

CERSSE ELECTION TRACKER

KARNATAKA STATE ELECTIONS -2018

1st March | Issue No. 3



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Karnataka Budget 2018: The Gender Perspective

A 'gender-blind' budget is said to be one that perpetuates inequality and favours biased spending by men, groups and institutions led by men. In contrast, a 'gender-responsive budget' is one that increases spending on sectors which address women's needs, identifies policies and budget allocations that could alleviate gender inequalities, surveys the existing methods for revenue collection through a gender lens, assesses the positive and negative impacts on women-heavy and disproportionate unpaid care work responsibilities, and alters expenditure and revenue collection accordingly. Thus a 'gender-responsive budget' personifies transparent and accountable governance that reflects the needs equally of both women and men.

The state of Karnataka's 2018-19 Budget, the Congress government's last budget before the polls and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's 13th as Finance Minister was a much welcome one with a separate section for schemes for women in the budget and an increase in outlay to Rs 5,371 crore for the Women and Child Development Department from Rs 4,926 Crore. Focussing on the security and safety of women, it has set aside Rs 2 crores to inculcate a positive mindset about women through gender-sensitivity training in all spheres of life including amongst government employees, community policing volunteers, resident welfare associations, students and colleges, especially boys. In addition this budget aims to boost the representation of women in the police force by 25 percent in the next five years, equip every police station with toilets for women, upgrade all women police stations in district headquarters to one-stop service centres, establish Nirbhaya Kendras in all the police commissioner's offices and install CCTV cameras in 1000 buses of BMTC under Nirbhaya Scheme for the safety of women. Not just police stations, it also plans construction of separate toilet and dressing room for women at all public buildings by amending the Public Works Code. It envisions building exclusive transit hostels, in association with voluntary organisations and private partners, as safe accommodation to women who come to Bengaluru for employment opportunities and entrance examinations.

In the field of education it aims at benefitting 3.7 lakh students at a cost of Rs 95 crore by providing an exemption from payment of full fees to all girl students taking admission in Government Pre-University, Degree and Post-Graduation courses, by enhancing admission strength of 25 post-matric hostels by 25 seats each, opening 5 pre-matric women hostels, 2 model residential schools, 25

student hostels, 10 working women hostels, 4 B.Ed. and D.Ed. English medium girls Residential Colleges and Resource Centre, and commencement of well-equipped separate women sports hostels with all types of facilities in 5 districts of the state.

In the area of employment generation, Siddaramaiah has earmarked Rs 10 crores to set up 100 mobile Anganwadi centres/creches in areas of working of construction labourers to take care of their children, Rs 17.50 crores to start 250 new Anganwadi centres in urban areas, to provide interest-free loans of Rs 50,000 for the purchase of scooters for 2,503 anganwadi supervisors to increase their efficiency and to give loan to the Karnataka Women Development Corporation, where Rs 1000 per month will also be given as fuel expenses. He has given a fillip to women entrepreneurs by laying down that preference will be given in public procurement (catering, housekeeping, solid-waste management in the local areas of the cities, etc) for self-help groups and representatives of women entrepreneurs.

There are plans for skill up gradation under the Transport department to train about 100 women in light motor vehicle (LMV) driving at institutes in Bengaluru and Dharwad and 1,000 women candidates to promote more women drivers under BMTC. While a special program for women in IT sector will also be launched, Rs 1 crore has also been set aside to start a comprehensive information resources portal for women for women to communicate essential information related to schemes, facilities and amenities for women.

Attention must also be brought to some unique features of addressing marginalised groups within the already marginalised groups of women like setting up Ashraya centres for the protection and care of women infected with HIV/AIDS women, who are neglected by their families and societies; giving priority to landless Devadasis in sanctioning loan and subsidy under Land Purchase and Ganga Kalyana schemes; exempting application fee to apply for various posts at Karnataka Public Service Commission to women and differently-abled applicants; extending of facility of Distinct schemes to provide state of the art skill to continue in IT employment for women who have returned to duties after completion of maternity leave or study leave; and enhancing incentive of Rs 5 lakh for the marriage of children of Devadasis along with enhancement of the pension amount being given under Social Security Monthly Pension Schemes like Destitute Widow Pension, Manaswini to Rs 600.

While all these moves are most welcome as addressing gender inequality has always worked best through raising gender awareness and empowering women, we need to further analyse the women-centric initiatives as not just a populist vote-garnering move. It must be examined as to what extent these outlays are utilised and how the civil society is involved in implementing these measures.

