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# MLA Haris, 6 others hurt in low-intensity blast

Police not yet sure whether it was cracker or explosive

BENGALURU, DHNS

A suspected low-intensity blast late Wednesday evening in Shanthinagar left three-time Congress MLA NA Haris and six others with burns. The blast, reported at around 8.30 pm during a cultural programme, triggered panic in the central parts of Bengaluru especially after the Mangaluru airport incident where the police recovered an explosive.

According to sources in Shanthinagar, Haris was attending the birth anniversary celebrations of Tamil film star MGR organised by the locals close to his house in Shanthinagar.

Following the blast, Haris and a few others who were standing close to the MLA sustained burns and were rushed to the nearby St Philomena's Hospital.

Police officials from both Ashoknagar and Viveknagar visited the spot.

The police are yet to confirm whether the explosion was caused by a bomb or powerful firecrackers.

Deputy commissioner of police (Central) Chethan Singh



The spot where the explosion took place at Vannarpet in Shanthinagar constituency. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V



NA Haris

the spot to collect samples for ascertaining the nature of the blast. MLA Haris' son Mohammed Nalapad, who rushed to the hospital with his supporters, told reporters that they were completely shocked by the incident.

"He was sitting on a chair and suddenly something that was hurled at him exploded beneath the chair. He sustained injuries on his leg and was brought to the hospital. A team of doctors are treating him and the other injured supporters," Nalapad said.

Expressing shock over the

Rathore visited the hospital and the blast site. A team of Forensic Science Laboratory experts have also been summoned to

incident, he said, "My father has been an MLA for 12 years and nothing of this sort had happened before in the constituency. We have no rivals and my father never had any gunmen. We are all shocked and have complained to the jurisdictional police."

Meanwhile, Dr Shankar Prasad, medical director, St Philomena's Hospital, said that Haris and the other injured are being treated for minor injuries. "None of them has any open cut injuries and they are being examined further," Dr Prasad told DH.

According to Dr Prasad, Haris had a minor blood clot on his left leg which was possibly due to a hard object hitting him during the blast. "We have taken X-rays and are examining further. From the look of it, it seems like a very minor injury," he added.