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Legislature Session

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Legislature session begins today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The legislature session beginning on Monday is expected to be a stormy affair. The Opposition is planning to corner the government over a large number of issues like the reduction of state's share in central

taxes, appointment of Anand Singh as Forest Minister with pending cases against him under the Karnataka Forest Act and the shooting incident in Mangaluru during anti-CAA protests. Details on Page 5

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Session begins today, Opposition stocks up ammo to floor govt

Governor to address joint sitting of legislature

17/2/20

BENGALURU, DHNS

Reduction of state's share in central taxes, appointment of Anand Singh as Forest Minister with pending cases against him under Karnataka Forest Act, police firing in Mangaluru during anti-CAA protests are expected to turn the legislature session, beginning Monday, into a stormy affair.

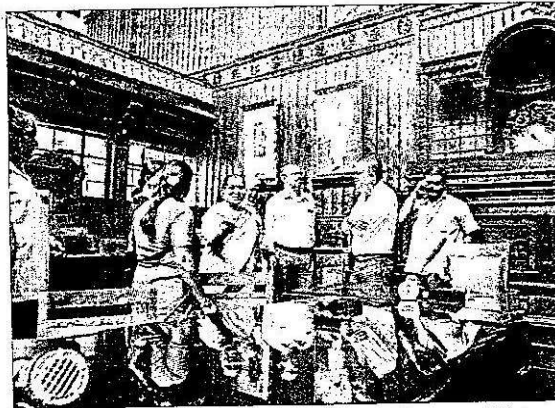
The session will begin with Governor Vajubhai Vala's address to both the Houses of the legislature, and will conclude on Thursday, February 20. The State budget will be presented on March 5, after the session resumes on March 2. The session concludes on March 31. The Houses had last met from October 16 to 24 in Bengaluru as the winter session scheduled in Belagavi was called off, citing damages caused by floods in

the region.

It is also the first session after the December bypoll results ensured a clear majority to the Yediyurappa-led BJP government, formed after the defection of 17 MLAs from the previous Congress-JD(S) coalition.

While the governor's speech will highlight the achievements of the government, the opposition parties are planning to corner the government with a large number of issues that has rocked the state in the past few months.

Questions on the decrease in tax share to Karnataka effected by the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, the Mangaluru police firing and sedition cases against those criticising the Citizenship Amendment Act - especially against children in Bidar - and irregularities in flood relief are likely to be raised by



Officials inspect the preparations on the eve of the legislature session, at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Sunday. DH PHOTO/KRISHNAKUMAR P S

the Opposition.

The controversy over the 'conflict of interest' appointment of Anand Singh as Forest Minister, when several cases for violation of the provisions of the Karnataka Forest Act are pending against him might also force the government on the back-foot.

Moreover, the alleged involvement of Revenue Minister R Ashoka's son in an accident that claimed two lives in Ballari district has provided ammunition for opposition parties.

Complaints of irregularities in providing relief to victims of one of the worst floods in almost a century are also expected to embarrass the government, which had promised all help to victims.

Concerns over reduction in funds allocated to several schemes of the government along with allegations of disparities in funds sanctioned to various constituencies might also be raised by the Opposition MLAs.

BJP, Congress hold LP meet

The BJP and Congress legislature parties met on Sunday to discuss their course of action during the upcoming session, here on Sunday. The Congress legislature party will meet again on Monday morning ahead of the Governor's address to the joint session of the legislature.

Prior to the same, a meeting of Congress senior leaders decided to oppose any proposals to implement the Citizenship Amendment Act in the Governor's address by protesting on the floor of the House.

The BJP legislature party also chalked out strategies to counter the allegations by the Opposition. MLAs were also instructed to ensure their presence in the Assembly and Council when key legislations are put to vote.

The JD(S) legislature party will also meet on Monday morning to discuss their strategies during the course of the session.