

Blame it on Rahul Gandhi, says Rajnath Singh on Karnataka crisis

NDTV
New Delhi, July 8,

Union Minister Rajnath Singh today asserted in parliament that the ruling BJP had "nothing to do with" the crisis in Karnataka, where the Congress-Janata Dal Secular coalition is fighting for survival after multiple resignations.

"Our party does not put pressure on any other party's lawmaker or legislator. It is Rahul Gandhi who started the resignation spree," Rajnath Singh said in the Lok Sabha. Rajnath Singh's comments came as the Congress in parliament accused the ruling party of trying to destabilize state governments to seize power.

The ruling coalition in Karnataka plunged into crisis after 13 lawmakers from both partners resigned last week.

The resignation of a minister, an independent lawmaker, who has pledged his support to the BJP, could be the proverbial straw.

With 14 exits, the ruling coalition drops to 104, which is two short of the effective majority mark after the resignations. The BJP, after winning the support of one more lawmaker, will have 106. The Congress and JDS have accused the BJP of flying the rebel lawmakers to Mumbai and sequestering them at a five-star hotel in preparation

for staking claim to power. BJP Karnataka chief BS Yeddyurappa had said, "Let's wait and watch. Are we *sanyasis* (hermits)? After the resignation process is over and the speaker takes his decision, leaders of our party will discuss and decide." Mr Yeddyurappa was chief minister for three days before he was forced to step down after failing to gather enough numbers to form government

in May last year. The Congress and JDS of Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy then came together to try and keep the BJP out of the government. Both parties have been trying to persuade the rebels who resigned on Saturday - eight from the Congress and three from the JDS. The independent lawmaker who may have tipped the balance, Nagesh, has left for

Mumbai, which has become the base of the rebels. The BJP has said it should be invited to form a new government but it has denied the coalition's accusations of engineering the crisis. "This was an opportunistic alliance to prevent the BJP from coming to power. It has faced problems from Day 1. Don't blame the BJP for your own faults," said the party's Nalin Verma.

Kumaraswamy govt loses support of another MLA, could lose majority too

Agency
Bengaluru July 8,

H Nagesh, an Independent legislator who was inducted into the HD Kumaraswamy council of ministers in June, quit the government and withdrew support to the Janata Dal Secular-Congress coalition on Monday. "I withdraw my support to the government headed by Shri HD Kumaraswamy. In view of the same, suitable action may be taken," Nagesh said in a letter to Governor Vajubhai Vala. In a second letter, Nagesh extended his unequivocal support to a BJP government that may stake claim to form the government.

Nagesh's withdrawal of support implies that the Kumaraswamy government won't have the majority status once the Speaker accepts the resignation of 12 Congress and JDS lawmakers who put down their papers last week. Nine of them are being sequestered in a luxury Mumbai hotel to make sure that the JDS-Congress coalition isn't able to persuade them to back down. If all the resignations go through, the JDS-Congress coalition - which is also supported by the BSP's lone MLA - would have the support of just about 105 legislators including Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar.

The BJP, which has 105 legislators, would cross the majority mark with support from Nagesh. For now, the Kumaraswamy government is resting its hopes on Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar who hasn't accepted the resignations so far. DK Shivakumar, the Congress leader who has often played the role of the coalition's lead troubleshooter, said the coalition was in touch with H Nagesh. He also stressed that the Kumaraswamy government wasn't in the red, yet. "The resignations have to be accepted to make this a minority government," said DK Shivakumar.

Kikheto Sema called upon North East people to come together for larger issues



NEPS
Tingkupathar (ASSAM), Jul 8,

Y Kikheto Sema, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Land Resources Department, Government of Nagaland, called upon the people of North East to come together and focus on the bigger issues concerning them. He was speaking at the Tuluni Festival at Tuluni Papu on July 6 at the Tingkupathar Sumi Village under Assam's Tinsukia District.

