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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 6/3/2024

Sex scandal: Police quiz activist for four hours

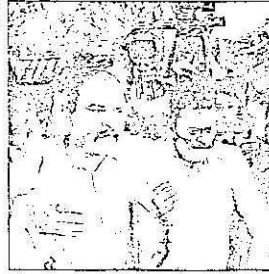
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The activist who has linked former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi to a sex-for-job scandal appeared for questioning before the Cubbon Park police on Friday afternoon, a day after he sought to defer the process citing security concerns.

Investigators quizzed Dinesh Kallahalli for four hours to obtain more details related to this complaint, which alleges that Jarkiholi exploited a woman after promising her a government job. A purported video of Jarkiholi and the woman surfaced on Tuesday, forcing the BJP member to resign as the water resources minister on moral grounds. Jarkiholi denies wrongdoing, and no FIR has been filed yet.

The woman has not come forward so far, and investigators believe that Kallahalli's statement may help them identify and trace her: "I stand by my petition and the allegation," Kallahalli told reporters. "I have shared the details that I had. I will cooperate with the investigation."

On whether he had spoken to the woman, he said: "No, she hasn't (contacted me). Her family member approached me." Kallahalli refused to comment on the source of the video record-



Dinesh Kallahalli at Cubbon Park police station on Friday

Ex-min's supporter

anapati Rajaput, an ardent follower of Ramesh Jarkiholi, jumped into a fire during a protest in support of the former minister in Gokak on Friday. Police pulled him out and rushed him to a hospital. He has suffered burns on his hands and legs.

The incident occurred when a large number of people gathered to demand a CBI probe against what they claim is a conspiracy against Jarkiholi. Some tyres were set ablaze and Rajaput reportedly leapt into the flames.

Supporters of Jarkiholi held protests in several parts of Belagavi on Friday.

ing or whether a third party handed it to him at a hotel in Gandhinagar: "I received the CD in a closed cover and

gave it to the police. I cannot reveal anything more. As the investigation is on, I cannot say many things," he said.

Kallahalli said that investigators would decide if his complaint should be turned into an FIR. Earlier in the day, Bengaluru police commissioner Kamal Pant referred to the matter: "There are some legal proceedings in the case and our officers are working on it. I cannot comment anything more at this stage," he said.

Kallahalli failed to show up for questioning on Thursday and later claimed that he had received threats after filing the complaint and needed security. He surprised officers on Friday by arriving at the police station in a private SUV around 1pm. Inspector B Maruti and assistant commissioner Yatiraj questioned him for more than two hours. After a brief pause, deputy commissioner (central) MN Anuchet grilled him.

An officer, who didn't want to be named, said that a printout with 40 questions was given to Kallahalli and he was asked to answer them. "He didn't provide proper answers. His standard responses were: 'I don't know and I can't remember'. We suspect he is trying to mislead us," the officer said.