WINDOWS

Yatnal rules out reconciliation with Vijayendra

VIJAYAPURA: Expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has ruled out any reconciliation talks with Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra, dismissing speculation that their recent meeting could pave the way for his return to the party.

Yatnal clarified that the two had not discussed any political settlement and asserted that further developments would depend on a change in the state BJP leadership.

His remarks come after their appearance at a private gathering triggered speculation about a possible rapprochement.

Explaining the meeting, Yatnal said he had attended a private event and was invited to a person's house. Vijayendra arrived while he was having coffee there, and they exchanged routine pleasantries. He denied that any negotiations had taken place.

Yatnal accused Vijayendra of causing him considerable personal and political harm.

He alleged that when Vijayendra's father, former chief minister BS Yediyurappa, was in power, his letters were torn up and funds meant for his constituency were withheld. He also claimed that efforts were made to suppress him because he was seen as a political rival. According to Yatnal, there was personal hostility between him and Vijayendra, making reconciliation difficult under the present leadership.

The expelled MLA also clarified his plans for his proposed Delhi visit. He said Union Minister V Somanna had invited him to attend an event marking the unveiling of a statue of Kittur Rani Chennamma in Parliament. Yatnal said he intended to raise issues concerning sugarcane farmers with ministers but had no plans to meet national BJP leaders to discuss rejoining the party.

Yatnal said he would consider returning to the BJP only if he received an appropriate position and the state leadership changed. Otherwise, he indicated that he would continue his political fight independently.

IMD forecasts rains intensified from today

BENGALURU: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that rain may intensify further in various districts of the state in the coming days. Rain accompanied by thunder is expected especially across several places in the coastal and southern interior regions.

From 22 October, the quantity of rainfall is likely to increase significantly in most districts of the state, and the weather department has issued a forecast of heavy rain in some areas.

In certain parts of coastal Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts there is a possibility of moderate rain with lightning and thunder. Cloudy conditions are expected throughout the day in this region, with intermittent showers anticipated.

When thunder and lightning activity is high, the public is advised to strictly avoid moving about or standing in open areas. Officials have appealed that, when lightning is seen, people should not take shelter under trees but should take shelter inside safe buildings free of any danger and exercise caution.

18-yr-old Soumya wins gold at Asian Para Games

An Athlete from Chamarajanagar district wins gold, while Radha Venkatesh from Chitradurga clinches silver in the women's 1,500m T12 category

Bharath Anjanappa
Bengaluru

SOUMYA, an 18-year-old para-athlete from Kollegala in Chamarajanagar district, has brought pride to Karnataka and India by winning a gold medal in the women's 1,500-metre T12 category at the 5th Asian Para Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Adding to Karnataka's achievement, Radha Venkatesh from Chitradurga won the silver medal in the same event and category, marking another significant accomplishment for the state's para-athletics contingent.

Representing India, Soumya's gold-medal performance highlights the talent and determination of para-athletes from Karnataka on the international stage. At 18, her achievement is a proud moment for her home district and the country. Soumya is associated with the Indian Athletic Academy and is reported to have studied at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Government Pre-University College in Gandhinagar, Bengaluru.

The athletes were trained at the Indian Athletic Academy in Jayanagar, Bengaluru, under the guidance of international athlete and coach Roshan Bachchan, with support from coach Vikram, a former state and national-level athlete.

The gold and silver medals won by Soumya and Radha Venkatesh are significant achievements for Karnataka's para-sports community and are expected to inspire more young athletes to pursue excellence in sports.

Kharge calls Modi's rule 'Hitler-like', says people fed up with NDA govt

Hans News Service
Kalaburagi

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday accused the Narendra Modi-led NDA government of running what he described as "Hitler-like rule" in the country, claiming that people were increasingly dissatisfied with the government and that its allies were gradually distancing themselves from the coalition.

Speaking in Kalaburagi, Kharge alleged that the government was undermining democratic institutions and concentrating power. He also criticised Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, accusing him of favouring the BJP and the Modi leadership. Kharge alleged that irregularities in voting had taken place and claimed that complaints about the Election Commission's functioning had not received adequate attention.

Kharge said political parties and leaders who had supported the NDA were now reconsidering their positions. Referring to Andhra Pradesh politics, he cited YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and claimed that leaders who had earlier supported the alliance were expressing regret. His remarks came amid the Congress's continuing allegations concerning electoral practices and the functioning of constitutional institutions.

