

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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Deshmukh quits as HC orders CBI probe

Mumbai ex-police chief had filed plea

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh resigned from the State Cabinet on Monday after the Bombay High Court directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct preliminary investigation into allegations of extortion levelled against him by former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray accepted his resignation and informed Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari that senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Dilip Walse-Patil, who was handling the Excise and Labour Departments, had been given the charge of the Home portfolio.



Anil Deshmukh

Both Mr. Deshmukh and the Maharashtra government said they would approach the Supreme Court against the HC order.

In his resignation letter, Mr. Deshmukh said, "It is not morally correct for me to continue as State's Home Minister [after the order]. I have therefore decided to resign".

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PARAM BIR LETTER ► PAGE 9

Deshmukh quits as HC orders CBI probe

Mr. Param Bir Singh had written a letter to the Chief Minister last month, after being transferred out as the Commissioner, alleging that Mr. Deshmukh had told suspended Mumbai police officer Sachin Vaze to collect ₹100 crore in extortion money from hoteliers in the city.

Mr. Vaze is currently in National Investigation Agency custody for his involvement in the case of explosives being found near the house of industrialist Mu-

kesh Ambani.

Mr. Deshmukh flew to Delhi later in the evening, ahead of approaching the Supreme Court.

The new Home Minister, Mr. Walse-Patil, one the senior-most NCP leaders, is a staunch loyalist of Sharad Pawar. An MLA from the Ambegaon Assembly constituency in Pune district, he has held the Finance, Power and Higher Education portfolios in the past. He was the Assembly Speaker from 2009 to 2014.