

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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Vijayanagara to be 31st district of Karnataka

Cabinet approves demand to bifurcate Ballari district

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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The Karnataka Cabinet on Wednesday approved the long-standing demand for carving out Vijayanagara district from the existing Ballari district. Vijayanagara will be the 31st district of the State.

A Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa decided to bifurcate Ballari and fulfil the demand of Forest and Environment Minister B.S. Anand Singh, who quit the Congress in 2019 by tendering resignation to the membership of the Legislative Assembly and helped bring the BJP to power.

The issue was highlighted in the run-up to the byelec-

tion to Vijayanagara constituency as well.

Mr. Yediyurappa had assured Mr. Singh that a new district would be carved out of Ballari and named after the Vijayanagara empire that ruled from this region.

The new district is likely to have the taluks of Hosapete, Kampli, Hagaribommanahalli, Hoovinahadagalli, Harapanahalli, and Kottur.

Ballari, Siruguppa, Sandur, Kurugodu, and Kudligi taluks are likely to be retained in Ballari district.

The decision on the bifurcation is now being seen as a move by Mr. Yediyurappa to promote Mr. Singh as a counterweight to the Reddy

brothers of Ballari and Social Welfare Minister B. Sriramulu.

In 2019, ahead of bypolls to 15 Assembly constituencies, Mr. Yediyurappa chaired an all-party meeting on the formation of Vijayanagara district, but Congress legislators opposed the proposal of dividing the district just ahead of the elections. BJP MLA G. Somashekara Reddy had opposed the formation of the new district. Congress MP Syed Naseer Hussain suggested renaming Ballari district as Vijayanagara district.

The demand for a new district dates back to 2007, but it had remained on the back burner.