

Mystery CD creates buzz, causes heartburn

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A mystery CD has suddenly become the hot topic of conversation in political circles. Former Union Minister and dissident MLA from Vijayapura Basaragouda Patil Yatnal and MLC H Vishwanath, who switched to BJP from the JDS, have spoken about it, and even slammed Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa over it. Many angry BJP leaders refer to the CD "off the record" while criticising the state leadership.

Who has this CD, and what does it contain? At first, there was talk that it contained sexually explicit material, but that was later shot down.

Sources say that it is not just one CD, but a set of seven or eight CDs, and contain details of a top political family's financial dealings.

Reliable sources said the CDs were shot on the sly over a period of time by a person who worked with the family. While the contents are still secret, the family got wind of it and castigated the person, who attempted suicide, but is now out of danger. He has reportedly passed on the CDs to others. There is unconfirmed information about the contents and the identities of those involved, and also that it contains potentially dangerous dialogues and details of transactions recorded over a considerable period of time.

"There is a CD and it will

soon become public," was all Vishwanath said when questioned. "It contains something." There are similar cryptic comments from other leaders too.

Yatnal said, "This has proven that there is a quota in the ministry not only for caste and regional equations, but also for CDs. Two of those who spoke about it have become ministers and one has become political secretary." He refused to divulge the names of the beneficiaries.

The identity of the men and women in it is being spoken about openly, and there is a fair degree of uniformity too. The Chief Minister meanwhile, has neither hit back at Yatnal and Vishwanath, nor offered any explanation, though he has said that a probe can be set up into the mystery CDs.

CD politics

MLA Basaragouda Patil Yatnal, (below) and Vishwanath

Political observers say that this is not the first time a CD has come to haunt Yediyurappa.

About 18 months ago, a CD containing his conversation with JDS MLA Nagangouda Kandakur's son Sharangouda Patil Kandakur had surfaced, in which he had offered them money to switch to the BJP.

In 2017, ministers in the then Siddaramaiah government had put out a CD, purportedly containing a conversation clip between Yediyurappa and late Union Minister Ananth Kumar, about a fake bribe.

File police complaint to find truth: Siddu

Mysuru: Opposition leader Siddaramaiah has challenged Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to file a complaint against those blackmailing him with a secret CD. "Only weak chief ministers can be blackmailed. Let him complain. Let those blackmailing be from any political party," he told media on Thursday. Siddaramaiah said he felt that there is some truth in the charges as they were levelled by Yediyurappa's own party men. "BJP MLAs have openly claimed that many BJP leaders got portfolios by blackmailing (the party) using a CD. The Congress has not made such charges. Let Yediyurappa lodge a complaint so that the truth comes out," he said. **HTS**

CM needs to reply to allegations: Khader

Mangaluru: Congress leader UT Khader on Thursday demanded a clarification from CM BS Yediyurappa and BJP state chief Nalin Kumar Kateel on allegations from disgruntled BJP MLAs that blackmail, money, and secret CDs were used to obtain ministerial berths. Khader referred to Karkala MLA V Sunil Kumar's tweet which said that 'he did not blackmail anyone to get the post' and Basavaraj Patil Yatnal's statement that 'under money and secret CD quota, the CM offered cabinet berths' and said that the CM owes a clarification regarding such statements. "if someone insults the PM, only then it's anti-national. Is insulting the CM not anti-national?" he asked. **HTS**