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Cabinet approves border limits for new Vijayanagara district

Six Taluks Will **Be Carved Out** From Ballari

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Despite some protests against the plan to split allari district, BS Yedi-yura, a's fabinet on Friday approved the borders of the new Vijayanagara district. Hospet will be the capital of Karnataka's 31st district, which will comprise six taluks carved out of Ballari.

On November 18, the chief minister had given an informal nod for the formation of Vijayanagara and directed officials to draw up boundaries before moving the file for official approval.

POLITICS & POLICY

Law and parliamentary affairs minister JC Madhuswamy said that Vijay. district would anagara include Hospet, Harappanahalli, Hoovinahadagali, Hagari Bommanahalli, Kottaru and Kudligi taluks. "Hospet, which is located



AGRI DISTRESS: Farmers protest in Mysuru on Friday. There have been stirs against central policies in many parts of the country

about 12km from Hampi, will be the district headquarters. We will issue a notification soon," he added.

The government has defended the decision to bifurcate Ballari, saying two small or mid-sized districts are easier to manage and develop than one large region. The move will provide a political boost to mining baron and forest minister BS Anand Singh, who had championed the cause for a separate Vijayanagara district. In September last year, Yediyurappa had acknowledged Singh's proposal.

The Kalyana-Karnataka

Horata Samiti had observed a Ballari bandh against the bifurcation proposal on Thursday, but it received a poor response.

Meanwhile, the cabinet has cleared a grant of Rs 52.5 crore for the Maski Nala Yojana ahead of the anticipated assembly bypoll in the constituency. The date for the vote has not been announced yet.

The cabinet also approved tender proposals of insurance firms HDFC, SBI and C in connection with the crop insurance scheme for three financial years, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23.

STEPS ON HOUSING, METRO BOARD

- · Govt amends labour laws to increase the number of leaves one can carry forward from 30 to 45 days.
- 98 housing projects worth Rs 7,000 crore cleared. They will be completed in three years.
- Namma Metro board will include Bengaluru police commissioner, railway divisional manager and KRIDE director as members. The board will have a total of 11 members.
- Shiyamogga airport project to get Rs 384 crore instead of Rs 224 crore approved earlier.
- · 30 gram panchayats and taluk panchayats to be upgraded.
- State to sign deal with STPI for construction of a centre of excellence in Al, Internet of Things and other technologies at a cost of more than Rs 26 crore.

Govt's latest stand on BBMP elections

aw minister JC Madhuswamy said on Friday that the government had sought time from the Karnataka high court to carry out delimitation of BBMP wards and



increase the number of wards. "Our petition has already mentioned the need to have delimitation of BBMP wards based on the interim report submitted by the joint select committee. We have also told the court that there is going to be an increase in Bengaluru's population and this makes it impractical to

govern with the existing setup. But if the State Election Commission and the court want us to go ahead with the election, we are ready for it," he said.