The Congress president also targeted the BJP over its criticism of Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. He alleged that Prime Minister Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had made attacking Rahul Gandhi a regular political strategy, similar to the BJP's earlier criticism of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Kharge further accused the government of failing to address problems in the education sector. He pointed to vacancies in universities and alleged that inadequate attention was being given to education and the concerns of young people. He claimed that the government's policies were weakening the confidence of the youth in the Prime Minister. Kharge said the Congress was fighting to protect democracy and the future of citizens. The BJP and the Union government have faced repeated criticism from the opposition over electoral transparency and institutional independence, though the allegations made by Kharge remain political claims.

Govt allows third-party agencies to conduct departmental inspections

Move aims to clear inspection backlogs and ensure timely regulatory checks and certification

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

THE government has directed various departments to engage authorised third-party agencies to carry out scheduled inspections, audits and certification activities in areas where staff shortages have delayed regulatory checks.

The move is aimed at addressing delays in routine inspections, particularly in departments facing a shortage of field-level personnel, and ensuring that regulatory requirements are completed within the stipulated timelines.The new arrangement will initially prioritise departments such as Legal Metrology, Food Safety and Drugs Administration, and the Department of Factories and Boilers.

Under legal metrology, third-party agencies may be engaged to conduct annual inspections and stamping of weights and measuring instruments. In the Food Safety and Drugs Administration sector, the arrangement will cover annual inspections of food businesses, restaurants, medical stores and pharmacies. Agencies may also be assigned safety inspections and annual certification of industrial boilers.

The government has clarified that outsourcing inspection work will not mean transferring statutory enforcement powers to private agencies. Legal and regulatory powers will remain entirely with government officials. Powers relating to the collection of food and drug samples, seizure of goods and prosecution will continue to rest with authorised government officers. Officials will use the reports and audit findings submitted by the agencies to focus their attention on establishments identified as high-risk. This risk-based approach is intended to help departments deploy their limited staff more effectively.To ensure the reliability of inspections, departmental officials will also conduct random spot checks to verify the findings submitted by third-party agencies.

The government has warned that agencies found guilty of negligence, irregularities or misconduct will face stringent action, including blacklisting.As part of the implementation process, the departments concerned have been asked to submit time-bound action plans covering empanelment procedures, eligibility criteria and the steps required for speedy implementation. The issue will also be reviewed at the KDP progress review meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary.

The government order was issued by Harsha Gupta, Principal Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, based on recommendations made by the Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 (KARC-2).

He has directed the principal secretaries of all departments to prepare the necessary action plans.

"Madhvacharya's teachings advocated a caste-free, harmonious society"

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

THE central message of Madhvacharya, the philosopher and social reformer, was the creation of a caste-free and class-free society founded on universal human values, senior scholar VyasanakerePrabhanjanacharya said on Wednesday.

He was speaking at a Madhvacharya Jayanti programme organised at the Karnataka Brahmin Development Board office. Prabhanjanacharya said Madhvacharya emphasised that human values were superior to all other religious distinctions.

Wishing well for all living beings was the path through which people could realise the divine, he said.

Those who opposed superstitions stood for truth, he said, adding that Madhvacharya upheld a broad vision of social harmony and peaceful coexistence. He had also inspired the traditions of Dasa Sahitya and Vyasa Sahitya and authored more than 37 works, the scholar said.

Brahmin Development Board chairman Asagodu Jayasimha welcomed the state government's decision to celebrate Madhvacharya Jayanti across Karnataka every year on October 21.

The decision was appropriate and would carry forward Karnataka's tradition of honouring religious and cultural contributions, he said.

PULAKESHINAGAR BUILDING BLAST

Home Minister says FSL report will establish cause

Two injured in explosion at under-construction building; police probe possible explosive materials

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

AN explosion at an under-construction building in Pulakeshinagar on Tuesday afternoon has triggered concern, with police investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident and examining suspected materials recovered from the site.Two people, identified as Suraj and Allauddin, sustained burn injuries in the incident and were shifted to Victoria Hospital for treatment. Police have registered a suo motu case against the building owner and contractor and intensified their investigation.

According to preliminary information, a bag had been kept on the fourth floor of the under-construction building. A battery-like object inside the bag reportedly exploded, injuring the two men. Suspected materials potentially linked to an improvised explosive device (IED) were also found at the site, prompting investigators to examine the possibility of an explosive device.

