

No more new taluks for next 15 months

BANGALORE: Formation of new taluks, districts, municipalities or even making changes in jurisdiction of police stations will have to wait till March 31, 2011, with the State government freezing boundaries of administrative units for the next 15 months.

The move comes in the wake of forthcoming houselisting operations scheduled to start in April this year. The Revenue Department on December 24, 2009, has issued an order placing a blanket ban on making any changes in the boundaries of existing municipalities, revenue villages, tahsils, police stations, development blocks, taluks, sub-divisions, district till the completion of the Census 2011 operations in the State.

The order follows directions from the Registrar General, India, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi that administrative units should not be disturbed after the demarcation of enumeration blocks, Directorate of Census Operations, Karnataka Director T K Anil Kumar said.

Census exercise is conducted based on enumeration blocks which are drawn within existing administrative units. As Decem-

ber 31 was the last date for finalising any changes in boundaries of administrative units, the government rushed to notify the creation of the State's 30th district Yadgir on the New Year's eve.

Freezing of administrative boundaries has several implications in the state. The recommendation of the State Taluk Reorganisation Committee headed by former bureaucrat M B Prakash to create 43 more taluks will have to be put on the backburner for the time being. The recommendation of the committee had opened a Pandora's box with demand for creation of more new taluks, prompting the government to refer the report submitted by the panel to a Cabinet sub-committee.

Besides, the Government now cannot tinker with the boundaries of gram panchayats or even upgrade cluster of GPs to urban local bodies. Sources said the Government had planned to upgrade several GPs to town panchayats ahead of elections to more than 5,500 GPs in the next two to three months.

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