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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Deccan Herald ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 30/1/2024

## BJP's Pranesh is deputy chairman of Council

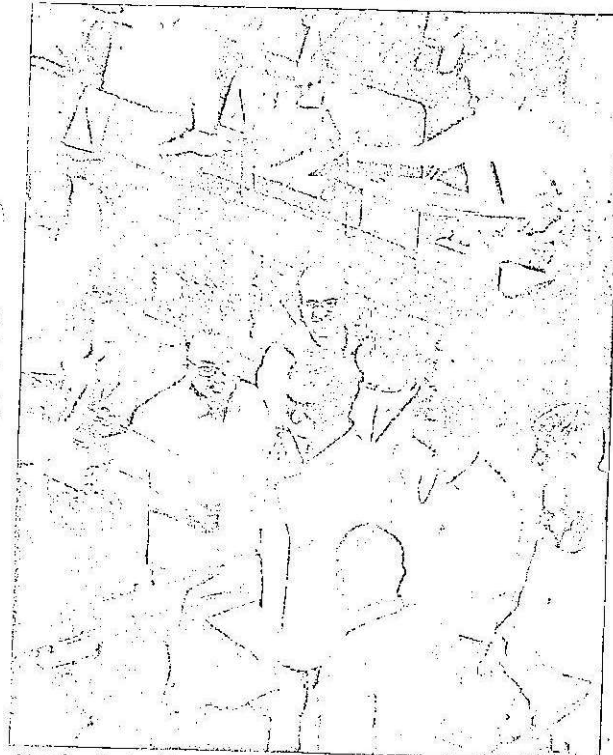
First-time MLC from  
Chikmagalur pipped  
Cong's Kondalah by  
41-24 votes

BENGALURU, DHNS

**B**JP MLC M K Pranesh was elected as the deputy chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council on Friday. Pranesh succeeds late S L Dharme Gowda. The election to the post was necessitated owing to Gowda's recent demise.

Pranesh, a first time MLC elected in 2014 from Chikmagalur Local Authorities, won against Congress candidate K C Kondalah who secured 24 votes against the former's 41 votes. Eight members were absent.

Pranesh (58) comes from an RSS background and has been part of the BJP since 1989. "My journey into politics began when L K Advani began the rath yatra for Ram Mandir," he recounts. Pranesh began



Newly-elected Deputy Chairman MK Pranesh of BJP greets the members in the Legislative Council on Friday. DH PHOTO

his political journey along with the BJP national general secretary C T Ravi. Both leaders

hail from the same region. The deputy chairperson holds a BA degree from the University of

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- 15 December: Ruckus erupts in the Council after Dharme Gowda occupies chairperson Pratapchandra Shetty's seat, allegedly egged by ruling party leaders. The session is adjourned sine-die.
- 29 December: Former deputy chairperson S L Dharme Gowda found dead in a suspected suicide. The reason is yet to be officially established.
- 27 January: JD(S) leader Basavaraj Horatti meets Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, forging JD(S)-BJP alliance in the Council.
- 29 January: M K Pranesh elected as Deputy Chairperson of Legislative Council.

Mysore.

Taking on the new mantle on Friday, Pranesh said he was strongly influenced by the "Sangh's discipline," with which his association has been from his childhood. "I have always believed in taking along all parties together. I will do the same in my new position," he assured.

Pranesh's election to the post was an outcome of the BJP-JD(S) alliance in the Legislative Council. While earlier, the BJP is said to have been eyeing the chairperson's post, the JD(S) pushed for the candidature of its leader Basavaraj

Horatti to head the Council. As a result, the ruling party settled for the deputy chair's post.

The BJP having moved a no-confidence motion against the current chairperson Pratapchandra Shetty, it is expected that Shetty will soon resign from the post. The ruling party's no-confidence motion against the Congress leader, was backed by the JD(S).

With the BJP-JD(S) alliance in the Upper House, the Congress lacks numbers. At present, BJP has 31 MLCs, Congress 28 and JD(S) 13 along with four independents. One MLC seat is vacant.