

CERSSE ELECTION TRACKER

KARNATAKA STATE ELECTIONS -2018

15th February | Issue No. 2



In Conversation with the BJP

Mr S. Prakash
Media in Charge, Karnataka
BJP

1. If the BJP comes to power what will be the first three most important things in its agenda that it would like to implement?

First and foremost priority will be welfare of farming community. Ensuring not one farmer commits suicide due to loan burden over the crop failure. Secondly, spending one lakh crore on completing Irrigation projects. Thirdly, improving infrastructure facility in road, water and air connectivity which would benefit in attracting investment and provide booster for tourism sector. Fourthly, education and health sector reforms will be on priority list. Quality education with affordable higher education will be ensured. Health for all at affordable rates will be achieved with the adoption of National Health scheme brought out by the central government

2. How does the BJP intend to tackle the infighting in the state leadership?

The differences within the party have been resolved and party is working as one unit. The so called infighting in the party is non-existent now.

3. What does the party envisage about the infrastructural challenges in Bengaluru?

The infrastructure problem of Bangalore will be addressed on a war footing. The long pending suburban rail project is a reality now with central government setting aside Rs17,000 crore for the project in the budget. Priority will be given to complete the new Metro lines on war footing. To reduce the burden on roads, parking complexes will be constructed throughout Bangalore city.

4. Do you envisage the JD(S) as a factor impacting/affecting/improving your performance in the State?

BJP always benefited in a three corner contest. We do not consider it's contest as an impediment to our victory rather their strong presence would certainly benefit in many constituencies.



In Conversation with the Congress

Mr D. S. Srikanta Murthy
Spokesperson, Karnataka Pradesh
Congress Committee

1. What was the impact of the recent tour of Rahul Gandhi to North Karnataka?

Rahul Gandhi's visit has enthused the cadre and the public reception was unprecedented. The Hyderabad Karnataka Region where he toured has always been a Congress belt and he has increased the interest about the Congress party from the general public. We expect a better result in the coming election.

2. In your opinion why will the BJP or any other party fail to pull down the Congress government in power in the state?

The pro people policy implementation by the Congress Government which have reached the target groups are a great strength to us. The government so far has been clean and transparent and there are no scandals. On the other hand the leaders of BJP are tainted and Mr. Kumaraswamy of JD(S) is labelled as unreliable. The weakness of the two opposition parties on the one hand and the government which has been delivering promises made in the manifesto on the other, have strengthened the Congress and we are confident of returning to the power

3. What does the party envisage about the infrastructural challenges in Bengaluru?

The Government and the Mahanagara Palike are working in improving the smooth traffic flow and sky walkers, underpass and over bridges are available and many are under construction. Power and water supply have been adequate and garbage disposal is almost under control. Lake developments are on war footing and in many lakes Bangalore is witnessing birds of various species.

4. Do you envisage the JD(S) as a factor impacting/affecting/improving your performance in the State?

JD(S) is a party of few constituencies and Mr. Deve Gowda is the only person who has the capacity to get votes for the party. Many leaders who could win on their own have left the party and as such it is now weak. The anti BJP and progressive voter of their party will rally behind Congress and it will further strengthen Congress.

Battle for Karnataka elections heats up as Modi, Rahul to launch campaigns

-Aurangzeb Naqshbandi

February 2, 2018

The poll battle in Karnataka is expected to intensify as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress Party President Rahul Gandhi are all set to launch their election campaigning programmes in the first half of February. In last May, a year in advance the Congress had declared its Chief Ministerial candidate contradicting its usual trend of keeping the debate alive till the last months of campaigning. The current CM, Mr. Siddaramaiah would continue to be the CM candidate from the Congress. The Congress has divided the state into four zones for ease of campaigning and is in the process of making customized manifestos for each zone.

Read more at:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/battle-for-karnataka-elections-heats-up-as-modi-rahul-to-launch-campaigns/story-YBDqexmcmUm6gEffq6oyLK.html>

PM Narendra Modi silent on Mahadayi, vocal on Congress; ryots furious

-The Times of India

February 5, 2018

Much was expected about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mention on the inter-state water dispute over Mahadayi river water. However, the PM chose not to comment on the same and instead chose to attack on the Congress party and Congress-party led government in the State. However, the PM did mention about irrigation schemes and farmers, where he stated how the Union government's irrigation schemes are benefitting the farmers. Ahead of the PM's visit, CM Siddaramaiah had urged the PM to find time to resolve the water requirements of the State, through social media.

