

In an election year, K'taka cabinet rejig a tricky affair

BJP and CM Bommai keen on major rejig in ministry to infuse dynamism; situation awkward with the govt facing flurry of allegations

RAMU PATIL @Bengaluru

AS suspense over the much-talked about changes in the government continues, the ruling BJP seems to be facing a tricky situation as it cannot afford to get anything wrong in an election year, especially at a time when the government is facing a flurry of allegations.

The BJP and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai are said to be keen on a major rejig in the ministry to infuse dynamism in the government, by bringing in new faces and utilising the experience of senior leaders to strengthen the party ahead of the 2023 polls. "It is a tricky situation as the number of aspirants is high. They will be looking at a number of aspects, including the likely impact of dropping seniors from the ministry and making them work for the party, and also placating aspirants who will not be accommodated in the ministry," sources said.

The CM and party will be striving to give adequate representation to all communities and regions, and ensure the right mix of youth and experience in the cabinet. However, the exercise has to be carried out without antagonising those



Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minister Giriraj Singh, Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje at the launch of World Bank Assisted 'REWARD' Programme in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

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who will be dropped, and suitably accommodating those who fail to make it to the ministry. Bommai is going full throttle in implementing programmes announced in the budget, and will be keen to ensure proper coordination between the party and government, to take state and central government programmes to the people.

Sources in the party said everything has been finalised and Bommai is said to be waiting

for the high command's nod to go ahead with the changes. Currently, five berths in the cabinet are vacant, but the plan is to make major changes and not just go for expansion, sources said. "The CM and central leaders will take the final call on expansion or reshuffle," sources added.

Explaining the delicate situation faced by the CM and BJP, political analyst Prof Sandeep Shastri said there is a danger of expanding the cabinet when there are so many claimants. "You have minimal places and many people looking for positions. So, it is always useful to keep the bait and show it around. Once you fill up the positions, how are you going to deal with dissenters?" he said.

The challenge is to shake up the administration a bit ahead of the polls, and at the same time satisfy all the claimants for positions in the government and party. But that is not an easy task, especially as the government is taking a long time to even make appointments to boards and corporations. Sources in the party said over 4,800 people have been appointed to various positions at the taluk level, and state-level appointments will be done soon.

Bommai could turn BJP's fortunes in Old Mysore belt

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

Winning the 2023 elections definitely tops the BJP's agenda today. The party is known to be on slippery ground in Old Mysore, and some party leaders have expressed concern that it doesn't have winning candidates in 90-100 constituencies, where its support base is insignificant.

In such a scenario, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who started his career in the Janata Parivar, could turn the party's fortunes around in this belt.

Bommai's long years spent in the Janata Party, under the tutelage of the grand old man of Karnataka politics H D Deve Gowda, appears to be coming in handy.

While his father S R Bommai too had served as chief minister, and also as Janata Dal national president, Basavaraj cut his teeth as parliamentary secretary to then

chief minister J H Patel. Soon after, he became an MLC and after Deve Gowda demitted office as prime minister, Basavaraj was his shadow and developed deep political insights into the politics of South Karnataka.

It is Bommai's study of Old Mysore which has given him a certain proximity with the JDS leadership, and his familiarity with areas where JDS has a particularly strong presence is helping him chalk out a programme to re-establish BJP rule in 2023.

This game plan appears to be the strategy for the party to do well in Old Mysore in the remaining 10 months, and sweep the BJP back to power. He has prepared an elaborate list of areas they need to focus on, called the 'C list'. Home Minister Amit Shah, president J P Nadda has stressed the need to strengthen the BJP here to cross the important 113-mark.



Will not allow anti-YSRCP vote to split: Pawan Kalyan

ENS @Kurnool

Yet again speaking on the political alliances in Andhra Pradesh, Janasena party chief Pawan Kalyan said there is a need for ensuring that the anti-YSRCP party vote is not split. However, at the same time, he maintained that his party has a cent percent alliance with BJP.

Pawan Kalyan on Sunday was in Nandyal district as part of his 'Koulu Rythu Bharosa Yatra' to hand over ₹1 lakh cheques each to the families of tenant farmers, who reportedly died of suicide due to debt traps. Addressing mediapersons in Sirivella village of Nandyal, he said an alternative ruling is required for the future of Andhra Pradesh state to free people from the chaotic rule of YCP and his wish is to take Janasena Party forward to ensure it.

Asani intensifies into severe cyclonic storm

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Vijayawada

CYCLONIC storm Asani that has formed over southeast Bay of Bengal intensified into a severe cyclonic storm on Sunday evening and was moving at 14 kmph in northwest direction. At 5.30 pm, Sunday, it was centred around 810 km southeast of Visakhapatnam and 880 km south-southeast of Puri in Odisha. Asani, Sinhalese for 'wrath', is the first tropical storm of the year.

An India Meteorological Department (IMD) bulletin predicted the possibility of the cyclone moving northwestwards till May 10 night and reach

west-central and adjoining north Andhra Pradesh and Odisha coasts. It might recurve north-northeastwards without making landfall and move towards northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha before fizzling out.

IMD predicted light to moderate rainfall likely at few places with heavy rainfall at isolated places over north coastal Andhra Pradesh on May 10 and 11 under the influence of the severe cyclone. Squally wind, touching 40-50 kmph and gusting to 60 kmph, is likely over coastal north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining coastal districts of Odisha.

According to the Andhra

Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) sea condition is likely to be high to very high over central parts of Bay of Bengal on May 9, and over west central and adjoining northwest and east central Bay on May 10 and 11. Sea condition is likely to become high to very high over northwest west Bay of Bengal on May 12. Fishermen have been advised against venturing into the sea till Thursday (May 12) and those already out in the sea, have been asked to return immediately. Srikakulam district collector alerted the revenue, police and other department officials in wake of severe cyclone and possible heavy rains.

