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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Case Matter

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 19/12/20

BBMP elections to be delayed as apex court stays HC order

SC Move Comes As A Big Relief To Yediyurappa Govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Supreme Court on Friday stayed the Karnataka high court order of December 4 stipulating BBMP polls for 198 wards and posted the next hearing on February 5.

The high court had directed the state election commission to ensure completion of the delimitation process within a month, and to announce the poll schedule within six weeks thereafter.

The SC move comes as a big relief for the BJP government which has sought deferment of the polls. Sources said the state government on Friday orally

'HC CANNOT BYPASS LEGISLATION'

> On Dec 4, Karnataka HC said BBMP polls would be held for 198 wards and directed the state poll panel to issue a schedule within 10 weeks

> State government argued that the high court could not ignore the amendment passed by legislature to increase the number of BBMP wards to 243

> Petitions in SC argue that the number of wards was increased to ensure greater representation to marginalised sections

> Staying HC order, the SC posts matter for February 5, indicating BBMP polls will be further delayed. The corporation's term ended in Sept



sought eight months' time to conduct the polls.

In addition to citing the prevailing Covid pandemic, the state government and other petitioners contended that the high court could not ignore the Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Act, 2020 passed by the state legislature, through which the number of BBMP wards was increased to 243.

They said it was done to ensure wider representation to marginalised sections of society which live in the city.

They also claimed that the state election commission (SEC) has no locus standi to challenge the amendment legislation; instead, it is duty-bound to implement legislation passed by the state legislature.

► Delimitation panel, P 6

24 (A)

Delimitation panel yet to submit report

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A three-member Supreme Court bench headed by chief justice SA Bobde and comprising justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian admitted the special leave petition filed by the Karnataka government challenging the order and issued notice to the SEC and the petitioners, including Abdul Wajid and M Shivaraj.

The SEC said the Delimitation Commission is yet to submit its recommendation for dividing the corporation into 243 wards and the exercise would take considerable time to complete.

BBMP's term expired on September 10, not due to inaction of the state but in view of the prevalent pandemic, the petitioners claimed. "It is disappointing that civic polls are being delayed but we will continue our fight in the Supreme Court," said Wajid.
