

JD(S) on youth recruitment spree; expects to add 15 lakh members

DEBASIS MOHAPATRA

Bangalore—With both Congress(I) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) were busy in their respective youth drive programmes, Janata Dal (Secular) was not sitting idle but was planning to enroll 15lakh new members under its youth drive programme, said youth JD(S) president Arvind Dalwai.

With assembly elections round the corner in Karnataka, JD(S) is on a war footing to strengthen its base among the youth of the state. Arvind Dalwai said that they were doing a youth drive a long before Congress and the BJP has come up with their youth drive programmes. "JD(S) has taken a decision to go with this programme on October 26th on the executive

body meeting. We are planning to enroll 15lakh youth into party fold", he said. He informed that JD(S) has taken such a decision as it's the party which gives highest priority to the youth of Karnataka. Answering to a question how it is different from other parties youth drive, he replied that when

Congress and BJP have a plan to go to the village level, JD(S) has the strategy to reach the booth level.

David Solomon, JD(S) youth secretary for the state said that



Kumaraswamy; the face of the Gen-next
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JD(S) wanted to build a strong youth base in the state, with the inclusion of young blood from every walk of life. "We try to educate the youth about the present state of politics in the state and want them to be major players," he added. About the age group, he told "The Weekly Observer" that the

party seeks the people from 18-35. Answering to a question about the student leaders, he said that they did concentrate on the student leaders, but JD(S) didn't have any specific programme for them. He informed that the task would be accomplished before the announcement of the elections. Krishna Byregowda, the youth Congress president said that every party was busy with their youth enrollment programme but asserted that the JD(S) did not have any impact on their programme. "They are doing their work, and I am doing mine. My priorities are not fixed by seeing what JD(S) is doing", he added. He said that JD(S) didn't have major youth following in the state.

Girish Mattenwar, BJP youth president said that youth of Karnataka weren't going to join JD(S) after its betrayal to BJP. "Youth of Karnataka are not gullible", he added. He said that the BJP had the majority following among the youth in the southern state of Karnataka.

Yeddyurappa: Vanguard of the BJP's southern command

MANASA TEJASWINI

Yeddyurappa has come a long way in the history of the Karnataka politics. From being a clerk at Veerabhadra Shastri's Shankar rice mill in Shikaripura to becoming the first BJP candidate to become a chief minister of a south Indian state. He belongs to the Bharatiya Janta Party from Shikaripura in the Karnataka state legislative assembly. In the year 1983, he won the elections and entered the Karnataka state assembly. This was the turning point in his political career after which he has been elected to the assembly nearly 5 times. He was also the opposition leader from May 2004-2006 and then later went on to become the Deputy chief minister of Karnataka

Born on February 27th, 1943 in a village of Bookanakere in the Mandya district. An arts graduate whose public life began when he was appointed as the secretary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's was imprisoned during the time of emergency between 1975 and 77. He became an eminent personality when he helped Janta Dal Party's Kumaraswamy in bringing down the coalition government of Dharam Singh. He later went on

and signed a deal a deal with Kumaraswamy who became the chief minister, which mentioned that Kumaraswamy would be the chief minister for the first 20 months and then he would take over as president for the next 20 months he was also the finance minister in Kumaraswamy government.

In the year 2007, when Kumaraswamy refused to resign Yeddyurappa and his party members resigned and withdrew BJP's support from the government.

Later after the President's rule was imposed in Karnataka both the parties decided to set aside their differences and Yeddyurappa became the 25th chief minister on November 12th 2007. But this did not last long as the JDS refused to support his government and so he resigned on November 19th.

Since his resignation he has been in the news lately he started his dharma yudha against the JDS by announcing the elections now he has been for blamed by the National Students Union of India for the irregularities in the bicycle scheme for school children across the state.

Tale of marriage and divorce

Political parties in Karnataka find it hard to abide by the coalition dharma

SNEHA JHA

The term coalition government has become a very crucial term in the lexicon of Indian politics. The formation of coalition governments has become the flavour of the Indian political system.

In the year 2004, after the 13th Lok Sabha elections, the Congress led the 14-member coalition government at the center. The alliance is unique in more ways than one. This is the first time that the Congress is ruling the center as the member of a coalition. The other unique factor of the alliance is that this is the time the Congress has knitted an alliance with its prime rivals like the Left and DMK. Congress was quick on the uptake and picked up the trick of the coalition gymnastics really fast. Being the vanguard of the Indian independence movement and the grand old party of Indian politics, it has a wealth of experience to deal with political situations of all kinds. It managed to walk the tightrope and juggled the challenges of a coalition leader as well.

