

## Suvarna Yuga is not a threat for political parties

DEBASIS MOHAPATRA

Bangalore— The emergence of "Suvarna Yuga", the new party floated by Mahima Patel is perceived as no threat to major political parties of the state, though Mahima Patel is very optimistic about the future of his party.

Mahima Patel is the former Janata Dal (secular) M.L.A. and son of former chief minister of Karnataka Mr. J.H. Patel who has formed his party "Suvarna Yuga" at Kodagu on November 15.

Mallikarjun kharge, chief of the Karnataka State Pradesh Congress committee said

that this new party has no political impact on the political atmosphere of Karnataka. "Individual political parties have never been successful in Karnataka", he added. Giving some instances, he said that Gundurao has left Congress party and formed a new party but it was not successful. "It will be a big thing, if he wins from his own constituency. Congress is not going to be affected from this new party.", he added.

Also, Bharatiya Janata Party doesn't see it as a threat to their vote bank. Sadananda Gowda, state BJP president told to "The Weekly Observer" that "Suvarna Yuga" would be a fizzer. "This may affect the vote bank of JD (S)", he added. Girish Muttadwar, state

BJP president said that though he was a good youth leader but it has no impact on the BJP's vote bank.

Merazudin Patel, the state JD(S) president said that a new party like "Suvarna Yuga" can't affect a the party like JD(S), which was 30 years old. Though he was a former JD (S) M.L.A., he didn't have that political standing in Karnataka politics, he added. He informed that JD (S) has his own support

base among the minorities, dalits and farmers, which can't be eroded by this party. Answering to a question about the claims of Mahima Patel that some JD (S) members

were in touch with him to join his party, he said that the claims were baseless. "Our party M.L.A.s are united and they are not going to join any other party", he added. He claimed that members from other parties are approaching him to join JD (S).

However, David Solomon, general secretary for youth JD (S) said that Mr. Mahima Patel was a good youth leader having the capacity to spilt the JD (S) vote bank in his constituency. But he refused that JD (S) member was going to join "Suvarna Yuga".

But, Mahima Patel said that his party would be a major player in Karnataka politics within few days. With a lot of speculation it seems tough days for Patil ahead!



People gathered at Talacauvery  
pic courtesy -Google images

## Kar'natak'a politics

NACHIKETA MAITI



Reign of eight days, ends in full drama

## OPEN TALKS

OUR BUREAU

Krishna Byregowda has been recently inducted as the Youth Congress President of Karnataka state. Time at which he has been appointed bears special significance, as in the Centre Rahul Gandhi has been appointed at the helm of the affairs of the Congress party. He is now in a mission mode to drive more number of youth into the Congress field. Our correspondent Debasis Mohapatra talked with the new youth Congress president about his future plans.

**You have been appointed by the Central leadership to boost the youth leadership in Karnataka Congress. How do you see that responsibility?**

Yes, I have got direction from the Center to induct more youth blood into the Congress party. Rahul Gandhi has told me that I have to perform and maintain accountability. The central leadership has put that faith on me and I will try to perform upto their expectation.

**Rahul Gandhi has recently been appointed as the General Secretary of Congress and in AICC meeting the message is clear that Rahul Gandhi is going to be projected as the future P.M.candidate. How do you see this emergence of youth?**

We are eagerly waiting for the day when Rahul lead the sole responsibility of the party. He is a visionary who can transform the party by inculcating new Congressmen into the party. After Rajiv Gandhi who has the capacity to lead the whole nation towards a new horizon.

**When Prithviraj Chavan was in Bangalore, the youth Congress leaders complained that they were not given enough space to speak on important matters. Has the situation changed after you have taken the charge of leadership?**

Look, I was not aware of these happenings. But now there are no complains in the Congress party as far as

youth participation is concerned. We have to have a nice blend of experience as well as youth in the party.

