

No shift of stance, says Mallikarjun Kharge

Congress always demands for dissolution of assembly

DEBASIS MOHAPATRA

Bangalore—Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge said that the allegation of shifting stance made by BJP was completely baseless. Earlier, youth BJP president Girish Muttadwar has charged Congress party of shifting its stance. In a statement, he said that when "Janandolan" movement was convened by the Congress party, it was meant to oppose the President's rule and possible mid-term elections. But, on November 5, Mallikarjun Kharge, the KPCC president demanded for dissolution of the assembly and fresh elections, he added.

Mallikarjun Kharge said that there was no shift of stance of his party. "From the very beginning, we stand for the dissolution of the assembly", he added. He told the "The Weekly Observer" that elections were the burden on the public exchequer but it's better than this unholy alliance forged by BJP and JD(S). Briefing about the "Janandolan" movement, he said that in next 19 months, Congress was going to convince the people of Karnataka that present Government was an opportunistic alliance of few power hungry people. "We are going to spearhead this movement to every taluk and panchayat level. This is an anti-people and anti-secular government.", he added.

Girish Muttadwar, youth BJP president said that Congress, which



Mallikarjun Kharge speaks at Janandolan
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was vocal in its opposition towards the present government calling it an opportunistic alliance, was really the most opportunistic party. "Watch their moves in this "Janandolan" movement and it will be clear who is hankering for power. The party which was dead opposed to the mid-term elections, eventually claimed for dissolving the assembly with this movement. This is a frustrated reaction of the Congress party. They don't know what they are talking about.", he added.

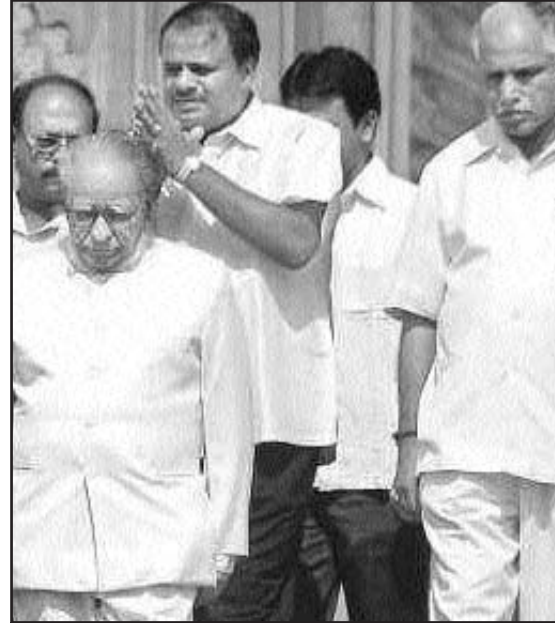
Youth JD(S) president Arvind Dalwai said that "Janandolan" was the example of double speak by the Congress party. "This is the frustrated reaction of the Congress party", he added. He also held Congress party responsible for the last two months affair in which Congress has tried to indulge in horse-trading to spilt JD(S). "People of Karnataka are the last judge", he added.

Walking a tight rope

Newly appointed CM confronts numerous challenges as he takes the chair

SNEHA JHA

Bangalore—The noon of 12th November saw the coronation of the BJP Chief ministerial candidate, B.S Yeddyurappa as the 25th Chief Minister of the state of Karnataka. But the mammoth challenges staring him in the face are aplenty. His immediate challenge would be, being extant in the face of the machinations of the JD (S) patriarch, HD Deve Gowda who has presented the new



Daunting task ahead-Yeddyurappa comes out of the assembly with Kumaraswamy
- Pic courtesy Google images

government with a set of 12 conditions that make his guidance mandatory for steering the government. It will be a herculean task for Yeddyurappa to maneuver the government for a 19-month tenure under the scrutiny of Gowda. It will be a tough task to juggle the agenda of his party with his commitment to the cause of all sections of society. Attaining the unflinching support of the JD (S) that is vital for the survival of this coalition

partnership is also a quandary. He will have to live up to the standards set by his predecessor. Yeddyurappa will also have to

has his roots in the Bookanake village in KR Pet taluk of Mandya district. He is an MLA from the Shakaripura constituency in Shimoga district.

His appointment as the Chief minister has a historic political significance for the Bhartiya Janata Party because this is the first time that a legislator affiliated to the party has bagged a chief ministerial berth in Southern India.

