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More trouble for CM? SC to hear another denotification plea

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Bengaluru: Chief minister BS Yediyurappa recently received a major jolt after the high court turned down his appeal to quash an FIR pertaining to illegal denotification of land in 2006-07 when he was the deputy CM in the BJP-JD(S) coalition government.

The opposition is demanding his resignation and has threatened to protest if he fails

to quit. There's more. On January 21, the Supreme Court will hear a plea by Anti-Corruption Bureau against stay on the probe launched against Yediyurappa for denotifying 257 acres of land from Shivaram Karanth Layout.

In its petition, ACB has claimed that Yediyurappa misused his office as CM and passed orders between 2009 and 2010 to drop 257 of the 3,546 acres meant for layout formation. This caused huge loss to

the exchequer, it has alleged.

ACB had registered two FIRs in 2017 on a complaint filed by D Ayyappa (ex-VC of Alliance University who was killed in October 2019) after conducting preliminary inquiry. On a writ petition filed by Yediyurappa, the HC had stayed the probe and later, ACB had filed a special leave petition.

In 2018, the apex court, in a separate judgement, had pulled up the Karnataka government and Bangalore Develop-

ment Authority for creating a mess around planned development of Bengaluru, directing them not to drop acquisition of about 650 acres of land for Shivaram Karanth Layout. It had taken strong exception to alleged "connivance of influential political persons or otherwise" in excluding large tracts of land from acquisition.

The court had asked former Karnataka high court judge, Justice KN Keshavanarayana, to conduct an inquiry

for "fixing responsibility" on BDA officials and the government for excluding the land. When the state authorities failed to provide sufficient material to the inquiry officer, the court had again taken the government to task, asking it to cooperate and place the requisite records before him.

While senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi is representing Yediyurappa, senior advocate Abhishek M Singhvi is fighting on behalf of ACB.

Vishwanath hits back at Siddaramaiah

BJP MLCH Vishwanath slammed leader of opposition Siddaramaiah for demanding the CM's resignation over the land denotification case. "What will Siddaramaiah do if he's in a spot regarding the Arkavathi land denotification issue?" he said, adding Congress functionaries must stop such vindictive politics.