

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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Speculation about BSY's stint grows as House meets

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Bengaluru: The monsoon assembly session began on Monday, but political circles seemed more interested in the discussions happening outside the halls as they tracked fresh speculation about chief minister BS Yediyurappa's time in office.

The chatter suggested BJP planned to effect a leadership change in Karnataka a few weeks after the monsoon session that ends on September 26, with a relatively younger politician replacing 78-year-old Yediyurappa. Delayed cabinet expansion appears to be the trigger for this talk. Many in political circles, including a section of BJP MLAs, are viewing Yediyurappa's apparent failure to get a nod for the exercise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP national president JP Nadda as an indication that his exit is near.

There was no official word from BJP on Monday and Yediyurappa, who met Modi and Nadda in Delhi last week, urged support as he ignored rumours. "I am still waiting for the green signal from the government," he said. "I will go ahead. Don't heed any other speculation," he said.

But some BJP legislators, citing senior members in Delhi, claimed the top brass had told Yediyurappa that a "top to bottom" revamp was being planned for Karnataka with a new leader at the helm.



UNDER PRESSURE: CM arrives for the session on Day 1

PARTY HAD DOUBTS IN 2018

“This is not a recent development. Central BJP leadership had second thoughts in 2018. Lately, Yediyurappa has been showing signs of political fatigue, perhaps because he realises the moment of handover is approaching. The central leadership wants a smooth transition.”

Sandeep Shastri |
POLITICAL ANALYST

Yediyurappa, the legislators claimed, sought time till next year, so he can present the budget, but the top brass in the BJP leadership would not support the leadership change plan.

MLAs loyal to Yediyurappa said he didn't intend to give up easily and some senior RSS functionaries from Karnataka were already trying to persuade the BJP high command to let him be in charge till the 2021 budget session.

The opposing MLA camp claimed Yediyurappa had fallen out of favour with the top brass after internal complaints about his family's reported interference in the state administration and alleged corruption in procurement of medical equipment needed in the Covid-19 fight. Yediyurappa's soured equation with many BJP MLAs is also a factor, the camp said.

Political observers say despite his age, brand Yediyurappa remains strong and he continues to enjoy wide support in the Lingayat community. But the central party leadership reportedly vets his decisions now and he doesn't have a free hand to expand the cabinet and distribute ministerial berths among former Congress-JD(S) MLAs who helped him become the CM for the fourth time.

Some people part of his inner circle said Yediyurappa invited trouble by allowing his family members to meddle in government affairs.

With the family allegedly in control, the insiders said many loyalists had been sidelined. These include Yediyurappa's long-time confidants and BJP officials in Karnataka.

Yediyurappa's first stint as the chief minister, from 2008 to 2011, was also embroiled in controversies involving his family. "When he took office in July last year, the party had instructed him to keep the family away and take everyone along," claimed a senior BJP functionary.