

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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With party's nod, BSY set to expand cabinet on Jan 13

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Sankranti is set to arrive one day early for ministerial aspirants in the state. Karnataka chief minister BS Yediyurappa on Sunday night said that he has secured the nod of the central leadership and will carry out the long-delayed expansion of the cabinet in the afternoon of January 13.

After a 40-minute meeting with Union home minister Amit Shah, Yediyurappa told reporters that he had "sweet" news about the reshuffle.

"We had a very fruitful meeting, and I'm happy with the outcome. He has given the seal of approval for the cabinet expansion," he added.

After the collapse of the Congress-JD(S) government in the state, BJP took the power baton in July 2019. It currently has seven cabinet vacancies, and the previous reshuffle took place nearly a year ago in February 2020.



Central leaders may approve the names and send the list to CM BS Yediyurappa today

The CM said that he will fill all the seven vacancies and the list is expected to be ready by Monday. But he did not elaborate on the likely changes. "Well, I can't answer it for now. The leadership approves the names and gives us a list. You will know it then," said the CM.

Sources said the central leadership will reportedly approve the names and send

Parties rush to pick bypoll candidates

BJP and Congress are in a hurry to shortlist candidates for bypolls to Belagavi Lok Sabha constituency, Basavakalyan and Maski assembly segments. The elections are likely to be held in late February or early March, report **BV Shivashankar & Shreyas HS**. Ahead of 2023 elections, the bypolls will be another high-voltage clash after Sira & RR Nagar polls. **P 3**

the list to the chief minister by Monday evening.

Sources claimed that the central leadership reportedly backed Yediyurappa and spiked doubts over leadership change. When asked whether he would complete the term as CM, the Lingayat strongman said, "It is a question which only you can answer."

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CM: Bypoll victories discussed

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Yediyurappa said discussions with Shah also focused on the successful gram panchayat elections, the recent bypoll victories and the need to announce candidates' names for by-elections to Belagavi Lok Sabha seat and the two assembly segments of Maski and Basavakalyan.

In the presence of BJP national president JP Nadda and party national general secretary (in charge of Karnataka) Arun Singh, Shah reportedly allayed fears of Yediyurappa over the Karnataka high court ruling in the land denotification case — in which the probe will continue against him — and said it will have no bearing on his continuance as CM.

Asked whether the issues raised by BJP lawmaker Basangouda Patil Yatra were brought up during the meeting, Yediyurappa said: "On this happy occasion, why (do we) talk of that issue? I don't wish to respond (to that question)." The CM, accompanied by son and party state vice-president BY Vijayendra, returned to Bengaluru at night.