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KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, RESEARCH AND REFERENCE BRANCH

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Uttarakhand CM quits, new name today

VINEET UPADHYAY @Dehradun

AFTER four days of intense lobbying to save his chair, Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** on Tuesday tendered his resignation to Governor Baby Rani Maurya, who asked him to continue in a caretaker position for now.

Rawat is the first BJP chief minister to be replaced mid-stream during the Modi-Shah tenure at the helm. It's also be-

ing read as an indication to other party chief ministers to perform or perish. Had Rawat stayed on, he would have completed four years as CM.

The BJP's Uttarakhand legislature party is scheduled to meet at 10 am on Wednesday to select its new leader. The party's central observers, including national vice-president Dr Raman Singh and national general secre-



tary Dushyant Kumar Gautam, will oversee the change of guard. Leaders like Dhan Singh Rawat, Anil Baluni, Ajay Bhatt and Surendra Bhatt are in the race to replace Rawat.

There is some buzz on the party experimenting with a Brahmin as the new CM, in which case Baluni could be the front-runner. "This is to balance the vote bank in the state," said a source. **PI0**

Golden opportunity
Rawat, who announced his resignation at a press conference, said, "Only in the BJP, a boy who hails from a small village can become chief minister."