Read more at:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/pm-narendra-modi-silent-on-mahadayi-vocal-on-congress-ryots-furious/articleshow/62784962.cms>

Karnataka elections 2018: Rahul Gandhi to continue Gujarat-style campaign

-Chennabasaveshwar

February 5, 2018

Congress President Rahul Gandhi to continue the campaign style that was followed in Gujarat elections, held in the latter half of 2017. Rahul Gandhi would visit Karnataka on 10th February, 2018 and visit Raichur, Bidar, Bellary, Yadgiri and Koppal districts of Hyderabad-Karnataka region in his four-day visit. The leader would also visit a number of temples, holy shrines and dargahs. Four public meetings including a tribal rally, interactions with farmer unions, professional and business community members have been scheduled by the Party.

Read more at:

<https://www.oneindia.com/india/karnataka-elections-2018-rahul-gandhi-to-continue-gujarat-style-campaign-2634739.html>

Former Karnataka Congress leader Karthik Ghorpade joins BJP ahead of state polls

-The Indian Express

February 5, 2018

Congress Leader Karthik Ghorpade joined the BJP in the presence of its senior leaders, Union ministers Ananth Kumar and DV Sadananda Gowda among others, on 5th February 2018 after a meeting with BJP National Party Chief Amit Shah. He called out to the masses the need for ousting the current Government on charges of corruption. Karthik Ghorpade is the son of veteran Congress leader M Y Ghorpade. Union minister and the BJP's Karnataka election in-charge, Prakash Javadekar, said the former Congress leader had a huge support base in Bellary district and that he was joining the party with thousands of his followers.

Read more at:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/former-karnataka-congress-leader-joins-bjp-ahead-of-state-polls-5052683/>

Modi-Shah prep for pre-election show in Karnataka; Siddaramaiah adopts BJP tact, proves tough nut to crack

-Amitabh Tiwari

February 5, 2018

The election season in Karnataka is all heated up after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on 4th February 2018. Karnataka is the last big turf that Congress holds along with Punjab. The PM has called the Congress- led government a '10 percent government'. And highlighted the agricultural problems in the state. Since 1985, no Chief Minister has returned to power in Karnataka, Siddaramaiah's aggressive countering has left the opposition in surprise. The CM has left no stone unturned in positioning the achievements of his government. The upcoming election is crucial to both the BJP and the Congress as the Lok Sabha elections would be held in the year 2019 and also, since other states such as Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh are due for elections in the recent future.

Read more at:

<http://www.firstpost.com/politics/modi-shah-prep-for-pre-poll-show-in-karnataka-but-siddaramaiah-adopts-bjp-tact-proves-a-tough-nut-to-crack-4336003.html>

Congress-mukt Karnataka! Countdown begins, says Narendra Modi

-Deccan Chronicle

February 5, 2018

The PM launched a full- fledged attack on the Congress Government as he addressed the Parivartana Rally in Bengaluru. The PM stated that the countdown has begun for the fall of Congress in the State. He envisaged a Congress- free Karnataka State. He also took a dig on the Government on charges of corruption. He promised faster implementation of developmental projects in the State if BJP comes to power in terms of coordination with the Centre. He also attacked the Government for the failure of central schemes such as Fasal Bhima Yojana and Swachh Bharat Yojana.

Read more at:

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/050218/congress-mukt-karnataka-countdown-begins-says-narendra-modi.html>

'Development, governance to be Congress poll plank in Karnataka'

- Sharan Poovanna

February 6, 2018

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president G. Parameshwara stated that the party has taken a lot of initiative to structurally reorganize itself, strengthen its grassroots level engagements and focus on seats lost in margins. The party would project the achievements of the current Government in the upcoming elections. The strongholds that the party would highlight are the developmental agenda and governance. The party president also highlighted that they, through the young national party president Rahul Gandhi, would reach out the youth. The party president affirmed that the party is inclusive in nature and would like to have representation from all castes and religions.