His appointment has also drawn the curtains on a political drama, which unfolded after the former CM declined to honour the power-sharing pact. The drama manifested itself in the form of a tug of war for wielding political power in the state. But now with Yeddyurappa assuming office, all the uncertainties lurking over the political horizon have been dispelled.

But, JD(S) as an ally, which has considerable support base within muslim community, it's really a tough task for the Yeddyurappa to pursue BJP's Hindutva agenda.

Also, this coalition is regarded as an alliance for survival without any convergence of political ideologies.

With growing family feud between Kumaraswamy and Revanna, it's difficult to predict about the longevity of the government.

Yeddyurappa's days in the chair of the chief minister may be numbered.

Political parties lavishly spending public money

DEBASIS MOHAPATRA

Bangalore—After the political drama is over in the state of Karnataka, it's time to calculate the expenditure incurred by major political parties i.e. Congress (I), Bharatiya Janata Party, and Janata Dal (secular) in the state to ensure that none of the JD(S)-BJP flock of legislature defected to Congress at a time when all the parties were interested in taking over power. When the party bearers of these political parties are tight lipped about their own expenditure during this period, they are busy accusing others about the money they have spent during this span.

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge said that their party has not spent any money during this period as they were out of the political scene of the state. He accused JD (S) of spending Rs 5 cr. during this period. "They are the people who have lodged their M.L.A.s in various resorts, taken them to Delhi twice and indulge in horse trading." he added. As the minimum airfare from Bangalore to Delhi in Deccan Air-ways (In which the legislatures were taken to be paraded before the President) stands Rs 4,500 per person, for carrying 129 members of the JD (S) and BJP combine, the parties must have spent around Rs.11.5lakhs for both way trip. Further, he said that BJP has spent

Rs 2 crores during this period. He refuted the charges of horse-

charges for food and stay comes around Rs.10, 000(for executive



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trading by Congress

While B.L.Shankar, ex-M.P. of Congress party said that the expenditure in the resorts (i.e. Ramaneswari and Eggleton resorts) which JD (S) has arranged for its members come around 25 lakhs. The manager of the Eggleton resort informed that the minimum

class). So, as 50 M.L.A.s of JD (S) have stayed for four days in the resort, the cost is coming around Rs20 lakhs for this period.

While Arvind Dalwai, youth JD (S) president threw mud towards Congress party telling that Congress party spent maximum money in this period to spilt their

party. "They are the people who have tried to buy JD (S) M.L.A.s in an attempt to spilt our parties." Speculation goes around political circle that the money offered for changing sides ranges from Rs10lakhs to Rs1cr..He also refuted the charges of the Congress party about the money JD(S) has spent during this span. But he refused to give any figure for their expenditure. Taking a question related to the money that has been spent by JD (S) for putting their M.L.A.s in resorts, he told "The Observer" to ask the BJP for getting the statistics as it's BJP who has paid the money for this stay.

But Girish Muttadwar, youth BJP president, responding to the question related to this matter said that the allegations by Congress and JD(S) were baseless. He denied to give any statistics about the expenditure but accused the Congress party of horse-trading.

Political analyst Rajeev Gowda said that the lavish expenditure done by the political parties is the sign of callousness and alienation from real issues.

"There must have been horse trading as there is always temptation to shift loyalties." he added.

Further, he said that when Karnataka was facing rising number of farmer deaths, it's an utter shame that political parties indulged in such huge expenditure.

Horses for courses

J JAGANNATH

The recent political tamasha in Karnataka has thrown up a lot of political gobbledygook for any neophyte of politics. One of them is horse-trading. No we are not talking about a polo match here, politics is nothing less than a polo match.

Whenever fractured mandate emerges each political party's jockey (leader) handpick horses (MLAs) from the rival stable (party) promising high-quality oats (plum posts) for five years. This is done with the sole intention to emerge as a "single-largest party".

One such example is the multi-crore JMM (Jharkhand Mukti Morcha) bribery case during 1993, in which the then Prime Minister P.V.Narasimha Rao was accused of bribing the JMM MPs to form the Central Government.

This was the time when an obscene amount of Rs.4 crore was paid to the MPs to vote in favour of Congress party.

Another term is President's rule, where central authority takes charge of the functioning of state. It is prescribed under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution. Suspended animation is a form of President's rule, where Assembly is not dissolved and placed in a floating condition.

In this scenario the Governor finds solution for the formation of an alternative Government.