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CCB yet to trace Aditya Alva and Sampath Raj

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Bengaluru: Though it's not that easy for ordinary people to stay off police radar in these days of advanced communication, two high-profile Bengalureans—BBMP former mayor and son of a late politician—have remained on the lam for several weeks, raising several questions.

Former mayor and Congress leader Sampath Raj has been avoiding the Central Crime Branch (CCB) since mid-August. Aditya Alva, son of former minister D Jeevaraj Alva, has been elusive since early September.

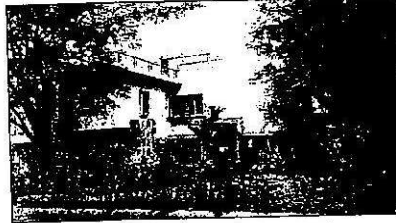
Some officers from the department feel it's ridiculous to believe that the duo have evaded police for so long. "If police really have the will, these two and other suspects will be in custody in 48 hours. Senior officials know better. What is stopping them," they ask.

A prime suspect in the case of setting the house of Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivasamurthy's on fire, triggering riots in east Bengaluru on August 11, Raj was questioned twice in a week. After his associate Arun Kumar was arrested on August 18, Raj got hospitalised. In September, he claimed that he tested positive for Covid-19. After spending a few days in a local hospital, he got admitted to Baptist Hospital.

By then, under the impression that Raj was purposely avoiding probe, CCB asked the health department to form a committee to evaluate his condition and submit a report. No such committee has been formed yet.

Raj was discharged on October 14 only to be readmitted again the same day. Finally, he was discharged on October 29, but he disappeared. CCB police issued a notice to a doctor at Baptist Hospital for failing to alert them.

Aditya Alva has been named in an FIR registered with Cottonpet police in a drug-



Alva's house that was recently raided

Will arrest them at the earliest

There are many other cases where prime suspects go elusive and after a long chase, police apprehend them. We're confident of arresting these two at the earliest

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peddling case. While some suspects were arrested immediately, sleuths were not even able to get Alva for grilling. Shiva-prakash, Abhiswamy, Prashant R and Vinay Kumar are the other elusive suspects. They have been moving courts in vain, seeking anticipatory bail.

On September 14, CCB police raided Alva's farmhouse near Hebbal only to be greeted by house keeping staff and a manager. Then, CCB raided the flat of Alva's brother-in-law, actor Vivek Oberoi in Mumbai, on October 15 and questioned family members. Though a notice was issued, Priyanka Alva, sister of Aditya, who refused to hand over her cellphone, is yet to appear before the CCB.

Recently, Rohini Dwivedi, mother of imprisoned actress Ragini Dwivedi, had alleged police lacked the guts to arrest powerful people. "Names of children of influential people too were heard in the drug case. Why are they not arresting them? They don't have guts to lay hand on such people," she had said.