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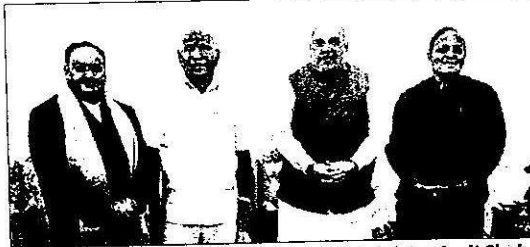
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Cabinet rejig on Jan 13: CM

BSY gets OK from top brass; to induct 7 ministers, Nagesh likely to be dropped

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The BJP central leadership on Sunday gave approval to Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to rejig his Cabinet by dropping one minister and inducting seven. Yediyurappa—who met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JPNadda in New Delhi to seek



Chief Minister Yediyurappa with Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president J P Nadda (L), and BJP Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh (R) in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

their nod for the much-awaited Cabinet expansion—later told media at the Bengaluru airport that the Cabinet will be expanded on January 13.

"The list will be finalised by Monday morning. The new ministers will be sworn in on

January 13," he said.

Though Yediyurappa is learnt to have been keen on a major reshuffle by dropping five to six ministers, the central leaders allowed him to drop one minister and fill seven berths. Excise Minister H

Nagesh is likely to be dropped.

"There was a detailed discussion on Cabinet expansion... 101% this is the last meeting. They are going to clear the names as soon as possible," he said earlier in New Delhi.

On whether it would be an expansion or a reshuffle, he said, "Wait and watch. The party top leaders will soon communicate their decision."

At present, there are seven berths vacant in the 34-member Cabinet. Dropping one minister will allow Yediyurappa to accommodate eight new faces. However, the high command has asked the CM to keep one berth vacant and fill seven slots, sources told DH. Cabinet, Page 4

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Three turncoat legislators — R Shankar, M T B Nagaraj and Munirathna — will likely be inducted. Among BJP old-timers, Umesh Katti, C P Yogeeswar, Raju Gouda and Arvind Limbavali are the front-runners for Cabinet berths, according to sources.

State party in-charge Arun



B S Yediyurappa

Delhi.

Though Yediyurappa was accompanied by his son and Karnataka BJP vice-president B Y Vijayendra, only the CM was allowed to meet the central leaders.

This was the third trip by Yediyurappa to the national capital, seeking BJP high command's approval for rejig.

Bypolls discussed

Yediyurappa said talks were also held on the upcoming bypolls for Basavakalyan and Maski Assembly constituencies, and Belagavi Parliamentary constituency.

"They asked me to send the names of the candidates at the earliest for clearance," he said.

The final names of candidates for the upcoming Assembly bypolls will be cleared as early as possible because it was a "positive, fruitful and satisfactory discussion", the CM said.

Singh was also present at the hour-long meeting held at Shah's residence at Krishna Menon Marg in