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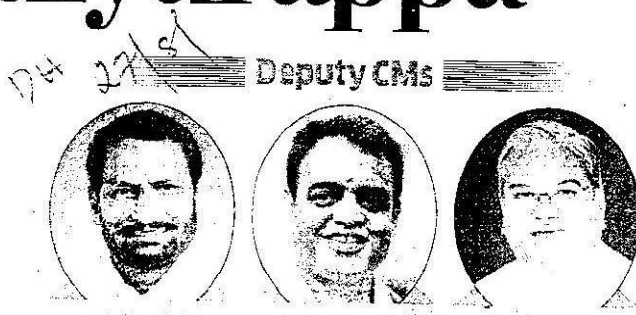
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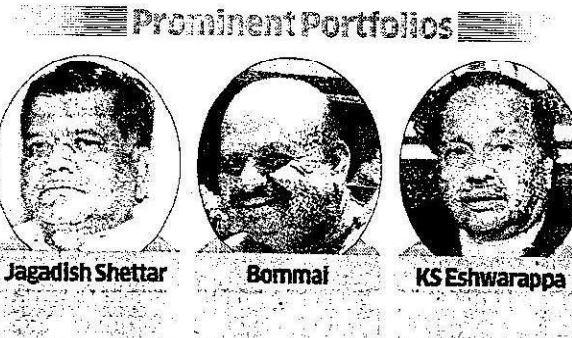
BJP thrusts 3 deputies on Yediyurappa

A month after
CM takes oath,
17 ministers get
portfolios



Deputy CMs

AKRAM MOHAMMED
BENGALURU, DHNS



Prominent Portfolios

Jagadish Shettar

Bommali

KS Eshwarappa

A full month after he formed the government, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Monday got three deputies, a move by the BJP central leadership that was seen as not only checkmating him, but also other senior party leaders.

Govind Karjol, C N Ashwathnarayan and Laxman Savadi are now deputy chief ministers, an idea Yediyurappa resisted.

Ashwathnarayan is a first-time minister.

All 17 ministers, including the three deputy CMs, were given their portfolios through a notification Governor Vajubhai R Vala issued late Monday evening.

Karjol is now public works minister with additional charge of the social welfare department, while Ashwathnarayan is the minister for higher education, IT & BT, science and technology.

Savadi is the transport minister.

Karjol is a Scheduled Caste, whereas Ashwathnarayan is a Vokkaliga and Savadi a Lingayat.

Besides wooing these communities, the elevation of these three ministers as Yediyurappa's deputies appears to be an

attempt by the party leadership at creating a second-rung of leadership.

Vokkaligas and Lingayats are two of Karnataka's most dominant communities.

Yediyurappa is understood to have argued that making Savadi his deputy would send out a wrong signal, given that he, too, is a Lingayat.

Also, Savadi's induction into the Cabinet has already caused heartburn within the party, especially upsetting eight-time MLA Umesh Katti.

Many in the BJP have ques-

tioned why Savadi, who lost the Assembly elections last year, was inducted into the Cabinet the first place.

A section of BJP's Bengaluru MLAs have opposed the induction of Ashwathnarayan.

On August 20, Karjol, Ashwathnarayan and Savadi were the first to take oath as ministers.

So, their elevation as Yediyurappa's deputies may have been the plan all along. Notably, none of the three is a native BJP or RSS member.

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Voices of dissent

Voices of dissent were heard within the BJP soon after the announcement of portfolios late Monday night. Senior leaders like K S Eshwarappa and C T Ravi were reportedly upset over what they had been given. Eshwarappa, the former deputy CM, got RDPR while Ravi got Tourism.

BJP thrusts 3 deputies...

CABINET FROM PAGE 1

As expected, Yediyurappa retained some major portfolios with himself — major irrigation, energy, agriculture, Bengaluru development, cooperation, sugar among a few others.

This is the first time Karnataka will have three deputy CMs. When the BJP was in power between 2008-13, there were two deputy chief ministers — R Ashoka, a Vokkaliga and KS Eshwarappa, a Kuruba.

Health Minister B Sreeramulu, a Nayaka (ST), was projected as the party's deputy CM face. The name of Large and Medium Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar, a Lingayat and former CM, was also being speculated for a deputy CM berth. It looks like they have been sidelined for now.