Read more at:

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/RF484gcMYhOtOmeZEhvnLO/Development-governance-to-be-Congress-poll-plank-in-Karnat.html>

In election mode, PM Modi to visit Karnataka four times before code of conduct kicks in

-The Times of India

February 6, 2018

PM Narendra Modi had successfully initiated his party's election campaign on 4th February, 2018. The PM is set to address four more BJP rallies in the districts Mysore, Davangere, Raichur and Kalaburgi. The larger of the four rallies have been scheduled for February 27th in Davangere to coincide with the 75th birthday of BJP state party president B S Yeddyurappa. The election code of conduct is expected to set in by the first week of March, as per the orders of the election commission. The party is expecting the frequency of the PM's visit to increase as soon as the election dates are announced.

Read more at:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/in-election-mode-pm-modi-to-visit-karnataka-four-times-before-code-of-conduct-kicks-in/articleshow/62808450.cms>

Vikas went crazy in Gujarat, it has gone missing in Karnataka

- Kumar Shakti Shekhar

February 6, 2018

Karnataka state, set for elections in less than three months, is already witnessing a highly active political campaign. However, the major parties are keen on attacking each other rather than start the campaign on a positive note about developmental agenda. Unlike Karnataka, the States which had elections in the recent past, such as Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh had more talks on development issues rather than personal attacks. The elections campaigns of both the BJP and the Congress have started quite early. The State is also witnessing a lot of controversial communalist attacks as the elections are approaching. The need of the hour is political discussion on developmental agenda.

Read more at:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/assembly-elections-2018/karnataka-assembly-election-2018/story/vikas-went-crazy-in-gujarat-it-has-gone-missing-in-karnataka-1162395-2018-02-06>

Karnataka election opinion poll 2018: Will BJP defeat Congress? Surveys so far suggest surprise results

- Financial Express

February 6, 2018

Opinion polls on the upcoming State elections suggest that both the BJP and the Congress may be in for a surprise. Both of these parties may not get the required minimum to form a government and the JD(S) would gain in such a situation. The poll by TV9-C predicted that the JD(S) would have a crucial role in the upcoming elections. Congress would lead in 102 seats and the BJP would lead in 96 seats. Suvarna News survey also predicted a neck-to-neck competition between the BJP and the Congress with both getting 88 and 82 seats respectively. A mystery survey also predicted tough competition between the BJP and the Congress with the former expected to get 73-76 seats and the latter 77-81 seats.

Read more at:

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/karnataka-election-opinion-poll-2018-will-bjp-defeat-congress-surveys-so-far-suggest-surprise-results/1053847/>

Parties Bank Heavily on Celebrities

-Muralidhara Khajane

February 7, 2018

The major political parties, Congress, BJP and JD(S) are competing eagerly with each other to draw celebrities into their fold, both as contestants and as campaigners in the upcoming Karnataka State Elections. The parties are leaving no stones unturned in persuading the most popular celebrities into joining their campaign. Most of them have decided to campaign for candidates of their choice without any political affiliation or to remain as just campaigners without contesting for polls, while some of them have decided to remain silent though they have admitted the increasing pressure to join politics as the elections are coming up. A number of celebrities might be seen as candidates from all the three parties in the upcoming elections.

Read more at:

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/parties-bank-heavily-on-celebrities/article22672823.ece>

Karnataka 2018 Assembly Elections: BJP's Rebels without a Ticket

- Bangalore Mirror

February 8, 2018

During the Parivartan Yatra a few of the BJP's candidates were announced. Davnagere district, known as the Manchester of Karnataka is witnessing intense lobbying for tickets. After the announcement of a few candidates, the disgruntled candidates are now rebelling against the party. In the previous assemble elections, the congress had won seven out of the eight constituencies and the remaining one was bagged by JD(S). There is resentment among party factions on the chosen candidates and the rebellion is quite visible. The leaders are lobbying to finalise candidates for the undeclared constituencies.

