

# Political Crisis In Jharkhand

## Hemant Soren's Wife May Be Named CM If He's Arrested By ED

### Why In The News?

- A Political Row Erupted Over The Whereabouts Of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren On Monday As **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** Sleuths Swooped In At His Delhi Residence Early In The Morning, Only To Find That The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) **Leader Was Not At Home.**

### What Is The Case About?

- The Central Agency's Prevention Of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Probe Against Soren Pertains To An Alleged **Land Scam** Linked To The Ownership Of A Parcel Of Land Measuring **7.16 Acres** In The Bajra Area Of Ranchi.
- It Has Been Alleged That The Land Parcel Was Acquired Through Proceeds Of Crime Involving The **Illegal Sale Of Army Land**. Soren Has Dismissed The Case As Politically Motivated And Said That The Details Of His Assets Are Already Public.
- The **₹600 Crore Land Scam** Involves A "Huge Racket" Where In The Agency Has So Far Arrested 14 People In The Case, Including **2011 Batch IAS Officer Chhavi Ranjan** Who Served As The Director Of The State Social Welfare Department And Deputy Commissioner Of Ranchi.

### What Do We Know?

- Mr Soren Will Be **Questioned By The Enforcement Directorate (ED)** In Connection With An Alleged Money Laundering Case. There Are Chances That **He Might Be Arrested** By The Agency After His Statement Is Recorded.
- Mr Soren, Made The Announcement At A Meeting Of The MLAs Of The Ruling Alliance Last Evening. The **MLAs Have Agreed** Since Preservation Of The Government Is Crucial At This Point.
- Hemant Soren's Wife **Kalpana Soren** Might Step Into His Shoes If He Gets Arrested, Sources In His Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Party Have Claimed. There, However, Might Be A **Legal Hurdle In Mrs. Soren Taking Over.**



- Constitutional Provisions Demand That **If The Term Of The Assembly Will Expire In Less Than A Year, By-polls Cannot Be Held.** In That Case, It Would Be Difficult For Kalpana Soren To Become An MLA.
- Assembly Election In Jharkhand Is Due In November This Year. If Needed, **Legal Opinion Will Be Taken** In This Matter Or Someone Else Will Take Over At The Top Post, Sources Said.

