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SC verdict on internal reservation likely to impact Karnataka BJP too

Report Fallout: Govt Under Pressure From SC/ST Groups To Increase Quota

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Bengaluru: The Supreme Court's Thursday ruling that states can provide internal reservation within Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and socially and educationally backward classes to remove inequalities may have a cascading effect on the ruling BJP in Karnataka.

The state government headed by chief minister BS Yediyurappa is already under pressure from SC/ST groups to enhance the reservation quota from 15 per cent to 17 per cent for SCs and from 3 per cent to 7 per cent for STs after Justice HN Nagamohan Das Commission submitted a report recently.

POLITICS & POLICY

The government is expected to come under pressure from Madiga sect of the SC community to implement the 2012 A J Sadashiva Commission report that favoured internal reservation. As per the report, 101 sub-sects of SC/STs in Karnataka should be broadly divided into four categories — left wing (who identify with former deputy PM Babu Jagji-

vanram), right wing (with BR Ambedkar and Buddhism), other SCs and touchables. Of the 15% reservation extended to SC/STs, the commission recommends 6% reservation for left wing, 5% for right, 1% for other SCs and 3% for touchables. This is to ensure that benefits of quota and welfare schemes reach all the needy.

The BJP will be under pressure this time to implement the report. According to community experts, SCs roughly form 18% of the state's population. Most are grouped under two rival and hierarchical factions — right wing and left

wing. Madigas are under the left wing, while Chalavadis and smaller groups like Lambanis and Bhovis are under the right wing.

Traditionally, both left and right-wing groups supported the Congress, but over the years, the Madigas grew resentful of the clout of Chalavadi leaders because only some reservation benefits reached the community in education, government jobs and politics. The BJP began to woo them in the early 2000s by giving prominence to their leaders like present deputy chief minister Govind M Karjol and community



“It's a welcome decision. I'll discuss the issue with chief minister BS Yeddyurappa and take a call

Govind Karjol | DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

“It's too early to say anything. As a constitutional amendment is required to Article 341, only Parliament is empowered to do it; states can only recommend



KH Muniyappa | FORMER UNION MINISTER

“It was a ruling of a five-judge bench and we're awaiting the orders of a seven-judge bench which is examining the application of the creamy layer for reservations to SC/STs

Priyank Kharge | FORMER MINISTER FOR SOCIAL WELFARE



“The SC ruling addresses a long-standing demand that benefits of reservations must be enjoyed by all segments within a caste category and not be monopolised by a few. Within Scheduled Castes and Tribes, studies have shown that benefits of reservation have reached only a few caste groups in the state. It's true with regard to OBCs — **Sandeep Shastri** | POLITICAL ANALYST



State should not borrow from RBI: Oppn

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The opposition Congress and JD(S) on Saturday urged the BJP-led Karnataka government not to borrow from the Reserve Bank of India to make up for the delay in GST compensation by the Centre.

“Higher borrowing will burden the government with interest payment. It will hurt the state's credit rating and borrowing capacity,” opposition

GST DUES

leader in the assembly Siddaramaiah said. “The Centre has to pay Karnataka Rs 13,764 crore as GST compensation from April 1. The amount is projected to increase to Rs 27,000 crore by January 2021. Delay in transferring dues will hurt the state's finances,” he added.

JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy also said borrowing would affect Karnataka's financial stability.

started leaning to the BJP.

In 2010, when BJP was in power in the state, it released Rs 12 crore to expedite the work of Sadashiva Commission, set up in 2005 by the Congress-JDS government. The commission submitted its report in early 2012 when DV Sadananda Gowda was the CM. In 2013, when Congress came to power, it was referred to a cabinet sub-committee.

“The government should either accept it or reject it. If they don't want to consider it, let it be set on fire,” said Justice AJ Sadashiva at a seminar last August.