AP

the other big Indian group, Fanatics, which even sponsors the official broadcasters' jerseys.

Both have sold at least 11,000 tickets each in the league stages. There is a ballot system in the

ticketing process, and any fan can apply, although luck plays a part. But for official fan groups, who are the ICC's partners, the benefit is a "priority link". "It is a URL that we send to our members. We get better chances in the ballot. This link is also available for football games in sporting events in the UK," says Patel.

The first wave of fans that came through these organised groups was for India's first four matches that culminated with the game against Pakistan. The second wave began with the match against England the previous weekend.

The ballot is opened for us

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