

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
 PAPER CLIPPINGS

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Govt announces development panel for Lingayats now

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Even as the decision to set up the Maratha Development Authority triggered a controversy, the Karnataka government on Tuesday announced the Veerashaiva-Lingayat Development Authority for overall development of a major community.



Chief minister BS Yeddyurappa directed chief secretary

TM Vijaya Bhasker to take steps for this with immediate effect. There's no mention of funds to be earmarked for it unlike other community-based entities announced recently.

The decision came barely 24 hours after a delegation of Lingayat ministers led by deputy chief minister Laxman Savadi met Yeddyurappa about this matter.

The decision is seen in some political circles as a damage control exercise since the government is facing flak for

Pro-Kannada groups plan bandh on Dec 5

lamming BS Yeddyurappa's announcement about setting up the Maratha Development Authority, some pro-Kannada organisations have called for a Karnataka Bandh on December 5 against the CM's decision which they dubbed "anti-Karnataka". P 5

setting up MDA with an eye on upcoming bypolls.

Another major community, the Vokkaliga, has demanded a similar authority. BJP MLA and CM's political secretary SR Vishwanath said he and other Vokkaliga MLAs will meet Yeddyurappa soon about it. The move also drew criticism, especially from seers of Lingayat mutts. Ministers belonging to the community welcomed the decision claiming it would help economically poor people in the community.

> Seer: Help all poor, P 5

Seer: Need to identify poor in all communities and help them

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"I'm surprised by the decision. If we start an authority for every community, there will be no end to it. The need of the hour is to identify the poor in all communities and help them," said Siddalinga Swami of Siddaganga Mutt, Tumakuru, a prominent Lingayat mutt.

LINGAYAT AUTHORITY

Lingayat ministers welcomed the decision claiming it would help economically poor people in the community. But Lingayat MLAs from other parties claimed increased quota in reservation for the community would be better. The community cur-

rently gets reservation under the 3B category.

"The authority will be of little use to Lingayats considering their population of 1.2 crore. Even if the government sets aside Rs 500 crore a year, it will be very little. It's better to provide 18 per cent reservation in jobs and education on the lines of Maharashtra," said former minister and Lingayat leader Basavaraj Horatti.

Former minister and Congress MLA MB Patil, who had spearheaded the campaign for separate religion status for the Veerashaiva Lingayat sect, echoed this view. "The VLDA will not serve any purpose. Instead, a 16-18 per cent reservation based on Lingayat population would help in community development."