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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: CAA

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE 21/12/19

Cong team detained at M'luru airport

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Mangaluru: A delegation of senior Congress functionaries led by SR Patil, leader of the opposition in the legislative council, was detained by police soon after they landed in Mangaluru on Friday, and was refused permission to visit families of the two who were killed in police firing during protests against the Citizen Amendment Act on Thursday. Former chief minister Siddaramaiah was also forced to cancel a visit to Mangaluru after his chartered aircraft was denied permission to land at the airport.

Jaleel Kudroli, 49, and Nausheen, 23, sustained bullet injuries during police firing on Thursday and succumbed at a hospital. SR Patil, former home minister MB Patil, former speaker KR Ramesh Kumar and former MP VS Ugrappa landed at Mangaluru International Airport at noon. They were forced to return to Bengaluru by the 5.20pm flight.

Ugrappa and Ramesh were seen engaged in heated arguments with police after they were detained and bundled into police vehicles. Ugrappa said, "SR Patil's office informed the deputy commissioner and the city police commissioner about our visit. We have been detained illegally.



SENT BACK: Former assembly speaker KR Ramesh Kumar being taken into preventive custody at the Mangaluru airport on Friday

“We have the right to talk to people there and find out the truth. It is undemocratic and unconstitutional
Siddaramaiah | EX-CM

The police could not tell us why we were being detained,” Ugrappa said. SR Patil called the move “undemocratic” and said it resembled “Hitler’s rule”.

Siddaramaiah criticised the police for barring party colleagues from entering Mangaluru and alleged that the BS Yediyurappa-led BJP government is trying to turn Karnataka into another Kashmir. “We have the right to talk to people there and find out the truth. It is undemocratic and unconstitutional,” he said.

He also tweeted, “I was

planning to a visit to violence-stricken Mangaluru despite my poor health. However, police have stopped me by not giving permission to land the special flight. What is the government trying to hide?”

Meanwhile, Mangaluru MLA and former minister UT Khader, former MLA Mohiudeen Bava and MLCs BM Farook and Ivan DSouza — all of the Congress — visited Wrenlock hospital where autopsies on the two victims was being conducted. Khader urged people to cooperate with authorities in maintaining peace and asked police to lift curfew from 12.15pm to 2.15pm to enable people to attend Friday prayers. The police agreed. The funerals of Kudroli and Nausheen were held in the evening under police vigil.

CT Ravi's comments put BSY on back foot

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka tourism minister C T Ravi, responding to Congress MLA UT Khader's statement that the state would burn if the CAA was implemented, had warned the minority community not to perceive the “restraint” of the majority as “weakness” and had reminded them of the riots of 2002.

Both Khader and Ravi had spoken on Wednesday. “The country is in flames but Karnataka is an island of peace. I read on social media that they’ve given instructions to implement this law in Karnataka. I’m warning the CM that if you implement it (CAA) here then I swear Karnataka will be blown to cinders,” ANI quoted U T Khader as saying.

“Our (majority) community restraint should not be perceived as weakness by them (minorities). This mindset was the reason for the burning of kar sevaks in Godhra. But let them (minorities) not forget the incidents which happened in 2002. They (minorities) should remember what happens when the majority community becomes violent. We are watching you people (minorities) committing arson. If you breach the patience of the majority community, then history is evidence of what will happen,” Ravi had told reporters on Wednesday.

In Delhi, state home minister Basavaraj Bommai, speaking on Thursday night, had blamed the violence on people from another state. “Yesterday, a lot of people had come from a neighbouring state and a lot of violence occurred because of their presence. Today the situation is peaceful and under control.”

The comments by the ministers led chief minister BS Yediyurappa to warn party colleagues on Friday to “exercise restraint” while commenting on protests over the CAA. Yediyurappa said he would visit Mangaluru on Saturday to review the law and order situation in the city.