14 kmph

is the current speed of Cyclonic storm Asani moving in the northwest direction

Squally wind, touching 40-50 kmph and gusting to 60 kmph, is likely over coastal north Andhra Pradesh

Officials say the hike is nominal

ENS @Hyderabad

Many consumers' bills includes customers charges ranging from ₹100 to ₹150 besides the fixed and additional charges.

The officials, however, said that the hike is nominal and the tariff is increased after a gap of six years in the State. "Other States have also increased the power tariff and are not able to provide uninterrupted electricity. However, in spite of the hike being nominal, we are able to supply quality power to all sectors," said an official.

According to them, the average cost of service per unit is ₹7.29-₹7.50, while the lowest tariff is ₹1.95 per unit as the

Discoms provide subsidies to consumers. "We did not transfer any burden on to the consumers. Compared to the price hike of all commodities in recent times, the increase in power tariff per unit is minimal," said an official.

On the other hand, there are also a few complaints that even though their houses are locked and have not used power, they have received high power bills. "My house is locked for the whole month, still a ₹656 bill was generated. When I have asked the person who has generated the bill, he said that your meter is not working so generated this bill," said Sainath Elendula, a consumer.

POWER SHOCK

Power traffic increased by 50 paise per unit

Power hike implemented after five years in State

Discoms include high customer charges in bills

There are over 50 lakh electricity consumers in GHMC limits

WELCOME GUEST

Acid attack victim attends sister's wedding virtually

SHILPA P @Bengaluru

THE family of acid attack victim Aasha (name changed) completed her sister's wedding on Sunday. The event, which was supposed to be a happy occasion, turned into a mere ritual, as the bride's sister Aasha is lying in ICU at St John's Hospital.

While her sister had agreed to go ahead with the marriage only if Aasha didn't cry, the acid attack victim struggled hard to hold back her tears even as she attended the wedding reception virtually on a video call from the mobile phone of her cousin.

As both Aasha and her family members could not control their emotions, the video call was stopped after the ceremony that was held between 7 pm and 9 pm. The family decided not to hurt Aasha further and avoided making a call to her between 9 am and 9.30 am on Sunday during the muhurtham was fixed.

As per Aasha's wishes, the family members packed the wedding lunch and sent it to her.

Aasha's aunt, in whose house the accused Nagesh was staying on rent seven years ago, has been next to Aasha since April 28. Aasha's uncle Sundaresh said.

Aasha has nightmares of being attacked again by Nagesh, Sundaresh added. "She keeps asking whether he has been caught. The police have interrogated over 40 people, including his family members, relatives and friends, but there are no clues about his location," he said.

"Aasha underwent another surgery on Friday. She is still in the ICU and doctors told us that she has to be in the hospital for at least two months," he said.

Women's Commission chairperson Pramila Naidu, who had been invited for the wedding, said she could not attend as she was out of town.

Pramila Naidu said she is getting calls from relatives of Nagesh too, saying they are being harassed by the police, though they were not connected to the accused. "The accused has switched off his phone. Police are doing their best to trace him," she said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my Clients namely V.Sreyasree W/O Sreeram Reddy aged about 36 years Occupation House wife Resident of Flat No 202 Gaikwood Apartment Nanadagiri Hills Jubhilis and V.Vajrendar Rao Late RD Bhuvan Reddy aged about 65 years Occupation Business Resident of Plot No 147, Prashanth Nagar Jubhilis, were absolute owners and possessors of the property admeasuring 0-09 gts in Sy.No 358/A and as per pahani 358/A1 situated at Pupalguda Village Gandipet mandal Ranga Reddy District within the jurisdiction of SRO, Gandipet. That they purchased this property through registered sale deed bearing Document No. 5578 of 2017 dated 23-8-2017 executed by Mr. Sa. Krishna. That my clients vend delivered physical possession and since then my clients enjoying the possession as bonafide purchasers. That my clients also got digital passbook from revenue authority. Subsequently Aparna Constructions and estates private limited pupalguda created some document and tried to occupy this property. Immediately my client filed suit for injunction through O.S 180 of 2019 on the file of I Additional Junior Civil Judge, Rajendranagar and the matter is still pending before the Hon'ble court. That this Hon'ble court pleased to dismissed main I.A and my clients also filed CMA before District court. That even pending of civil matters the said Aparna Constructions and estates private limited pupalguda taken permission from MDA. Perusal of the above referred Aparna Constructions and estates private limited pupalguda also given paper add regarding their venture. That the said Suit is pending for adjudication. Perusal of the above would disclose that the ongoing litigation is pending before the Hon'ble Civil Court and also before the Hon'ble District Court with respect to the property ad measuring 0-09 gts in Sy.No 358/A and as per pahani 358/A1 situated at Pupalguda Village Gandipet mandal Ranga Reddy District the respondent in the suit Aparna Constructions and estates private limited pupalguda is making efforts to deal with the said flat by entering into negotiations with the third parties and as such the general public who are intending to enter into any sort of agreement with respect to above mentioned Schedule property are hereby warned not to negotiate and not to enter into any sort of agreement or sale deeds with the above referred Aparna Constructions and estates private limited pupalguda and/ or with any other persons/ the same is not binding on my Clients they will be prosecuted before the Court of law. Date: 09-05-2022. S. RAGHUNATH REDDY, G. RAVINDER PRADY, ADVOCATES # 9-1-33/18, Prashanth Nagar, Langarhouse, Hyderabad

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