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MLA says he's more scared now

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
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AFTER the Central Crime Branch (CCB) filed the chargesheet naming former Bengaluru Mayor R Sampath Raj as one of the key conspirators in the DJ Halli riots case, Pulakeshinagar MLA Akhanda Srinivasamurthy said that he is scared and is planning to approach the government to seek more security.

The CCB's chargesheet is re-

lated to an FIR on the torching of the MLA's house on the night of August 11.

Akhanda Srinivasamurthy told *The New Indian Express*, "The attack was unexpected. As an MLA, I used to visit every ward in my constituency and also interacted with Sampath Raj. When one known to you can do this, it is possible that someone holding a grudge against me



Akhanda Srinivasamurthy

can attack me again."

The government had given police protection to the MLA after the incident. "I may need more security. I will discuss it with our party leaders, including Siddaramaiah, and approach Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa or Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai for upgraded security," Akhanda Srinivasamurthy added.

'Evidence piles up against Raj'

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"He (Sampath Raj) conspired with his personal assistant Arun, car driver and others, and instigated people to torch the MLA's house. We also have evidence to prove that he was just a few metres away from the MLA's residence when the incident took place. He also made several phone calls to those directly involved in the arson. All these crucial details with evidence have been mentioned in the chargesheet," the officer said, adding that Raj motivated the other accused to commit the offence with an ulterior motive, but gave it a colour of mob violence. The police had earlier arrested Raj's PA Arun and also summoned Raj twice for questioning. It is learnt that Raj has been hospitalised, but his arrest is imminent, once he is discharged.