

# Rumblings of Discontent in Congress After Big Names Left Out of Round 2 of Kumaraswamy Cabinet Expansion

Agency  
Bengaluru, Dec. 22

Seven Congress MLAs and one MLC will be sworn in as ministers in the HD Kumaraswamy-led government on Saturday evening as part of the much-awaited expansion and reshuffle of the six-month-old cabinet. The legislators whose names were finalised for the second round will take oath at Raj Bhavan at 5:20pm. CS Shivalli of Kundgol constituency, MTB Nagaraju of Hosakote, E Tukaram of Sandur, MB Patil of Babalshwar, PT Parameswaranai of Hadagalli, Satish Jarkiholi of Yemkanamardi and Rahim Khan of Bidar are

the MLAs who will be sworn in. MLC RB Thimmapur will also take oath. Except Nagaraju, who is from Bengaluru Rural, the rest are from North Karnataka, four from the Mumbai-Karnataka region and three from Hyderabad-Karnataka region. The decision comes after leaders of the region repeatedly criticised the party for "neglecting north Karnataka". Of these ministerial candidates, two belong to Scheduled Tribes, two to Kuruba and one each to Scheduled Caste, Lingayat, Lambani and minority communities. The Congress has only six berths to fill. By releasing

eight names, it has hinted that two of its ministers will be dropped. This is likely to fan discontent in party ranks, beginning with senior leader and former state home minister Ramalinga Reddy. His daughter and MLA Sowmya Reddy has lashed out at the party, calling the decision "unfortunate". "In one of the lists floating around, I see that they have given me parliamentary secretary position. I did not ask for it and don't want it either. My father has been an MLA seven times and a minister four times. He's built the party from scratch. It is very unfortunate and shocking for all of us that he has been

left out, if at all he's not been included," Sowmya told CNN-News18. "Why is it that the current cabinet has some juniors and some seniors? It's just pick and choose. There are three other ministers who are as senior as my father. But they have been made ministers. That's what's surprising for us. They deserve to be there, but so does my father," she said. Ramalinga's supporters protested outside the Congress headquarters on Saturday, demanding the inclusion of his name in the new cabinet. BC Patil, an MLA from Hirekerur constituency in Haveri district, who has also been denied birth, expressed resentment

towards the party. "I am disappointed. There has been injustice done to my district. For more than 30 years, there has not been a minister from here. I had trusted Siddaramaiah," he told News18 Kannada. In what appears to be a consolation prize, former minister and MLA from Gadag constituency, HK Patil, has now been appointed chairman of the campaign committee of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee. He replaces minister DK Shivakumar. After the first round of expansion, too, many senior leaders in the Congress, including Ramalinga, had expressed unhappiness over being denied berths.

# 4 lakh staff will go without pay, 3.8 lakh 'on leave' as US shutdown begins

Agency  
Washington, Dec. 22

The US government was partially shut down early on Saturday in a fierce dispute over President Donald Trump's demands that Congress assign USD 5 billion for a wall along the border with Mexico. After failing to strike a budget deal on Friday, congressional leaders and the White House pledged to keep talking through the weekend in search of a deal to end the shutdown ahead of the Christmas holiday. The impasse came after Trump threw a wrench into the works earlier in the week by refusing to agree to a short-term funding deal cut by Democratic and Republican senators because it did not include the USD 5 billion for his border wall. The US House of Representatives, where Republicans have a majority until Democrats take over on January 3, then passed a bill that including the \$5 billion, but it ran aground in the Senate and the shutdown began at midnight on Friday. After it became clear the House bill lacked the votes to pass, Senate leaders huddled with vice president Mike Pence and other White House officials to try to figure out a path forward. They failed and lawmakers in both houses of Congress were sent home. Trump tried to blame

Democrats. "We're going to have a shutdown. There's nothing we can do about that because we need the Democrats to give us their votes," he said in a video posted to his Twitter account two hours before the midnight deadline. Democrats repeatedly reminded Trump, and voters, that he said last week he would be "proud" to shut the government down in order to get wall funding. "President Trump has thrown a temper tantrum and now has us careening towards a 'Trump shutdown' over Christmas," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said on the Senate floor on Friday. About three-quarters of federal government programs are funded through to Sept 30 next year, but the financing for all others - including the departments of Homeland Security, Justice and Agriculture - expired at midnight. Federal parks will close and more than 400,000 federal "essential" employees in those agencies will work without pay until the dispute is resolved. Another 380,000 will be "furloughed", meaning they are put on temporary leave. Law enforcement efforts, border patrols, mail delivery and airport operations will keep running. **IMPASSE** For the shutdown to end, both the House and the