**What are your views on the recent happenings of Karnataka politics?**

It's really unfortunate that the JD(S) and the BJP are squabbling with each other for power which led for the opportunistic alliance. This is the reason why today's youth is alienated from politics.

**As you say that today's youth is alienated from politics,, what is your remedy for this?**

The only remedy is that more educated ,socially responsible people should enter into politics. In every political meeting, I urge more youth to join politics than sitting on the fence and commenting on the happenings.

**Your previous incumbent in this post has been removed after a short stint in the office and you are inducted as a new face. Can you give any reason behind this decision?**

Really I don't know. But as I have told that Rahul Gandhi has told me that I have to perform I will be missed out of this post.

**Special youth drive is going on in Karnataka. Will you enumerate on this aspect?**

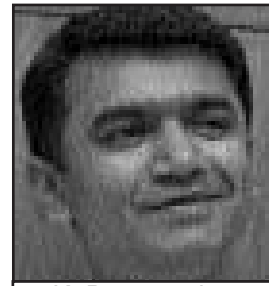
Yes, it is progressing well. Today I have convened all the youth leaders of the state. We are now in a mission mode on this issue.

**Do you have any special program for the student leaders ?**

No , we don't have it right now. NSUI is taking care of it. We are coordinating with the student leaders.

**What about more woman in the youth wing of the party? Can you give any ratio of the male-female workers of the party?**

We encourage more woman to join the Congress youth wing. About the ratio of the male-female workers I don't have any ratio. It's work of yours.



K. Byregowda -  
pic courtesy-The Hindu

## From ragi to riches

SNEHA JHA

By withdrawing his support from the JD(S)-BJP coalition, JD(S) supremo Haradanahalli Doddegowda Deve Gowda has once again hit the headlines

Born on 18 May 1933 in Haradanahalli village of Holenarasipura taluk, Hassan District in Karnataka, this 74-year-old leader is a veteran of regional politics in the southern state of Karnataka

He was the twelfth Premier of the Republic of India. He held the seat of power from 1996 to 1997. He was also the 14th chief minister of the state of Karnataka for a period of two years from 1994 to 1996. He contest elections from his constituency Hassan.

A member of a farming community, he won his first seat in the Karnataka state assembly in 1962. In the late 1970s Deve Gowda rose in the Janata party and was an key figure in reuniting its successor, the Janata Dal party, after the original group splintered in 1980.

When the Congress party was defeated in the 1996 general elections and Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao resigned, Deve Gowda became prime minister of the United Front coalition government after BJP failed to form a government

A Civil Engineering diploma holder, he was active in politics at the early age. He joined the Congress Party in 1953 and remained a member till 1962.

At the age of 28, Gowda, contested as an Independent, candidate and became a member of the Karnataka

Legislative Assembly in 1962. The Holenarasipur constituency sent him to the Assembly for three more consecutive terms: the Fourth (1967-71), the Fifth (1972-77), and the Sixth (1978-83) Assemblies.

As a member of the Seventh and the Eighth Assembly, he served as the Minister of Public Works and Irrigation. He resigned from the Cabinet in 1987 in

protest against insufficient allocation of funds for irrigation.

He also became the President of Janta party twice at State level and President of State Janata Dal in 1994.

He was the driving force behind the Janata Dal's rise to power in the State in 1994. He was elected as the leader of the Janata Dal Legislative Party and on December 11, 1994 he assumed office as the 14th Chief Minister of Karnataka. Hethen contested as a candidate from Ramanagar Assembly constituency and won by a



the vaneguard of Gowda dynasty  
pic courtsy-Google images

thumping majority.

His leadership of the Third Front (a group of regional parties and Non-Congress and Non-BJP combine) led to his Prime Minister's job.

Deve Gowda resigned as the Chief Minister of Karnataka on 30 May 1996 to be sworn in as the 11th Prime Minister of India. But the very next year Gowda had to resign from the post following the loss of vote of confidence April 11. His son HD Kumaraswamy was the chief minster of Karnataka from January 2006 to October, 2007.