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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 14/1/2021

7 new entrants to BSY cabinet, excise minister Nagesh quits

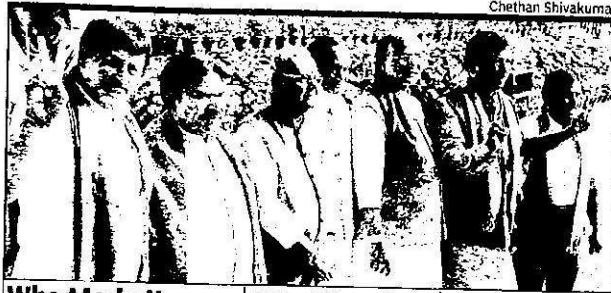
Party Brass Nudge Out Munirathna

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Chief minister BS Yediyurappa on Wednesday inducted seven ministers into his cabinet, including two defectors whose exit from the previous JD(S)-Congress government paved the way for the formation of the BJP government in July 2019.

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After nightlong suspense over the names on the list, the new entrants to the 17-month-old cabinet were MLAs Umesh V Katti (Hukkeri), Aravind Limbavali (Mahade-



Chethan Shivakumar

Who Made It

(From left) CP Yogeshwar, R Shankar, Umesh V Katti, MTB Nagaraj, Aravind Limbavali, Murgesh Nirani and S Angara

Who Missed

N Munirathna (RR Nagar MLA): While the CM backed his entry, the party leadership was reportedly not in favour

Quick Exit

H Nagesh resigns as excise minister, to head the Dr BR Ambedkar Development Corporation with cabinet rank

vapura), S Angara (Sullia) and Murugesha Nirani (Bilgi); and MLAs R Shankar, MTB Nagaraj and CP Yogeshwar.

Governor Vajubhai Vala administered the oath of offi-

ce to the ministers at Raj Bhavan in a simple ceremony with limited guests, owing to Covid-19 protocol in place. Prominent among those who attended included BJP gene-

ral secretary in charge of Karnataka Arun Singh and BJP state unit president Nalin Kumar Kateel.

Late evening, excise minister H Nagesh was dropped from the cabinet and appointed chairman of the Dr BR Ambedkar Development Corporation, with the rank of cabinet minister. The incumbent chairman of the corporation, S Munikrishna, has been moved to Marketing Communication and Advertising Ltd.

A communication from the CM's office said Nagesh voluntarily resigned as minister and opted for a new post. The move came hours after Nagesh attended the cabinet meeting and expressed confidence that he would continue in office.

► Some feel left out, P 4

Resentment as some MLAs feel left out

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While Shankar, Nagaraj and Yogeshwar — seen to have helped form the BJP government — were rewarded for their "sacrifice", RR Nagar MLA N Munirathna reportedly fell off the list at the last minute following a direction from the central party leadership. During his campaign for the RR Nagar bypoll held in November last year, Yediyurappa had openly declared that Munirathna would be made a minister if he is elected. Soon after the expansion, Munirathna, along with deputy CM CN Ashwath Narayana, met Arun Singh and is understood to have made his

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case for a ministry.

With the induction of Limbavali, Yediyurappa's cabinet will now have eight ministers representing Bengaluru while Katti's entry takes the Belagavi contingent to five. The number of MLAs rose to five, with Shankar, Nagaraj and Yogeshwar joining deputy CM Laxman Savadi

and muzrai minister Kota Shrinivas Poojary. This is the third expansion of the Yediyurappa cabinet in 17 months and it is now at full strength — 34 — on the basis of the size of the House, as per constitutional norms.

Resentment erupted after Yediyurappa announced the names of seven ministers earlier in the day. A dozen miffed party legislators expressed severe reservations about MLAs being made ministers, lack of representation to some regions and "seniority or sacrifice" being disregarded. Senior BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and MLC AH Vishwanath went on to accuse the chief minister of acting under blackmail while others alleged money had exchanged hands.