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HDK, Siddu, other top leaders booked for sedition over protest against I-T raids

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

JUST a week ahead of the crucial bypolls to 15 Assembly segments in the state, several top Congress and JDS leaders and also some senior police officers have been charged with sedition, criminal conspiracy and attempting/abetting waging war against the Government of India, among others.

Acting on a private complaint, a local court directed the Commercial Street police to file an FIR against former Chief Ministers H D Kumaraswamy and Siddaramaiah, former ministers D K Shivaku-



H D Kumaraswamy Siddaramaiah
mar, Sa Ra Mahesh, D C Thammanna and senior police officials including former Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Suneel Kumar T among others under 20 sections of the

Indian Penal Code. The FIR was registered on Wednesday.

The charges have been slapped against the leaders in connection with their statements against the Income Tax Department on March 27 and the protest in front of the I-T office in Bengaluru on March 28 opposing the raids on JDS and Congress leaders.

This was just days before the Lok Sabha polls in the state when the model code of conduct was in force.

Mallikarjuna Alegowda, a social activist and resident of Gubbi in Tumakuru, had filed a private complaint before a city court recently.

OTHERS IN FIR

Dy CM G Parameshwara, KPCC chief Dinesh Gundu Rao, former MP L R Shivaramgowda, former MLA Muniratna Naidu, then DCPs Rahul Kumar Shahpurwad (East), Devaraju D (Central), other police officials of East division, all police officers.

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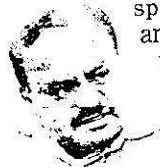
'HDK had claimed he had info on raids'

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MALLIKARJUNA Alegowda, a social activist had alleged that on March 27, the then Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy had issued statements to the media that he had received information that I-T officials were preparing to raid houses belonging to some JDS leaders. The next day, there were I-T raids on JDS and Congress leaders. On March 28, JDS and Congress leaders staged a protest in front of the I-T office near Queen's Circle, violating the model code of conduct.

"While hundreds of workers of both the political parties gathered, the leaders made speeches calling the I-T department an 'agent of the BJP'. This amounts to obstructing I-T officials from discharging their duties. Besides, this led to major traffic snarls in the area. The police personnel who were present at the spot did not do anything to stop the protest," the complainant stated.



IPC Sections Invoked



- 414** (Assisting in concealment of stolen property)
- 149** (Every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object)
- 505 (2)** (Statements conducing public mischief)
- 124A** (Sedition)
- 353** (Assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty).
- 409** (Criminal breach of trust by public servant)
- 350** (Criminal force)
- 417** (Punishment for cheating)
- 120(A)** (Criminal conspiracy)
- 416** (Cheating by personation)
- 171C** (Undue influence in elections)
- 119** (Public servant concealing design to commit offence which is his duty to prevent)
- 141** (Unlawful assembly)
- 499** (Defamation)
- 217** (Public servant disobeying direction of law with intent to save person from punishment or property from forfeiture)
- 176** (Omission to give notice or information to public servant by person legally bound to give it)
- 121** (Waging, or attempting to wage war, or abetting waging of war, against the Government of India)
- 177** (Furnishing false information)
- 506** (Criminal intimidation)
- 153A** (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and committing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony)