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K'TAKA BACKTRACKS ON CRACKER BAN, CM APPEALS FOR GREEN CELEBRATION

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

COMING under severe fire from party leaders and supporters over his government's decision to ban firecrackers this Deepavali, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa took a U-turn — from banning it to appealing that only green crackers be used.

On Friday morning, Yediyurappa said that the government had decided to prohibit

the use of firecrackers this year, given the pandemic situation. Within hours of the announcement which brought appreciation as well as criticism for the CM, Yediyurappa issued a statement later "appealing" to people to use green crackers.

"The government has held discussions and has decided to prohibit the use of firecrackers this Deepavali. A decision has already been taken and orders will be issued soon. Only



for this year, given the Covid-19 pandemic and other issues, firecrackers will be prohibited," the Chief Minister said on Friday morning.

Hours later, he issued a statement saying, "Many suggestions have come in from the public over the sale and use of crackers this Deepavali. The government is doing everything to contain Covid-19. Given the situation, it is deemed fit to celebrate Deepavali in a simple, meaningful, devotional manner keeping public health in mind. In this regard, it is requested that only green crackers are used."

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