Senate will have to approve any deal negotiated between Trump's team and Republican and Democratic leaders. The shutdown could persist at least until a new Congress convenes on January 3, and Democrats take control of the House from Republicans. That does not necessarily mean, however, that Trump would agree to a compromise. The shutdown comes at the end of a perilous week for the president, one that saw Defense Secretary James Mattis resign in protest after Trump's sudden decision to pull US troops out of Syria. The Syria move was widely criticized, even by senior Republicans in Congress. And continued heavy losses in the stock market were in part fueled by the political turmoil. While Trump made the promise of building a border wall a fixture of his 2016 election campaign, it is not a top-tier priority for most Americans. According to a Reuters/Ipsos poll in late November, only 31 percent of those surveyed said improved border security should be one of the top three priorities for Congress. That suggests Trump is taking a political risk by gambling on a shutdown to press his point at a time when Democrats are gearing up for their 2020 presidential primary and looking for issues with which to seize an advantage.

# Modi Govt's Lasting Legacy Will be Catastrophe Called Demonetisation, Says Yashwant Sinha in New Book

Agency  
New Delhi, Dec. 22

GDP numbers are misleading, RBI's autonomy is in extreme danger and demonetisation is the biggest banking scam, former finance minister Yashwant Sinha claims in his new book. He also says that Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's idea of self-employment is a "distraction from the more serious issue of unemployment and under-employment". Sinha, who has been quite vocal about the government's policies since the past couple of years, quit the BJP in April. Party leaders have been

dismissing his allegations on several issues, with BJP chief Amit Shah once asking if people should believe the ministers or those "who did not get jobs". According to Sinha, Modi blew a golden opportunity to send the economy soaring to new heights. "He could have fixed the UPA's legacy issues and fundamentally raised India from a poor country to a middle-income country, but he squandered the chance," he says, adding his book demonstrates how "Modi unmade India".

Though the book *India Unmade: How the Modi Government Broke the Economy* is a critique of the NDA government's economic management, Sinha says he has not always been a critic of Modi. "Nor do I have a personal vendetta against him for not appointing me minister or giving me some other post, as some people incorrectly speculate. In fact, the truth is that I recognised his mettle early on and was one of the first senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders to say he should be made the party's prime ministerial candidate in the 2014 elections," he claims. He has been severely critical of Modi on demonetisation, jobs, GDP figures and Make in India among others policies and programmes.

"The Modi government's lasting legacy will be the catastrophe that was the demonetisation of high-denomination currency on November 8, 2016," he argues. "Demonetisation was a whimsical decision that served no purpose of governance. It did, however, provide Modi with a populist campaign plank of having taken tough decisions to nab the corrupt rich. His decision paid a rich electoral dividend in Uttar Pradesh in 2017. But as far as the constantly shifting

governance objectives of demonetisation went, it was a big zero," he says. On the second anniversary of demonetisation, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had said that demonetisation resulted in increasing the tax base and a higher tax collection (both direct and indirect) for the government, thereby improving its fiscal health. He had also clarified that the real purpose of demonetisation was not the confiscation of cash but to bring it to the formal economy and make the holders pay tax.

On Make in India, Sinha writes, "The malaise of Indian industry during Modi's tenure is typified by his most famous flagship scheme, Make in India. It is his biggest failure; it is also an unoriginal idea. It is nothing more than a revival of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council that the UPA set up in 2004, whose first chairman was V Krishnamurthy." He also says that the growth rates were seemed to have been recalibrated to make the government's economic management look good, with an average rate of 7.35 percent over its first four years.

The jobs Modi mentioned like "pakoda" sellers, autorickshaw drivers, tea-stall boys and newspaper deliverers are all in the informal sector and are nobody's idea of an aspirational job, he says. He terms GDP figures as way below India's potential. "But then India is the only country in the world that grows at 7.35 per cent, without investment, without industrial growth, without agricultural growth. Just like magic," he writes in a sarcastic vein. The GST concept, he says, is good because it is simple and will lead to lower prices because there won't be any tax on tax; there'll be tax set-offs at every stage; and it will widen the tax net for transactions. "It is a better tax, but Modi-Jaitley botched it up at its

