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Suspension of MLA: Cong protests in CM's home dist

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

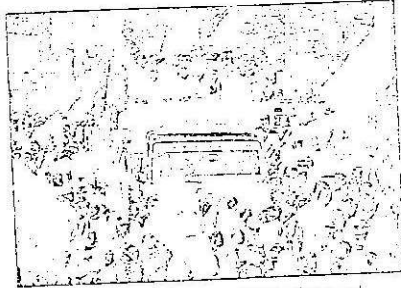
Shivamogga: The Congress on Saturday took out a rally in Shivamogga, the chief minister's home district, to protest the suspension of Bhadravathi MLA BK Sangameshwar from the assembly and arrest of his family members in connection with an alleged attempt-to-murder case.

He was booked following a group clash between his supporters and BJP functionaries during a kabbadi match last month.

Opposition leader Siddaramaiah said chief minister BS Yediyurappa is an accused in a land deal along with his ministerial colleague Murugesh Nirani. "Though he approached the high court seeking to quash the FIR, the HC did not provide him relief. He had moved the Supreme Court which initially refused to entertain the petition. As Yediyurappa's advocate sought relief, the SC instructed police not to arrest him," he claimed.

Siddaramaiah also questioned the need to raise slogans in praise of Lord Ram during a kabbadi match. "The BJP will be in power for only two more years. It might fall even before that and we'll come back to power," he claimed. KPCC chief DK Shivakumar said there is an urgent need to change the government. "This rally will be historical as it will set in motion the process to bring down the government," he said.

Sangameshwar alleged false cases have been booked against him to end his political career. Party veteran Kagodu Thimmappa accused BJP of trying to bully the



Congress members at the rally in Shivamogga on Saturday

single Congress legislator in the district.

Former deputy CM G. Parameshwara said Lord Ram is a symbol of peace. "Instead of fomenting trouble, BJP should create communal harmony," he said.

Shivamogga district minister KS Eshwarappa said raising slogans in praise of Lord Ram is everyone's right and asked the Congress leadership to introspect.

CM to meet ministers tomorrow

Chief minister BS Yediyurappa has convened an informal meeting of his ministers at 10am on Monday at Vidhana Soudha. It has generated curiosity as it's happening amid the SIT probe into the Ramesh Jarkiholi CD case. But the CM's office said the meeting has nothing to do with it. "Since many ministers don't attend House proceedings regularly, the CM wants to talk to them," a CMO official said. The meeting is also likely to discuss ways to counter the Congress.