With the formation of more and more coalition governments both at the Center and the state, the days of a highly centralized governance came to an end with more voice to the regional parties. The Indian polity has journeyed far in learning to make coalition governments

work and in developing a coalition dharma since the first coalition government under Charan Singh in Uttar Pradesh in the Sixties. In the absence of a single effective center of political power, it becomes very difficult to provide efficient administration. This was most manifest in the case of the BJP-JD(S) alliance in Karnataka. When the opportunity of running the coalition fell into the lap of the JD(S)-BJP coalition, confusion reigned supreme. The high-voltage political drama was for everyone to see. The two parties broke up and made up the alliance to the utter surprise of the electorate. There was a mad rush to grab the cushy ministerial berths among the members of the parties.

The BJP left no stone unturned to extend their unflinching support to the former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy, a JD(S) candidate during his 20 month tenure. Even when JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda penned the 12-point memorandum of understanding, the BJP gave its consent and agreed to abide by it.

It was a frantic attempt on the part of BJP to keep the JD(S) on its side by incorporating the conditions laid by the JD(S). But the non-compromising attitude of the JD(S) to the sharing of ministries led to the toppling of the BJP government headed by B S Yeddyurappa.

Some are just born great!

DEBASIS MOHAPATRA

It doesn't come as a surprise when Rahul Gandhi has been formally put into the party's central committee in recently held All India Congress Committee meeting. But, Rahul Gandhi's speech definitely creates some ripples among the political observers. This Gandhi- Nehru scion made a fervent speech to promote meritocracy in the party.

Listening to a term like meritocracy from the mouth of rahul Gandhi is bit unusual. Because he himself is projected as the future prime ministerial candidate only due to his inheritance without a proven track record of performance. Can anyone except Gandhi surname ever dream of being prime ministerial candidate from Congress party? Of course, there are anomalies when P.V.Narsimha Rao in 1991 and Manmohan Singh now, took the rein of the country. But, P.V.Narasimha rao came to power just after Rajiv Gandhi's assassination as Sonia Gandhi was reluctant to enter into politics, where as in Manmohan Singh's case Sonia was compelled to step down seeing the political mileage that the saffron party was trying to cash in on the basis of her foreign origin.

Salman Khurshid, the revered Congressman tries to put it in this way in "Cogress Sandesh", mouthpiece of Congress party. He tries to make the point by drawing the similarity with the sons and daughters of professionals like doctors, military personnel, film stars who follow the foot print of their parents and enter into the same profession. Is it fair to draw a

comparison in this manner? Does the post of prime minister come under the same fold as of a doctor, military personnel or of a film star? Can India in this 21st century afford to give the prime ministerial post to a person because of his lineage? Salman makes a specious remark that people of India wants to see the Gandhis in the top post. If it's the case then why Congress party was not able to get any headway in Uttar Pradesh elections



- Pic courtesy Google images

despite Rahul Gandhi being the star campaigner. Salman also takes the pain to make a recollection of the fact that some people are just born great and with time they should be given their due. Doesn't this argument have a feudalistic flavour? Further speaking, it contradicts the very concept of meritocracy, which is now so passionately preached by Rahul Gandhi.

If Congress feels that young blood should be incorporated into the party, then it's a noble thought. But why Congress is finding that

face in Rahul Gandhi only? Why can't a face with genuine political credentials hold the top post? Further, Rahul Gandhi hasn't shown a spectacular performance as a legislator. He spoke three times and asked two questions in parliament within these four years of his legislative span. He has never participated in any important discussion in the Parliament. Indian mass hardly knows about his standpoint about major issues concerning India. Also, his credentials as a political visionary is doubtful. Because, Rahul Gandhi, in recent times gave statements which shows his inept perception about politics. In one of the election rally held in U.P., he asserted that if Gandhi family were in power in the center, then the Babri Masjid happenings might not be taken place. But, what he forgot to mention is that it's Rajiv Gandhi who opened the lid of this controversy and Congress was in the centre when the demolition happened. How can Rahul Gandhi disown the legacy of his own party, only resorting to Gandhi family' legacy? Further, when he extolled 1971 war as his family credit, it created a diplomatic row between India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. After these gaffes, it is clear that he is the leader who is blindly driven by his media advisors than his own perception of the things.

Let Congress show some guts to go beyond the Gandhi family. Congress usually faces the criticism that nepotism reigns supreme in it In this era of coalition, Congress has to undergo a drastic revamp in its policies to sustain itself.