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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: BDA

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu

ಆರೋಪ : DATE: 10/9/2002

## BDA Chairman, Commissioner spar over land allotment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), which is already in the eye of the storm over allegations of multiple scams, is once again in the spotlight. BDA Chairman S.R. Vishwanath, a ruling party MLA, and Commissioner H.R. Mahadev had a public spar on Tuesday, making allegations and counter-allegations and holding parallel press conferences.

The bone of contention appeared to be the allot-



S.R. Vishwanath and  
H.R. Mahadev

ment of 12.5 acres of land to a housing cooperative society towards compensation of land acquired by BDA in 1977-78. While Mr. Vishwanath held a press meet claiming the allotment was

illegal, the Commissioner defended the allotment.

The trading of allegations between the duo indicated a breakdown of their working relationship. Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who also holds the charge of Bengaluru Development, had earlier held a meeting between the Chairman and the Commissioner to broker peace. "However, it did not help. He is expected to hold another such meeting," said a source.

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## BDA Chairman, Commissioner spar

Mr. Vishwanath, speaking to mediapersons in the BDA Board Room, alleged that the Commissioner had not been giving him any of the files that he had requested despite directions from the Chief Minister to cooperate with him. "Why is this? What is being hidden? If there are illegal allotments being made, I will be forced to say that the Commissioner is

part of these acts," he said. "I won't tolerate efforts to undercut my authority," he said, while alleging that the Commissioner has not been following protocols well.

Minutes later, Mr. Mahadev addressed the media in his office, which is also in the same building, to counter the allegations levelled against him. "After taking charge, the Chairman wrote

a letter to me asking for all files to be submitted to him. It is true I have not submitted all the files he has sought. The BDA Act, 1976 is very clear - the Commissioner is the chief executive of BDA and the Chairman has no executive powers," he said. He denied allegations of irregularities and said he has been fighting to unearth scams in the Authority.