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BSY: Will complete my term

SHRUTHI HM SASTRY BENGALURU, DHNS

Year, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said on Thursday that he will continue in the top post for the next two years and complete the term, ruling out any change in leadership.

At the customary New Year's Eve news conference, Yediyurappa said, "In the last leadership change, and one and a half years, I have concentrated only on development. The BJP national leadership has specified that there will be no change of leadership. I am not concerned about anything other than work," he said to a question on speculation of a change in

leadership.

In a light dig at the media, Yediyurappa said: "There is no confusion among either our ministers or our legislators. There is no confusion even among the people of Karnataka. The confusion exists only among the media. If you cooperate, I believe everything will be fine."

Rarely has Yediyurappa responded to murmurs of this time, he chose to speak out ahead of the New Year.

The BJP is making inroads across the country and in Karnataka, too, Yediyurappa said. "Accord-

ing to information available, out of 5,728 gram panchayats, BJP-backed candidates have wonin around 3,800. The BJP won the recent Rajarajeshwari Nagar and Sira bypolls and 12 seats in the December 2019 bypolls. These results show that we have made inroads in the strongholds of the

Opposition parties," he said. Speaking on the year 2020, Yediyurappa said Karnataka suffered financial set-

backs that are likely to continue into the next fiscal as well. The past year was a "trial by fire" for the government with the onslaught of the pandemic and floods, he said.