

BJP MLA lashes out at Mallikarjuna, minister says he is a ‘Doberman against graft’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DAVANAGERE

THE war of words between BJP MLA BP Harish and Karnataka minister SS Mallikarjuna escalated on Saturday, with Harish launching a scathing counterattack after being likened to a dog. “Minister SS Mallikarjuna called me a Doberman dog. Yes, I am a Doberman for the corrupt. He better be careful, because a Doberman knows where to bite. I am not a man who will back down so easily,” Harish thundered while speaking



to reporters in Davanagere. The MLA also sought to clarify his controversial remarks that triggered an FIR against him for allegedly insulting Superintendent of Police Uma Prashanth. “I never called the SP a Pomeranian dog. What I said was that officials were following the minister like Pomeranian puppies follow their master. If the SP is hurt, I cannot help it. My words were directed at the system, not personally at her,” he maintained. SP Uma Prashanth had lodged a complaint with

KTJ Nagar Police, who later transferred the case to Shikaripura DySP Keshav since the SP herself heads the jurisdictional police station. Following this, the Shikaripura police issued a notice under Section 35(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), directing Harish to appear before investigators on September 17 at 10 am. Harish accused the minister of misusing his position to file cases against political opponents. “When Vijaya Kumar Kondajji died of a heart attack, they filed an

FIR against me saying I had beaten him to death. Why is no case filed against minister SS Mallikarjuna when Hindus are threatened during protests? I have fought and defeated the Shamanur family’s dominance. My struggle will continue,” Harish declared. He also referenced his survival in the controversial “deer case” during Basavaraj Bommai’s tenure as Chief Minister, suggesting that political deals had saved others in the past. Fearing arrest, Harish had recently moved the High Court seeking to

quash the criminal proceedings. Justice M.I. Arun, after hearing his petition, instructed police not to take hasty action against the legislator. Harish’s counsel, advocate Venkatesh P. Dalawai, argued that the MLA had not insulted the SP’s dignity but had merely highlighted how local ministers fail to respect officials. The fiery exchange between Harish and Mallikarjuna has further fueled political tensions in Davanagere, with the BJP framing it as a fight against Congress misuse of power.

‘Govt may provide free autos to women, transgender drivers’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

IN a significant move to promote livelihood opportunities for women and transgender persons, BDA Chairman NA Haris has assured that he will hold discussions with BBMP regarding the provision of free autos by the government to those who successfully complete auto-driving training. He was speaking at the inauguration of the “Free Auto-Driving Training Program for Transgender Persons and Women in Shantinagar Constituency” organized by B.PAC in collaboration with CGI, at the MG Road Metro Station Kala Kendra. “It is important that women and transgender persons, once trained and qualified, are provided free autos by the government. This will enable them to start their professional journey and achieve self-reliance. I will take this matter up with the concerned authorities and BBMP,” said NA Haris, BDA Chairman. Speaking at the event, MD, Kirloskar Systems Pvt.



Ltd., Geetanjali Vikram Kirloskar said, “It is commendable that women and transgender persons are coming forward to take up auto-driving. Their presence in public transport will encourage more women to travel confidently at night. Bengaluru should set a national example in inclusive mobility.”

The Vice President, CGI, Lakshmi Ganesh added, “This program is a great opportunity for women aspiring to begin their careers. For transgender persons especially, this initiative offers dignity and financial independence, as the training is completely free of cost.” The Managing Trustee and CEO of B.PAC, Revathy

Ashok, announced the next phase of the initiative, “In the second phase, more than 100 women and transgender persons will be trained in auto-driving. Along with driving, participants will receive training in leadership, English communication, customer management, digital literacy, and financial skills.”

Minister extends official Dasara invitation to Pramoda Devi

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MYSURU

WITH the world-famous Mysuru Dasara fast approaching, district in-charge minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa on Sunday extended a traditional invitation to royal family member Pramoda Devi Wadiyar at the Mysuru Palace premises. Accompanied by deputy commissioner Lakshmikanth Reddy and senior officials, the minister personally visited Pramoda Devi’s residence inside the palace and presented the customary phala tambula (fruits and betel leaves) as part of the royal invitation ritual. Speaking to the media after the visit, Minister Mahadevappa said, “It is our tradition to formally invite the members of the erstwhile royal family to be part of the Dasara celebrations. Pramoda Devi Wadiyar graciously accepted our invitation and assured her full cooperation for the festivities. Beyond this, there were no discussions regarding the inauguration or other related matters.” The minister also revealed that Pramoda Devi had suggested improved seating arrangements for the grand Jambu Savari (elephant procession) on Vijayadashami day. “Last year, due to rains,



crowds rushed into the palace premises which created confusion. She advised us to ensure additional seating to prevent such incidents. The district administration will take necessary steps,” Mahadevappa said. As part of the festive spirit, the district administration and the Palace Board organized a special breakfast gathering for mahouts, kavadis (elephant caretakers), and their families near the elephant camp at the palace grounds. Minister Mahadevappa joined the gathering and served tradi-

tional dishes, including holige. Mysuru City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar, SP Vishnuvardhan, and other officials also took part in the event, reinforcing the cultural bond between the state machinery and the tradition-bearers of Dasara. Meanwhile, Minister Mahadevappa inaugurated the Dasara Film Festival 2025 at the Mall of Mysore earlier in the weekend. Speaking on the occasion, he underlined the power of cinema in shaping society: “The film industry has a profound impact on India’s social, economic,

educational, and religious life. Through creativity, music, and literature, films continue to connect with people in unique ways.” Calling Mysuru Dasara a festival that embodies unity, the minister said, “This festival shows that all Indians are one. It reflects the legacy of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, whose contributions to Dasara remain unmatched. The film festival, showcasing 84 films, is another medium to spread the message of togetherness and highlight Mysuru’s cultural prominence.”

