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BSY gives Rs 500 cr for Lingayat corporation

BENGALURU, DHNS

The B S Yediyurappa administration on Monday allocated Rs 500 crore to the newly established Karnataka Veerashaiva-Lingayat Development Corporation, in a move that is likely to raise eyebrows over the source of the funds.

According to the government order, the initial cost of setting up the new corpo-

ration will be borne by the Backward Classes Welfare Department. The amount will be reimbursed by the Veerashaiva-Lingayat Development Corporation later.

Yediyurappa is keen to consolidate the Lingayat community's support amid talks of a change in leadership.

Corporation will be registered under Companies Act, Page 3

Lingayat corp will be registered under Companies Act

BENGALURU, <u>DHNS</u>: The new Veerashaiva-Lingayat corporation will be registered under the Companies Act, according to the government order.

The procedures involved in setting up the new company will be overseen by the Backward Classes Welfare commissioner until a managing director is appointed, the order stated.

The order was issued after the Finance department, headed by Yediyurappa, gave its concurrence on the same day.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa is keen to consolidate the Lingayat community's support amid talks of a change in

leadership. Yediyurappa is a Lingayat.

The Veerashaiva-Lingayat community is estimated to form about 16% of the state's population and is considered to be the BJP's core support base.

The new corporation was first announced on November 17 amid pressure from a section of Lingayat BJP legislators, who demanded a corporation after Yediyurappa ordered the establishment of the Maratha Development Corporation.

The CM ordered Rs 50 crore to be set aside for the Maratha body, which has drawn the wrath of pro-Kannada

groups