

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
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## Zameer, supporters detained during protest attempt

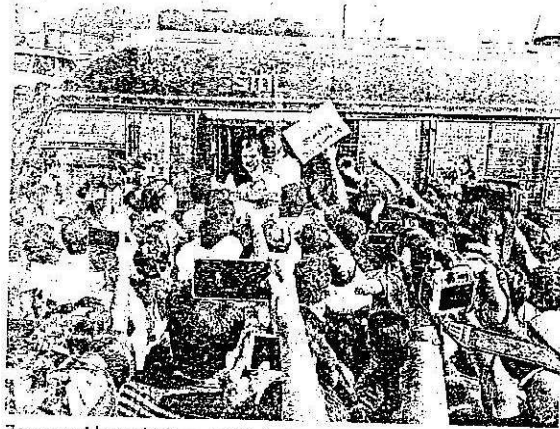
They were in Ballari to stage dharna against BJP MLA

STAFF REPORTER  
BALLARI/BENGALURU

Zameer Ahmed Khan, MLA for Chamarajpet, and his supporters, who had come to Ballari for staging a dharna outside the residence of MLA G. Somashekhar Reddy, were detained by the police on Monday. They were taken into custody and shifted to Kuditini police station when they attempted to march towards Mr. Reddy's residence. They were released later.

Mr. Khan had announced that he would stage a demonstration in front of Mr. Reddy's residence to register his protest against the latter's "objectionable remarks targeting the Muslim community" at a recent public rally supporting the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Heavy police force was deployed around Mr. Reddy's residence as a result. As the protesters marched towards the MLA's house, they were taken into custody.

Speaking to presspersons before his detention, Mr. Khan said he had come to Ballari with his supporters to stage a peaceful de-



Zameer Ahmed Khan, MLA, being detained by the police on the outskirts of Ballari city on Monday. \*SRIDHAR KAVALI

monstration. Later, Mr. Khan demanded that Mr. Reddy apologise for his "communal and anti-Muslim remarks". He should be arrested and pushed, he said. "I am giving a 10-day deadline to the police to arrest him [Reddy]. If no action is taken against him, I will return to Ballari along with [Congress leaders] Siddaramaiah and Dinesh Gundu Rao to stage a protest."

Superintendent of Police C.K. Baba said a police officer has already been deputed to investigate the case against Mr. Reddy.

"We had not given permission for Mr. Khan's protest. Since he and his supporters were persistent on staging a protest, defying us, the police had to detain him," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah condemned the police action. "I condemn @BJP4Karnataka's act of arresting (sic) @BZZameerAhmedK instead of Somashekhar Reddy for his instigating speech aimed at creating communal violence. Zameer is demanding action against Somashekhar Reddy," he tweeted.