

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ / ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Minister

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: THE DEVIAN

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ವಿಷಯ : THE DEVIAN

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 17/11/2018

17 ministers in Yediyurappa 2.0 Cabinet; party walks tightrope

Lingayats get lion's share of berths; 4 debutants included in ministry

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BENGALURU, DHNS

Seventeen ministers were inducted into Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's Cabinet on Tuesday, in an exercise that was seen as a balancing act, with the Lingayat community, the party's core support base, being rewarded with a lion's share of berths.

The BJP central leadership appears to have struck a balance between what Yediyurappa wanted and what would be good for the party, keeping experience, caste and regional factors in mind.

In the 18-member Cabinet now, there are eight Lingayats, including Yediyurappa. There are three Vokkaligas, three Dalits, one ST, two backward classes and one Brahmin.

Former chief minister Jagdish Shettar is now back as

a minister, and so are former deputy CMs K S Eshwarappa and R Ashoka. The new Cabinet also has four debutant ministers — J C Madhuswamy, Shashikala Jolle, Prabhu Chauhan and C N Ashwathnarayan — while 13 others served as ministers when the BJP was in power previously.

Governor Vajubhai R Vala administered the oath of office and secrecy to the 17 ministers

in a ceremony that lasted about 47 minutes at Raj Bhavan, where family members and supporters of the inductees turned up in large numbers.

Yediyurappa himself will not have a major grouse with the names finalised by the BJP central leadership for the ministerial berths.

However, it is said that the CM had pitched for the inclusion of Haladi Srinivas Shetty,

K Poornima, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and S Angara, which the top leadership ignored. Much as the BJP may claim to have given representation to castes and communities, the party's own leaders are upset that the coastal region, which saw a saffron wave in the Assembly polls last year, has got just one berth and that too, MLC Kota Srinivas Poojary.

► Cabinet, Page 7



J C Madhuswamy (left) acknowledges his slip after taking oath as 'chief minister' at Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa and Governor Vajubhai Vala are also seen. DH PHOTO/JANARDHAN R K

Kateel new BJP state chief

Dakshina Karnataka MP Nalin Kumar Kateel has been appointed as BJP Karnataka unit



president by the party's national president Amit Shah. Page 6

Dissidence

brews in party

Soon after 17 ministers took oath, dissidence in the BJP was out in the open. Leaders like Umesh Katti and Murugesh Nirani were among the 20 plus legislators who skipped the event. Page 7

Flood relief first task

The floods in the state set the agenda for the maiden meeting of the 18-member Cabinet on Tuesday where it was decided that the new ministers should rush to flood-hit districts. Page 6

17 ministers in Yediyurappa 2.0 Cabinet...

CABINET, FROM PAGE 1

In all, 17 districts do not have representation in the Cabinet at present. Bengaluru has got four berths — two each for Ashoka, V Somanna and S Suresh Kumar. The old Mysuru region, which comprises Mysuru, Mandya, Hassan, Chamrajnagar and Ramanagaram and where the BJP has not made much electoral inroads, has gone unrepresented.

But the BJP hopes to take advantage of its three Vokkaliga ministers — Ashoka, Ashwanarayan and CT Ravi — to infiltrate the region dominated by this community.

Also, Ravi's induction was seen as clearing the path for Aravind Limabavali, a Dalit (Bhovi) leader who is a former minister, to replace Yediyurappa as the state BJP president. But with the party appointing Nalin Kumar Kateel for the post, Limabavali has been left in the lurch. Ravi was also a contender for the post.

The induction of former minister Laxman Savadi was unexpected, sources said. In

fact, Savadi is currently unelected and speculation is rife that he may besent to the Legislative Council to ratify his Cabinet berth.