very beginning. That GST has been tweaked 200 times already and over 400 notifications and 100 circulars and FAQs have been issued since its launch is standing testimony to the folly of the Modi-Jaitley team." Sinha says that UPA's management of the economy was also flawed. "When the global financial crisis hit us, the (UPA) government decided to focus on increasing consumption demand, and it began reducing or even eliminating some excise duties. "This, along with the debt waiver and MNREGA, was meant to put money in people's pockets to encourage consumption demand. Yet all these welfare measures hardly encouraged productive activity and did not increase investment," he writes. The Modi government, according to him, had everything going for it on all fronts; it had the kind of opportunity few governments have had in independent India's history, yet it squandered its mandate. "In summation, the Modi government is just about even management. He is the best in creating false impressions. In the process, Modi has given India its 'lost half-decade'. Elect him again and by 2024 it will be a lost decade," he warns. The book, published by Juggernaut, is co-authored by journalist Aditya Sinha. So, why is the need for the book? "Over the last fifty-five months, the Modi government has dished out a stunning continuum of untruths and boasts about its economic management, performance and accomplishments. It thus becomes essential to speak truth to power, and so it is my job that this book be a statement of fact."

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# With Jim Mattis resignation, India loses strong advocate in US government

Agency  
New Delhi, Dec. 22

In July this year, agitated over Russian meddling in its elections, the US Congress wanted to punish countries which dealt with Moscow, and India was one of those countries. But, US Defence Secretary General (ret'd) James R Mattis wrote a cogently-reasoned letter, arguing for exemptions to India, which wanted to buy the S-400 air defence system from Russia. "The fundamental question we must ask ourselves is do we wish to strengthen our partners in key regions or leave them with no other option than to turn to Russia, thereby undermining a once-in-a-generation opportunity to more closely align nations with the US vision for global security and stability," Mattis, known by his nickname "Mad Dog", wrote in a letter to Congress on July 20. Mattis stepping down

would mean India has lost a strong advocate in the US administration led by President Donald Trump. The US Defence Secretary is the only Cabinet-rank official from the Trump administration to have visited India twice - in September 2017 for a bilateral visit, and again in September 2018 for the first Indo-US 2+2 dialogue. India signed the S-400 deal with Russia during President Vladimir Putin's visit to India in early October this year, after the US Congress gave New Delhi a waiver. While Mattis played a key role in the granting of the waiver, he was also a key player in the Trump administration's South Asia strategy. Mattis' first visit to India in September 2017 was soon after Trump announced the "South Asia strategy", where India's role was actively pursued. Delhi announced in early September 2017 its plans to start 116 high-impact

small development projects in Afghanistan. While India conveyed publicly that it would not contribute troops to Afghanistan, Mattis assured that US troops were going to stay to maintain security in the conflict-torn country. On Friday, one of the reasons for his stepping down was his policy differences with Trump over troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. Mattis had been the sounding board for Indian officials and diplomats in the last two years. The US Defence Secretary was also clear that the "strong relationship between the world's two largest democracies did not begin with the current interlocutors from both sides". "We inherited it, and now we ensure it is even stronger when we pass it to our successors on a higher trajectory than we received it," he said in September this year, after the 2+2 dialogue.

## Free Health Camp



IT News  
Yairipok, Dec. 22,

Yambem Young Pioneer and Yambem Naharol Marup jointly organised a one day free health camp at community hall of the Yairipok Yambem in Imphal East today.

During the health camp patients with Gynae, dental, ENT and medicine problem attended were treated and provided medicines at free of cost. Special doctors of the said department were present and attended around 500 patients.

## Name Changed

I, Kh. Ketha Devi W/o RK Ranjeet Singh Yaikul Jannasthan wants to remain my name as my class 10<sup>th</sup> Certificate. I have corrected which use to read as Rajkumari (o) Ketha Devi. Hence forth all my related documentations/Investments/ Banking will be according to my class 10<sup>th</sup> Certificate.

Sd/-

Kh. Ketha Devi  
W/o Rajkumar Ranjeet Singh  
Yaikul Jannasthan  
Ph. No. 9402960925

## Bank passbook lost

I, the undersigned, Okram Romoni Devi aged about 45 years W/o O. Noren Singh of Thoubal Okram, PO & PS, Thoubal Manipur have lost my bank Passbook of SBI Thoubal Branch Manipur under A/C no. 32964128814 issued by the SBI Thoubal, on the way from Wangjing to Heirok Thokhom Leikai on 05/12/2018.

Finders are requested to handover it to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Okram Romoni Devi  
Thoubal Okram