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# Uttarakhand CM Rawat resigns

BJP legislature party meeting will elect a new leader for the State today

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Tuesday tendered his resignation to Governor Baby Rani Maurya.

Former Chattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh and Rajya Sabha member Dushyant Gautam, sent by the BJP's national leadership as observers to Dehradun, will conduct a meeting of the legislature party on Wednesday morning to elect a new leader who will become the Chief Minister.

**Complaints within party**  
This brings to an end the crisis surrounding Mr. Rawat's continuance in the post. There were complaints from his own party MLAs and others about his style of functioning and administration. Uttarakhand has had a record of not having a single Chief Minister, except N.D. Tiwari, to have completed a full term since its formation.



**Farewell speech:** Trivendra Singh Rawat addressing a press meet after tendering his resignation, in Dehradun on Tuesday. •PTI

Mr. Rawat, in a presser held after he submitted his two-line resignation letter to Ms. Maurya, said he was "nine days short of completing four years at the helm" and that he was grateful to the BJP and the people for having got an opportunity to serve the State.

Mr. Rawat's continuance had become a question mark after the central observers

submitted a report that underlined serious concerns over his chief ministership.

From being tardy in implementing the 'Chardham yatra' projects to not being accessible to his own party-men, to facing a corruption charge wherein the Uttarakhand High Court had ordered a CBI inquiry against him (later stayed by the Supreme Court but still being

examined), there were a multiplicity of reasons for his removal.

Mr. Rawat was summoned to New Delhi on Monday after a State core committee meeting in Dehradun on Saturday evening. He was given marching orders when he met BJP president J.P. Nadda on Monday evening.

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I feel really honoured that my party gave me the opportunity to serve Devbhoomi for nearly four years  
TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT

This is a failed attempt of the BJP to cover up the failures of its government in the State and hide the corruption taking place there  
DEVENDRA YADAV,  
STATE CONGRESS CHIEF

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## Uttarakhand CM Rawat resigns

उत्तराखण्ड के मुख्यमंत्री

Several names are making the rounds as his likely successor, including Education Minister Dhan Singh Rawat, Satpal Maharaj, and MPs Anil Baluni and Ajay Bhat. Of these, Mr. Dhan Singh Rawat's name has the support of the outgoing Chief Minister as well, according to those in the know.

Sources in the BJP said that Mr. Trivendra Singh Rawat's successor was likely to be another Rajput leader, rather than a Brahmin, as the Congress was being led by former Chief Minister Harish Rawat and political

and caste equations were delicate at this point, barely months away from the Assembly polls. Rajputs constitute around 27% of the electorate and Brahmins around 11%.

While changing a Chief Minister so late in his term is not usually the norm in the BJP, the party's experience in Jharkhand, where refusal to change Raghubar Das, another unpopular Chief Minister, before the polls, had led to a rebellion in the party ranks and the BJP's subsequent defeat in the Assembly polls.