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CBI arrests Cong leader Vinay Kulkarni in Yogeshgouda murder case

Ex-minister questioned for 10 hrs; sent to judicial custody

SRINIDHI R DHARWAD, DHNS

ormer minister and Congress leader Vinay Kulkarni was arrested by the CBI on Thursday in connection with the murder of B.IPworker and Zilla Panchayat member Yogeshgouda Goudar in 2016.

After interrogating Vinay for more than 10 hours, CBI officials produced him before the second additional district court at 6 pm and sought threeday custody. However, judge Panchakshari H remanded

6/11/20 produce Vinay before the court by 11.30 am on Friday. Amid tight security, Vinay was taken to Hindalga jail in Belagavi.

Yogeshgouda, a ZP member from the BJP, was hacked to death in Dharwad in June, 2016. Subsequently, following a plea by his family, the case was handed over to the CBI.

Before producing him in the court, the CBI took him to the district civil hospital for Covid-19 test and a general health check-up.

Earlier in the day, the CBI team reached Kulkarni's house and issued him a notice to aphim to judicial custody for one pear before it for interrogation. Accompanied by his daughter, ThejudgetoldCBIofficialsto Kulkarni reached the Dhar-



Congress leader Vinay Kulkarni being brought to the district hospital for a health check-up in Dharwad on Thursday.

DH PHOTO/B M KEDARNATH

wad sub-urban police station at7am.

Another team of CBI, which had picked up Vijay Kulkarni, younger brother of Vinay, from his residence in Hubballi, arrived at the police station at 8.30 am.

As the news spread, Congress workers gathered in front lice arrested Basavaraj Mutta-

of the police station and staged a protest. They accused the BJP government of vendetta politics.

Yogeshgouda was murdered at his gym in Saptapur, Dharwad on June 15, 2016, by a group of unknown persons.

The Hubballi-Dharwad po-

gi and six others on June 17, in connection with the murder over a land dispute.

Gouda's family accused the then Dharwad Rural MLA Vinay Kulkarni of masterminding the murder. The state government handed over the case to the CID.

With the change of guard in the state, the Yediyurappa government handed over the case to the CBI last year. The CBI nabbed seven persons, allegedly hired to eliminate Gouda.