CCC must be beacon against online crime, says K’taka HC

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BENGALURU

AS cybercrime cases surge across Karnataka, the state’s first Cyber Command Centre (CCC) has come under close judicial scrutiny, with the High Court insisting that the unit be a model of stability and transparency rather than just another bureaucratic body. Justice M. Nagaprasanna, monitoring the progress of the CCC since April, said that continuity of leadership was vital. “The CCC chief and team should not be removed overnight without consultation. Ongoing investigations must not be hampered by repeated transfers,” he said. The court underlined the CCC’s duty to uphold transparency, including rooting out any corruption within its functioning. Located in Bengaluru and headed by DIG Pranab Mohanty, the CCC is the first of its kind in the country. It



comprises four wings: a Cyber Crime Wing to handle fraud and hacking cases; a Cyber Security Wing to prevent attacks on banks, social media and software; an Information Detection and

Tracking Unit (IDTU) for tracing suspects and gathering intelligence; and a Training and Awareness Wing to equip officers and sensitise the public. Officials said the CCC will

also integrate the 1930 cybercrime helpline with police IT systems, ensuring every cyber offence, whether registered at jurisdictional stations or CEN stations, comes under its purview. With more

than 16,000 cases pending in Karnataka, the centre is expected to boost response capacity, align with the state’s Cyber Security Policy 2023, and serve as a deterrent to online fraud.

B’luru: FHRAI to host annual convention from Sept 18

BENGALURU

THE Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) on Sunday announced that its annual convention will be held in Bengaluru from September 18 to 20. “The three-day convention will be inaugurated by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Union ministers, chief ministers, and senior officials will also participate in the event,” the association said in a statement. The event is being organised in partnership with the Union Ministry of Tourism and the Karnataka Tourism Department. This year’s convention is themed ‘FutureScape 2047: Redefining Hospitality for a New India.’ The FHRAI said it expects over 1,500 delegates—including hoteliers, restaurateurs, investors,



policymakers, and global experts—to participate in discussions on transforming the industry as India approaches its centenary of independence. Organising committee chairman K Ravi said expert-led sessions will cover topics such as ‘Privacy is the New Luxury’ (cybersecurity and

data integrity in hospitality), ‘The Gastronomic OS’ (redefining food for identity, impact and innovation), ‘Beyond Contactless’ (designing invisible, human-centred technology experiences), ‘Sustainability and Growth’ (balancing innovation with responsibility), and ‘Investments and Opportunities’.

‘Elephant Safari proposal to curb human-animal conflict, discussions with locals soon’

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BENGALURU

FOREST, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre announced that the government is considering setting up an Elephant Soft Release Center (Elephant Safari Center) to mitigate rising human-elephant conflicts across Karnataka. He stated that experts have recommended the establishment of such a center, and the final decision will be taken after consultations with local communities. Chairing a video conference on human-wildlife

conflict and railway barricade projects in Bengaluru, the minister said experts had identified Tanigebail in Chikkamagaluru as more suitable than Muthodi for the project. “We will first hold discussions with the locals before moving forward,” he assured. Khandre emphasized that identifying conflict-prone zones, studying elephant movement patterns, and issuing early warnings to locals are critical steps. He added that a dedicated elephant habitat would significantly reduce conflicts. The minister also informed

that he would meet the Union Minister for Forest, Environment, and Climate Change in Delhi next week to seek funds from the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). He reiterated the need for a comprehensive Command Center to monitor wildlife movement, provide real-time alerts, and ensure timely responses to distress calls from villagers. “The system must function round-the-clock to track elephants and other wildlife entering human settlements,” he said. Highlight-

ing ecological concerns, Khandre directed officials to address the spread of invasive weeds like Senna and Lantana, which are damaging forest ecosystems. He urged the department to study control measures adopted in neighboring Tamil Nadu and Kerala and implement large-scale eradication drives in Karnataka. The minister also sought details about the plight of contractual staff following complaints of irregular salary payments and delays in provident fund contributions, particularly after the death of five ti-



gers in Male Mahadeshwara Hills. He asked for a comprehensive report on the number of contractual employees, pending sala-

ries, allowances, and EPF contributions. “Wildlife conservation is vital, but human lives and crops must also be protected. Forest of-

ficers and staff must work with utmost dedication to strike a balance and prevent deforestation,” he asserted. Principal Chief Conser-

vators of Forests Meenakshi Negi and P.C. Ray, along with senior officers from elephant conflict zones, participated in the conference.