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# Kateel stuns BSY camp, to head state unit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Four-time MP and RSS ideologue Nalin Kumar Kateel will succeed BS Yediyurappa as state BJP president. Hours after Yediyurappa expanded his 26-day-old cabinet, the party's central leadership announced Kateel as the new president of the state unit.

The appointment comes as a big setback to Yediyurappa, who had been advocating



Dalit leader and Mahadevapura legislator Arvind Limbavali for the post. Speculation was rife that he wasn't considered after a sleazy video, purportedly showing him in bad light, went viral.

It is also speculated that he lost the race because BL Santosh, BJP national general secretary (organisation), backed

Kateel's candidature to keep Yediyurappa under control. Santosh had earlier backed Chikkamagaluru MLA CT Ra-

vi, who was reportedly inducted into the cabinet by Yediyurappa to make way for Limbavali. Kateel was seen as a consensus candidate.

### RSS firebrand

Considered to be a strong Hindutva advocate, Kateel, 53, grew through the rank and file of the Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangh (RSS). He was born in 1966 and is married with two daughters. Kateel studied only till the 10th standard.

Kateel is not known to shy away from controversy. As

recently as in March, he was censured by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party national president Amit Shah for comparing former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi with Godse, celebrating the latter as the lesser of the two alleged villains.

"Godse killed just one. Ajmal Kasab killed 72. Rajiv Gandhi killed 17,000. Now you tell us who is most gruesome murderer?" Kateel had tweeted. The BJP leader later deleted the tweet and apologised after it triggered a huge controversy nationwide.