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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Deccan Herald ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 22/2/2

Cong's Puducherry crisis: 2 MLAs quit ahead of floor test

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'Left likely to retain Kerala'

On the eve of trust vote, the Congress government in Puducherry was plunged into further crisis with the resignation of two MLAs, which reduced the strength of the ruling party and its alliance partners in the Assembly to 12, including the Speaker.

Congress MLA from Raj Bhavan constituency K Lakshminarayanan and DMK legislator from That-tanchavady K Venkatesan submitted their resignation letters to Speaker V P Sivakolundhu on Sunday. The Puducherry Assembly will meet for a day-long session on Monday to facilitate Chief Minister V Narayanasamy to prove majority on the floor of the House.

As two more MLAs resigned, Narayanasamy con-

A pre-poll survey predicted that LDF may retain power in Kerala with 72-78 seats in Assembly polls. Asianet News and C-For survey predicted 59-65 seats for UDF. Details on Page 9

vened a meeting of senior party leaders. "We will consult alliance partners and meet again on Monday morning to take a decision," he told reporters. Narayanasamy will have to face the floor test or resign acknowledging he has lost majority.

The Assembly has 30 elected and three nominated members. With Sunday's resignations, the strength of the House has come down to 26, including three nominated members of the BJP.