While stressing on the need for the Sumi Naga people living in the Upper Assam to live in peace and harmony with people of all communities

especially the Assamese people, Kikheto Sema called upon the people of North East to come together and fight for the larger issues concerning them. "If you continue to fight for the smaller issues, you are going to miss bigger issues," he asserted. "It is time to focus on the larger issues concerning the North East." Upper Assam Sumi people comprising of six Villages in Margherita Sub-Division under Assam's Tinsukia District celebrated the Tuluni Festival, the premier festival of the Sumis, on July 5 & 6 at the Tingkupathar Sumi Village with the theme - "Our Culture is our Shield."

The Commissioner &

Secretary recalled that the areas were inhabited by some Sumi Nagas as early as 1983-84 when they served there as Political Labor Corps (PLC). The Sumis settled in Sodiya in 1904 and cleared thick jungles and forests for Digboi Oil Refinery. They also participated in the Anglo-Abor War in 1911. Later, among other Naga tribes majority of which consisted of the Semas (Sumis) helped in the construction of Stillwell Road, he added. Kikheto Sema further said since many of those Sumis came in the area in the prime of their youth, they married and settled in the area. He said the British gifted the land to

the Sumis as requested by them in recognition of their help to the British. "This is how the Sumis established several villages in Upper Assam," he disclosed. He said it was understandable that the Sumi culture and language in the area had taken a diminutive image for some time owing to inter-marriage. Nevertheless, he lauded them for putting up their best efforts to revive and preserve it. He further encouraged them to preserve the way of life and language of the forefathers, and "by doing this, it does not dishonor nor hate other cultures."

He also urged the Sumis to emulate their forefathers' heroism in a positive manner. Lauding the Youth Departments of Churches of the six Sumi Villages for organizing the program and preserving the culture, Kikheto Sema, accompanied by a host of GBs, elders, students, and social leaders, also highlighted on the significance of Tuluni Festival.

Western Sumi Kukami Hoho, Vice President, Mughavi Awomi, Akukau (GB) and All Sumi Students' Union President, Atokihio Assumi also exhorted the gathering and urged them to maintain their identity by preserving the culture and language. Ato Kukau (Head GB) of Tingkupathar, Yetoi Awomi delivered the Welcome Address while Sumi villagers from Lal Pahar, Paharpur, Longlong, Balijan took part in various traditional items. The event was marked with a rich and colorful display of Sumi culture and tradition.

Sport News

Delhi's Karan Vats & Chandigarh's Aryan enter finals



From a Correspondent
Rohtak, July 8,

Delhi, Punjab and Chandigarh continued to shine at the 1st ever Sub Junior Boys' Boxing Nationals with as many as 6 boxers advancing to the finals of this prestigious national tournament held at the National Boxing Academy (NBA) here in Haryana on Sunday. Karan Vats of Delhi remains unstoppable as the 2018 Khelo India silver medalist and National Boxing Academy trainee is now one win away from the gold medal in 40kg following his 4-1 demolition of Chattisgarh's Wasim Khan. He will take on Neeru of the Services, a 5-0 winner over Maharashtra's

Vedantbengle. Rudra (35kg) and Deepanshu (43kg) ensured Delhi gets a chance to top the podium multiple times. While Rudra edged Rajasthan's Dev Kataria 3-2, Deepanshu hardly broke a sweat in his 5-0 win over Bihar's Rahul Kumar. Standing between Rudra and the coveted gold medal is the Services' Harsh, who dashed hopes of Uttarakhand's Vishwas Mehra 5-0. Deepanshu would be put to a stern test by Goa's Rupesh Bind, who showed ample fighting spirit to knock out the Services' Rajan 3-2. Chandigarh's Aryan dominated Gopal Katta of Maharashtra 5-0 to keep their gold medal hopes alive.

Services' Nikhil Kumar, who defeated Mizoram's LH Peihneisa 3-2, would be looking to give some stiff resistance to Aryan in the summit clash on Monday. Nikhil (46kg) and Lovi (49kg) brought double delight for the state of Punjab. Nikhil remained sharp as ever to score a flawless 5-0 win over Arunachal's Tadar Tadang. Lovi too won by an identical scoreline against Maharashtra's Harshwardhan Wagh. While he gets to face the Services' Vinay Viswakarma in the final, Nikhil will be up against Ranjana Rohith of Andhra Pradesh. 33 teams and 326 boxers have participated in this seven-day tournament.

