

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

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Two Congress wickets fall, put coalition govt on edge

Anand Singh, Ramesh Jarkiholi quit, say unhappy with exclusion from cabinet; drama unfolds while Kumaraswamy is away in US

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

A quiet meeting between Vijayanagara MLA Anand Singh and a BJP general secretary seems to have set off a domino effect, with two resignations in quick succession — that of Singh himself and Gokak MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi.

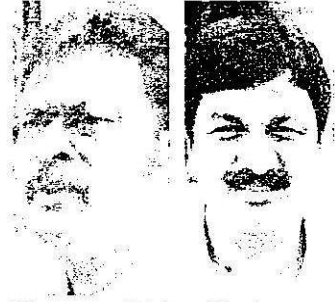
Monday blues hit the coalition quite hard, with the resignations coming at a time chief minister H D Kumaraswamy is on a private visit to the United States. The plan to strike and cause the coalition trouble seems to have been timed to perfection, to ensure Kumaraswamy is not around when the plan is in the execution phase.

The ruling coalition's strength in the 224-member Assembly stands at 118, and BJP at 105 currently. The two resignations bring down the coalition's numbers to 116, and BJP needs more than a dozen coalition MLAs to withdraw support to topple the government. While Congress sources say that the

first move to deliver the double blow to the coalition government was strategised when Singh visited New Delhi recently and met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP sources deemed the visit a mere courtesy that Singh extends every time he is in New Delhi.

While both Ramesh and Singh are said to be miffed with not being included in the cabinet, the real reason seems to be the alleged ill-treatment by senior party leaders, ever since campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls started. Their resignations have cast a shadow of doubt over the budget session, scheduled to begin on July 12.

After Umesh Jadhav, Singh and Jarkiholi have taken the total number of resignations from the Congress to three. While Singh claimed to have submitted his resignation to Speaker Ramesh Kumar at his residence on Monday morning, Ramesh sent a handwritten letter to the Speaker's office. P7



Vijayanagara MLA Anand Singh; (right) Gokak MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi

NUMBERS GAME

224 Total strength of the House | **105** BJP

112 Halfway mark | **118** Coalition numbers

222 Total strength of the House | **105** BJP

111 Halfway mark | **116** Coalition numbers | **2** Vacant