

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Home & A. Police

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 8/3/24

## Twist in sex CD case: Activist drops plaint against Jarkiholi

Says Victim, He  
Were Treated  
Like Criminals

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** In a dramatic turn of events, activist Dinesh Kallahalli, who last week petitioned police that then water resources minister Ramesh Jarkiholi, was

### FULL COVERAGE:

allegedly sexually exploiting a woman in return for a government job, withdrew his complaint on Sunday. Jarkiholi resigned on moral grounds a day after the allegation was made.

Handing over a five-page letter to Cubbon Park police through legal counsel Kumar Patil, Kallahalli said he was

Dinesh Kallahalli meets Bengaluru City police commissioner, alleges sex-for-job scandal involving a minister. CD content goes public; Ramesh Jarkiholi calls it fake



**MARGES** Under pressure from BJP and the CM, Ramesh quits

### INTO HONEY-TRAP

**MARGES** With police protection, activist Kallahalli appears before police officials to give statement

Dinesh Kallahalli withdraws complaint, says he & the victim were being defamed.

**MARGES** Ramesh's brother Balachandra alleges honey-trap racket, and demands CBI probe



disappointed by statements of a few politicians and by the state's action of allegedly treating the victim and the messenger "like criminals".

Last week, Kallahalli met Bengaluru City police commissioner Kamal Pant and filed a complaint that Ramesh Jarkiholi had allegedly sexually exploited a wo-

man by promising her a job in Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation.

Kallahalli had said he had received a CD about the incident from an unknown person seeking justice and was taking it up as he was a social activist.

► 'Facing threats', P 4

# 'Govt planning law to protect politicians from blackmail'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

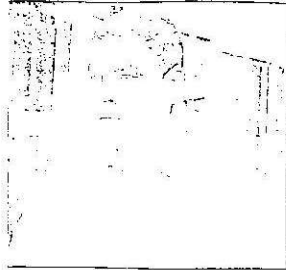
Bengaluru: The BS Yediyurappa government is planning a law to tackle attempts to blackmail public figures or start malicious campaigns against them, former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi's brother and BJP MLA, Balachandra Jarkiholi, said on Sunday.

He told reporters that a draft of the law, which would curb the propagation of defamatory information, had been prepared and the bill would be passed in the ongoing budget session. Health minister K Sudhakar had also said on Saturday that a new law was on the cards.

Ramesh quit as the water resources minister last week after an activist filed a complaint linking him to a sex-for-job scandal. An alleged video of Ramesh and a woman also surfaced. Ramesh denied wrongdoing and the activist, Dinesh Kallahalli, withdrew the complaint on Sunday.

"There is a big racket to blackmail politicians and public figures through honey traps. The objective is to bring disgrace to reputed families and individuals. The government plans to bring in a new law, the draft of which is ready, and it will be passed in the current legislature session itself," Balachandra claimed.

Balachandra said that there



Balachandra Jarkiholi (extreme left) defended Ramesh, saying there was a conspiracy against the former minister.

## WISH TO BIDE TIME FOR RETURN

Activist Dinesh Kallahalli's U-turn may not immediately resurrect the political fortunes of Ramesh Jarkiholi, and the former minister may have to bide time before rejoining the BS Yediyurappa cabinet. Sources say it's a long road back to the ministry as BJP has to approve of his re-induction, and the green light from Delhi will not come until assembly elections to be held later this month and in April are over.

had been an attempt to honey-trap Ramesh and there were call records to prove it, and he described the purported clip as fake. "The video was uploaded on YouTube hours before Kallahalli released it. Seventeen

servers were booked and Rs 15 crore to Rs 17 crore was spent on this. It is a political conspiracy hatched to unseat Ramesh and bring disgrace to our family," he claimed, adding that three teams were behind the plot and they promised the woman Rs 50 lakh and a job in Dubai.

He asked authorities to order a forensic examination of the video, apart from seeking a CBI probe into the whole matter. He urged Ramesh to file a complaint. "I will meet him and persuade him to register a police complaint. If he does not want to file a case, I will do it," Balachandra said.

He believes conspirators may have misled Kallahalli. On his earlier plan to file a Rs 100-crore defamation suit against Kallahalli, Balachandra said he would consult lawyers. He thinks it is improbable that any BJP members were involved in the whole episode.

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he videos were also uploaded even before I handed over the complaint to police.

My specific demand was that cops ascertain whether the woman was sexually exploited. But society launched a 'shoot the messenger' campaign targeting me and the victim. Former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy, without proof, said there was blackmail involving Rs 5 crore. BJP MLA Renukacharya stated this kind of women are a 'danger' to the country," Kallahalli's letter read.

"The woman was portrayed wrongly on social media and some said I had built a house by blackmailing people... These judgements were passed without any investigation. There were threats from various people and a campaign to defame me was launched," he said.

Police sources said they have approached the legal team. "This is a one-of-its-kind incident we have come across in recent years. Kallahalli came to file a complaint and appeared for questioning to co-operate in the probe. On Sunday, he sent his letter withdrawing the case. It has become complex as he was not present physically. We might call him to record his statement. There was no FIR registered but only an investigation to ascertain whether the allegations were true," police sources said.

Kallahalli's lawyer Kumar Patil said, "I submitted a plea to withdraw the complaint. The police inspector may ask Kallahalli to appear before them to close the case. If required, he'll come to the station."

Asked whether there was political pressure to withdraw the case, he said, "Kallahalli is not one who succumbs to political pressure as he has faced it before as an activist. His purpose was to provide justice to the victim but what is going on social media has really bothered him and led him to withdraw the complaint."

## POINTS OF ARGUMENT

Once such fake news comes into the public domain, it damages our (politicians') image. I fear we will fall prey to the tricks of the graphics age. Photographs or videos can be altered to portray something.

CP Yogeshwary | TOURISM MINISTER

Disgruntled with their parent parties, Congress and JD(S), some MLAs flocked to BJP. Now, they are being targeted and their image is being tarnished. To protect their reputation, ministers have approached the court and there is nothing wrong with this. It is not right to say they sought an injunction as they fear some CD will be released.

B Sriramulu | SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER

The activist (Dinesh Kallahalli) may have withdrawn the complaint (against Ramesh Jarkiholi), but can he withdraw the footage that has been played on television?

Siddaramaiah | OPPOSITION LEADER

Even if the complainant has withdrawn his case, the state government has ample opportunity to file a suo moto case in the CP scandal. It is the government's duty to ensure that people's confidence is restored.

HD Kumaraswamy | FORMER CHIEF MINISTER

