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BJP backs BSY at M'luru meet, spikes speculation

Says He Is Firmly In Charge, No Change Planned

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Mangaluru: A key meeting of Karnataka BJP's executive committee got underway in Mangaluru on Thursday with a vote of confidence for chief minister BS Yediyurappa, who has been battling constant speculation, and opposition's swipes, about his time in office.

State BJP vice-president Arvind Limbavali dismissed reports that the party was considering replacing Yediyurappa. "The party and the core committee are solidly behind Yediyurappa and he will continue to head the state government for the next two and a half years," he said.

POLITICS & POLICY

In the past week, opposition leader Siddaramaiah has twice claimed that he had learned from his sources in Delhi that BJP was looking beyond Yediyurappa. There has been similar chatter from some camps within BJP, with senior MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal creating a stir with his comments last month. On Wednesday, Yediyurappa bristled at Siddaramaiah's suggestions, claiming the bypoll outcome would show who was on the way out.

Limbavali said on Thursday that there were no questions about Yediyurappa's leadership and it was not even



PARTY CONCLAVE: State BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel, chief minister BS Yediyurappa, RDPR minister KS Eshwarappa and other senior members at the meeting in Mangaluru in Thursday

FINANCES ON THE MEND: CM

While addressing BJP executive panel on Thursday, the chief minister shared some mood-brightening news on the economy

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| 1 Economy and govt's financial situation are improving | 3 Irrigation, other major projects listed in budget to move forward |
| 2 Measures limiting spend will be gradually relaxed | 4 Investors remain bullish |

a topic for discussion in the party. He joined a long list of senior BJP members, including Union minister Pralhad Joshi, who have publicly backed the Lingayat strongman in recent weeks.

Thursday's session, led by MP and state BJP chief Nalin Kumar Kateel, focused on strengthening BJP's support base in coastal districts and other regions. While addressing the meeting, Yediyurappa said the state's economy and finances were on the mend

after the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 crisis, and some belt-tightening measures would be relaxed. "MLAs' local area development funds will be restored through release of a second tranche of Rs 50 lakh. The government has also decided to provide Rs 125 crore each to 10 city corporations under the Mahatma Gandhi Nagar Vikas Yojana," he said.

Yediyurappa added that fresh funds would enable MLAs to undertake develop-

RESOLUTIONS AT SESSION

- National Education Policy, 2020, is a good measure and state govt will implement it.
- K'taka BJP welcomes Narendra Modi government's farm-sector reforms, which will help double farmers' income.
- Party praises BS Yediyurappa's efforts towards flood relief and Covid-19 fight.
- State BJP executive committee to meet again in Belagavi on Dec 5.

ment works in their areas and urban local bodies to speed up their projects, especially improving civic amenities.

The chief minister said Karnataka was drawing investors and financial recovery would help the government meet its budgetary promises. "I expect further improvement in the state's finances in two months. All irrigation projects and other major works announced in the budget will be implemented as planned," he said.