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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE 19/11/20

Vijayanagara set to be 31st district

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
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Bengaluru: Vijayanagara, named after the capital of the historic Vijayanagara Empire, is set to become Karnataka's 31st district. The state cabinet approved a proposal on Wednesday to carve out six of the 11 taluks of Ballari into Vijayanagara.

The decision to create a district—after nearly a decade—is being seen as a bid to placate forest minister and Vijayanagara MLA **Anand Singh**, among others, who played a key role in installing the current BJP government. Singh has been mounting pressure to split Ballari, primarily to free it of the influence of the Reddy brothers and their confidant, B Sriramulu. "It was a long-standing demand and I thank the CM and my cabinet colleagues for approving this plan," Singh said



► Final decision soon, P 4

'Final decision at next meeting'

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After a delegation led by Singh met him in September last year, chief minister BS Yediyurappa had agreed to the proposal and announced that he would place the matter before the cabinet for approval.

The decision was met with protests in Ballari led by BJP MLAs. Farmer associations, lawyer outfits and pro-Kannada groups led by BJP MLAs Somashekara Reddy and G Karunakara Reddy, both brothers of ex-minister and mining baron G Janardhana Reddy, protested the move, forcing Yediyurappa to defer the plan. Sriramulu, a minister in the Yediyurappa government, also opposed it.

While Sriramulu, in a U-turn, welcomed the cabinet decision, Somashekar Reddy said, "the move will not be of any help to the people of Ballari. They will teach those involved an appropriate lesson in the next elections."

On Wednesday, law minister JC Madhuswamy said an "informal" approval has been given and a final decision will be taken at the next meeting, delineating which taluks and boundaries will be included in the new district. According to the proposal, Hospete, Kampli, Hagari-bommanahalli, Kottur, Hadagali and Harapanahalli will comprise the new district of Vijayanagara.

Full report: toi.in