Reacting to the incident, the Home Minister said the case was under investigation and urged the public not to believe rumours. He said the exact cause of the explosion was expected to become clearer after the forensic examination. It was yet to be established whether the blast resulted from a chemical reaction or an actual IED explosion, he added. Police have sent the samples collected from the scene to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for analysis. Investigators are also examining the possibility that the suspected explosive materials had been brought to the building two days before the incident.

The probe is focusing on who placed the bag inside the building, what the object contained, how the explosion occurred and whether it was brought there for a specific purpose.

Re-investigation to be conducted on Soujanya case

Hans News Service
Mangaluru

THE reinvestigation of the Soujanya murder case has been ordered and a Special Investigation Team is expected to intensify it. After the Supreme Court directed a fresh probe on 21 September, the matter acquired importance.

The SIT team has now completed preparations to begin the field investigation officially within the next two days.

Examination of the important documents related to the case has already been finished. The SIT has reportedly fully examined the investigation reports and documents obtained from the CBI, the court and the local police stations.

The team led by IPS officer Lokesh Jagalasar will visit the crime scene in the next stage. Preparations have also been made to interrogate members of Soujanya's family, the PSI and other staff.

Father, 10-yr-old son drown at Ballari Fort

Hans News Service
Ballari

A father and his 10-year-old son drowned in a water-filled pit atop the historic Ballari Fort on Wednesday while visiting the site during the Dasara holidays.The deceased have been identified as Ramesh and his son Honnuraswamy, natives of Kanekal village in Andhra Pradesh.According to preliminary information, three families had visited Ballari Fort during the Ayudha Puja holiday. While exploring the hilltop, Honnuraswamy reportedly slipped and fell into a pit while watching fish in the water. Seeing his son struggling, Ramesh jumped into the pit in an attempt to rescue him. However, neither father nor son knew how to swim, and both drowned. On receiving information, personnel from Kaul Bazaar police station and fire and emergency services rushed to the spot and retrieved the bodies.

Police department not a servant: Kharge asks RSS to seek permission

Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), questioning whether the Police Department was subservient to the organisation.

Reacting to a letter submitted by the RSS informing the police about its proposed march, Kharge said the organisation had provided information rather than formally seeking permission for the event.

"The letter says that they are informing the police, not seeking permission. Let them seek permission. Is the Police Department their domestic servant?" he asked.Kharge also questioned RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's statements on changing the existing governments and politics, asking who had authorised him to speak about a change of regime and political matters.

"What regime change are they talking about? How can regime change happen? The Chief Election Commissioner is theirs, the EVMs are theirs, and the voter list is theirs. Can these be changed? Form 6 is theirs, and Form 7 is theirs. There is still no answer to the question: Why does the Chief Election Commissioner have judicial immunity?" he said, referring to Forms 6 and 7 associated with electoral rolls.

"There is a conspiracy to ensure that they remain in power permanently. This has already been exposed. Isn't the fact that people are taking to the streets today evidence of this?" he said.

He suggested that this was the reason some people were behaving with such confidence.Keeping up his attack on the organisation, he said: "Which evil force are we talking about? Who is the one developing links with Pakistan?"

He also called for an examination of the organisation's history and questioned what protests it had undertaken in the past.Kharge further said that protests taking place in foreign countries should not be compared with those in India, as the issues involved were different.

Citing France as an example, he said protests there were being held over price rise and education-related issues, whereas demonstrations in India were being organised against the Election Commission.

His remarks come amid a political controversy over the RSS's proposed march and the procedure for obtaining police permission. The issue has triggered a debate over the organisation's activities and the conditions applicable to public processions.

Priyank Kharge on Tuesday urged the RSS to follow the prescribed procedure and obtain formal permission from the competent authorities before conducting route marches in the state on the occasion of Vijayadashami.

The move has triggered a controversy.

In a statement addressed to RSS volunteers, Kharge had said that merely informing the Home Department or asking it to cooperate and make necessary arrangements did not amount to obtaining permission.

He urged the organisation to submit an application in accordance with the prescribed procedure applicable to all organisations and await formal approval from the competent authorities.

Kharge also referred to the RSS Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha Annual Report 2025-26, saying that the organisation had conducted 562 route marches across Karnataka involving 2,21,963 uniformed participants.

He said that if lakhs of RSS volunteers intended to march through the streets of Karnataka on a single day at the same time, the Police Department would have to make considerable preparations.

These arrangements would include the deployment of police personnel, transportation, food, traffic management, security and other logistical requirements, Kharge added.

Emphasising the need for proper planning, the Karnataka Minister noted that such large-scale events required manpower and public resources.