

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

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Social welfare

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Times of India

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**Kannada groups
attack govt over
Maratha board**

Belagavi: The Karnataka government's decision to form a Maratha development authority (MDA) with an outlay of Rs 50 crore has raised the hackles of Kannada organisations as the move comes ahead of byelections in the Belgaum-Bidar region, reports Shreyas HS.

The order issued by the CM on Friday has stoked a fierce debate on social media. Byelections to the Belagavi Lok Saha seat and Rasavakalyan assembly constituency (Bidar district) will be announced soon. Sources said Marathas constitute 33% of the total population in Belagavi.

► Timing of order, P 4

Timing of govt order raises eyebrows

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Marathas are the second-largest voting segment in Bidar. The Yediyurappa government's move mimics its own successful decision of creating Kadu Golla development authority - that was announced ahead of the recent Sirsi bypoll in Tumakuru district. Sources claimed the decision helped the BJP reap 35,000 votes of that community and win the seat.

Activist Ashok Chandargi said

Kannada organisations are not against creation of the Maratha authority, but the "timing of the order raises suspicions. The government says it has no money for flood victims, but has funds for this authority."

A demand of pro-Kannada organisations - that the Border Protection Commission be shifted from Bengaluru to Belagavi - has not been accepted by the government despite many reminders to the administration.

Full report: toi.in