Read more at:

<http://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/news/state/karnataka-2018-assembly-elections-bjps-rebels-without-a-ticket/articleshow/62824574.cms>

Will Rahul Gandhi's 'soft Hindutva' approach work in Karnataka? Experts weigh in

-Soumya Chatterjee

February 9, 2018

The four day visit of Congress Party President Rahul Gandhi's visit included visits to a number of temples including the Huligemma Temple in Koppal. The Gujarat election which was held in the latter half of 2017 also saw a similar approach from the Congress. The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee denied the charges against such approaches and named it as 'Hindutva with Humanity'. Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro VC, Jain University, saw this move from the Congress as an attempt to move back to their earlier image and not allow BJP to be the only spokesperson of the majority community. Noted politicians saw this move as a tilt towards Hinduism.

Read more at:

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/will-rahul-gandhi-s-soft-hindutva-approach-work-karnataka-experts-weigh-76194>

What does the BSP- JD(S) alliance mean for both parties? Insiders, experts speak

-Theja Ram

February 10, 2018

On February 8th, 2018, the BSP and JD(S) formed an alliance to contest the upcoming elections and they also stated that the alliance would continue for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The BSP saw this as a beginning to strengthening the party in the State. JD(S) sources however, felt that the alliance would not make much of a difference but would ensure JD(S) victory in a handful of seats in the upcoming polls, and also that the move had left some of the JD(S) leaders unhappy as they had earlier vouched for an alliance with the BJP. Political Science expert, Dr. Sandeep Shastri saw this move to be one of convenience.

Read more at:

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/what-does-bsp-jds-alliance-mean-both-parties-insiders-experts-speak-76242>

Rahul Gandhi to Visit Six Backward Districts, Continue Temple Run During Congress' Karnataka Assembly Elections Campaign

-Stacy Pereira

February 11, 2018

In his first leg of election campaign for the upcoming polls, Congress party President Rahul Gandhi chose to visit six backward districts in the Hyderabad-Karnataka region, Koppal, Raichur, Yadgir, Gulbarga, Bidar and Hospet. He launched the 'Janaashiwarda Yatra' from Hospet, Bellary on February 10th, 2018 and questioned the current Union Government on grounds of false promises on jobs and corruption. The party President also showered praises on the current Karnataka State government led by Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Read more at:

<http://www.news18.com/news/politics/rahul-gandhi-to-visit-six-backward-districts-continue-temple-run-during-congress-karnataka-assembly-elections-campaign-1657117.html>

On Karnataka poll trail, Rahul Gandhi steps up attacks on Narendra Modi and BJP

-Sharan Poovanna

February 12, 2018

Congress President Rahul Gandhi continued his attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he addressed various gatherings as part of his election campaign. He pointed out the corruption charges against the previous State Government which was led by BJP and that the Siddaramaiah Government is 'scam-free' while praising the current Congress government. The attacks on PM Modi were both on national as well as local levels and indicate that it is aimed at mobilizing support for not only the upcoming elections but also the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Read more at:

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/X3CCvzljBkAtcUOEbpyzYL/On-Karnataka-poll-trail-Rahul-Gandhi-steps-up-attacks-on-Na.html>

Diary of Political Developments

KARNATAKA STATE ELECTIONS -2018



Modi's Bengaluru Rally on 4th February

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Bengaluru on February 4th, 2018 and addressed the Parivarthana rally. The rally was organised to mark the culmination of the pre-election campaign in all the Assembly constituencies in the State taken out by Party President B.S. Yeddyurappa

Pro-Kannada Outfits call off Karnataka Bandh on 4th February

The Pro- Kannada outfits called off the bandh after the High Court terms it 'unconstitutional'. The HC stayed the bandh called by the Pro-Kannada outfits over Mahadayi river water dispute

BSP, JD(S) to contest polls together, alliance to continue for Lok Sabha election

The BSP and the JD(S) on February 8th, 2018 announced that they are entering into an alliance to contest the Karnataka Assembly polls together. The alliance would continue in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections as well, Satish Chandra Misra of the Bahujan Samaj Party and Danish Ali of the Janata Dal (Secular) said at a press conference.

Congress Party President Rahul Gandhi began his four-day campaign on 10th February

Congress president Rahul Gandhi launched his four-day campaign to election-bound Karnataka on February 10th, 2018 from Bellary. The campaign involved road shows, public meetings, interactions with civil society groups and sessions featuring farmers.

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