

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

16

ಲಾಭಿ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Home - Drugs

ತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 4/4/21

Police: Five Telangana MLAs attended drug parties in city

Say Hyd Bizman Revealed This

Santoshkumar.B
@timesgroup.com 4/4/21

Bengaluru: Investigations into the drug racket busted by Bengaluru police recently revealed some startling details: At least five legislators from Telangana allegedly attended the dance-and-trance parties hosted in Bengaluru and Hyderabad by those associated with the drug cartel, seven members of which have been arrested.

While city police are yet to reveal the MLAs' names or confirm if they had consumed drugs in the parties, sources said they have collected their names from the arrested and other suspects. Bengaluru police commissioner Kamal Pant told STOI: "During investigation of the drug case, a couple of witnesses made statements and we are examining them. Since the matter is being probed, details can't be shared."

The drug case, which is being investigated by Govindapura police, pointed to the complicity of several influential persons after the arrest of two foreign nationals and seizure of drugs worth Rs 3.5 crore from them on February 27. Based on their statements, police searched the residence of Kannada film producer Shankare Gowda apart from questioning reality show participant Mastan Chandra and small-time Telugu actor Tanish. Gowda was arrested on March 23 on charges of hosting drug parties.

During questioning, Gowda reportedly dropped the names of two Hyderabad-based businessmen, Sandeep Reddy and Kalahar Reddy, as attendees to the parties, which were organised by an event managers Vicky Malhotra

NARCOTIC NETWORK

- On February 27, Bengaluru police arrested two Nigerian drug peddlers and recovered MDMA, cocaine and other drugs worth over ₹3.5 cr

- Accused revealed their links with Sandalwood producer Shankare Gowda and reality show participant Mastan Chandra



- Subsequently, name of Telugu actor Tanish cropped up. He and Chandra being treated as witnesses by police

- During probe, names of Hyderabad businessmen Sandeep Reddy and Kalahar Reddy surfaced. Sandeep reportedly told police how the parties were organised, while Kalahar is yet to be summoned

- Involvement of five Telangana legislators alleged

2 peddlers nabbed with 100 LSD strips

Central Crime Branch sleuths arrested two youths on drug-peddling charges and recovered 100 LSD strips and Ecstasy tablets worth around Rs 10 lakh from them. Zidane Saud, 23, of Jayanagar and Nagaraj Rao, 24, of Banashankari were caught with the drugs near a private hospital on KR Road. They told police they'd bought the drugs from two persons identified as Anooj and Harshavardhan.

Was at B'uru party to resolve land issue: Businessman

Businessman Sandeep Reddy said he attended a party in Bengaluru two years ago. He said Shankare Gowda had taken a loan from him and he had taken help from local politicians to help resolve some financial issues. "Gowda had told me there was a land under litigation and asked me to look for buyers. I informed a local Telangana MLA about it and reached Bengaluru. Gowda brought some dance girls to the party. Later, Mastan Chandra was introduced to me.

The MLA did not stay for long and left after having a couple of pegs," he said.

Sandeep added: "Karnataka police recorded my statement and took my signature. I don't know what they wrote on it as the words were in Kannada. Later, they took me to a magistrate and recorded my statement. After the judge left, the cops again got a statement typed and took my signature. It was in Kannada and they manipulated it." He alleged cops were dragging everyone into the case.

and Chandra. An investigating officer said: "We had summoned Sandeep to record his statement and he told us a few MLAs from Telangana had attended the parties. These MLAs were brought by Kalahar, who is yet to be called for questioning."

Police have issued notices to Kalahar: "We will get to know the names and other details of those associated with these parties after we record his statement," an officer said, pointing

out that seven persons, including six foreign nationals, have been arrested till now. Tanish and Chandra have been treated as witnesses so far.

Additional commissioner of police (east) S Murugan said: "We have summoned a few people from Telangana. We are probing the case and can't share more details." Police said the arrested had referred to a politician named Rohith as one of the VIPs who attended the parties.