India vs New Zealand, semi-final, World Cup 2019: Who holds the aces ahead of semi-final clash?

Agency
New Delhi July 8,

With South Africa's win over Australia in the last round-robin match, India will now meet New Zealand in the World Cup semi-final on Tuesday as the two teams clash at the tournament for the first time since 2003.

India vs New Zealand 1st semi-final, July 9

Last month's fixture between India and New Zealand was abandoned. South Africa's 10-run win against Australia on Saturday took Virat Kohli's men to the top of the table and set up a clash against the 4th-placed Black Caps. India have lost only one of their nine league matches. NZ were unbeaten in their first six matches but after finishing the group stage with losses to

Pakistan, Australia and England, it was only their net run rate that earned them a semi-final berth.

India go into the match strong. Rohit Sharma has scored his record fifth century in a single World Cup and leads the tournament's batting charts with 647 runs. Virat Kohli has hit five half-centuries to play a key part in his team's victories. Pacer Jasprit Bumrah has taken 17 wickets in eight innings.

India vs New Zealand head-to-head

India and New Zealand have played 106 ODIs so far, with India winning 55 of them and New Zealand emerging as the better side on 45 occasions. 5 matches have ended in no results.

India vs New Zealand World Cups and semi-final

India and New Zealand have had 8 scheduled World Cup matches between them, with New Zealand leading 4 - 3 (with one abandoned match). A recap of their encounters in the World Cup

This semi-final will be played at the same venue where India & New Zealand first played a World Cup match against each other: NZ won that match, courtesy a century by Glenn Turner.

India have never defeated New Zealand in a World Cup match in England (played 3, lost 2).

The last time New Zealand and India competitively played against each other in a World Cup match (i.e. 14th March 2003), Rishabh Pant was 5 years old.

This will be the first time that New Zealand and India will square off in a World Cup knockout match.

Virat Kohli and Kane Williamson, Déjà vu?

Kohli and Kane Williamson held their sides at the Under-19 World Cup in 2008. India defeated New Zealand in the semi-final as Kohli scored 43 and also took two wickets, including that of Williamson. India won the WC

Australia vs England, 2nd semi-final, July 11

Aaron Finch's side take on hosts England in Birmingham on Thursday but injury concerns threaten to derail the plans of the defending champions. They have called in wicketkeeper-batsman Matthew Wade and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh as cover for their injured duo of Usman Khawaja and Marcus Stoinis. Khawaja was later on ruled out of the tournament. Australia had earlier drafted in batsman Peter Handscomb for the injured Shaun Marsh.

Virat Kohli retains top position among batsmen in latest ICC rankings

Agency
New Delhi July 8,

Team India skipper Virat Kohli has retained the top position among batsmen in the latest ICC rankings. His deputy Rohit Sharma bridged the gap at No. 2 following his record five World Cup tons. Pakistan's Babar Azam has gone up to the third place. Australia opener David Warner has re-entered the top 10 at number six.

India are ruling the roost in the ODI rankings with pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah extending his lead

at the top from 21 points to 56 points after grabbing 17 wickets in the nine league matches at the World Cup. New Zealand's Trent Boult remained in the second spot. Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan has retained the top spot among all-rounders. In the ICC ODI Team Rankings, England remain in first position at 123 points but only ahead of India on decimal points. New Zealand and Australia are similarly both on 112 with New Zealand fractionally ahead. South Africa is fifth on 110 points.

SEACO elects 18 office bearers for its Thanga branch

IT News
Imphal, July 8,

South East Asia Cultural Organization (SEACO), an organization which has been working for the development of Meitei culture and tradition had open its Thanga Branch and elect 18 office bearers in a

meeting held at the residence of Oinam Maipak on June 29. Advisor of SEACO, Longjam Sanathoi Piba, Oinam Maipak Meitei, Akham Langol and Vice President of SEACO Moirang Branch Moirangthem Mangi, Secretary organization Tongbram Ibomcha, and members of SEACO

Ahongsabam Marjit attended the meeting as dignitaries. In the meeting Oinam Maipak Meitei has been elected as the president of the SEACO Thanga Branch, Heishamma Momon Meitei as the Vice President and Oinam Premkumar as the Secretary General.