Cauvery Verdict A Shot in the Arm for Siddaramaiah Ahead of Karnataka Assembly Polls

-D P Satish

February 16, 2018

The Supreme Court upholding Bengaluru's rights over the Cauvery water has come up with a favourable verdict for Karnataka much to the relief of the Siddaramaiah Government as it had faced a lot of opposition from BJP on the team of lawyers defending the State. The capital city with its 11 million populations depends mostly on Cauvery for its drinking water requirements. According to the masterplan for 2030, the city is expected to have 21 million people and the water requirement will be more. Tamil Nadu had opposed water for Bengaluru arguing that the state capital is not a part of Cauvery area.

Read more at:

<http://www.news18.com/news/opinion/cauvery-verdict-a-shot-in-the-arm-for-siddaramaiah-ahead-of-karnataka-assembly-polls-1662669.html>

Siddaramaiah's 13th Budget : Will Append, Won't Spend

-Dr. Sandeep Shastri

February 17, 2018

The Siddaramaiah Government's fifth budget was presented in a positive political ambience as the Court verdict on Cauvery river water dispute had just come in and it was favourable. The budget provisions clearly have an eye on the upcoming elections, and the budget speech aimed to project the Government's achievements. The budget schemes concentrated mostly on agriculture, rural distress, employment and the youth. One of the disturbing facts stated in the budget report is the budgetary outlays for the previous remaining unspent. Another alarming trend on the revenue side is that close to one-fifth of the revenues are from borrowing. Whether this budget is seen by the citizens as being positive depends on their 'real life' experience at the ground level with regard to the implementation of government schemes and programmes.

Read more at:

<http://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/others/siddaramaiah-13th-budget-will-append-wont-spend/articleshow/62953161.cms>

Karnataka Polls: JD(S) Beats BJP and Congress to Release First List of Candidates for 126 Seats

- D P Satish

February 17, 2018

The JD(S) President and former Prime Minister H. D. Deva Gowda announced the first list of candidates for 126 seats out of the total 228 seats on February 17th 2018. The party is likely to give tickets to some Congress and BJP rebels once they declare their candidates. As promised by him earlier, the list had only two names from his family. The list was made public as he addressed an election rally in Bengaluru. The BJP, which used to be the first to declare candidates, is yet to come out with a list. The Congress also is yet to make their candidates list public though they had declared their CM candidate months ahead.

Read more at:

<http://www.news18.com/news/politics/karnataka-polls-jds-beats-bjp-and-congress-to-release-first-list-of-candidates-for-126-seats-1664229.html>

Karnataka Election 2018: BJP Will Win Poll Due to Fractured Minority Votes, Says Subramanian Swamy

- The Financial Express

February 18, 2018

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy stated that the party would win the upcoming elections because of the fractured minority votes and consolidation of majority Hindu votes. He also expressed confidence that BJP would get additional Muslim minority women's votes because of the initiative it took to ban triple talaq and votes of Shias and other smaller minority groups. The BJP leader said that the party was confident of winning 125 to 130 seats on this calculation. He stated that the battle is between minority appeasement and Hindutva.

Read more at:

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/karnataka-election-2018-bjp-will-win-poll-due-to-fractured-minority-votes-says-subramanian-swamy/1070792/>

Karnataka Elections 2018: With 5 Lakh Voters, Bengaluru South Largest in Karnataka

-Bangalore Mirror Bureau

February 18, 2018

Bengaluru South is now the largest constituency in the State in terms of voters. The constituency has a voter base of 5,01,408 as per the tentative voters' list prepared by the State Election Commission. The lowest voter base is in Sringeri which has 1.54 lakh voters. According to the Chief Electoral Officer, the highlight of the report was the increase in number of transgender. Around 4552 voters have enrolled for the third gender option of which 1439 are from Bengaluru alone. Around 7,72,649 young voters have been enrolled during the current special summary revision making the total number of young voters in Karnataka 15.42 lakh. The final publication of the electoral rolls would be done on February 28, 2018.

Read more at:

<http://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/others/with-5-lakh-voters-bengaluru-south-largest-in-karnataka/articleshow/62963742.cms>

Karnataka Polls 2018: Modi Blasts Cong's 'Commission' Govt; Top 10 Highlights

-Business Standard

February 20, 2018

Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued to press his attack on the Siddaramaiah Government while addressing a public rally at Mysuru on February 19, 2018. The Prime Minister attacked the Government on charges of corruption. Modi stated that the BJP will form a government with a 'mission' after attacking that the current government is a 'commission' government. He added that the state requires a 'mission' government that would ensure its overall development. The PM also announced two infrastructural projects, a six-lane 117km long Bengaluru- Mysuru national highway and a new satellite railway station at Mysuru.

Read more at:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/politics/karnataka-polls-modi-blasts-cong-s-commission-govt-top-10-highlights-118022000170_1.html

PM Modi, Amit Shah Raise Political Pitch in Karnataka Ahead of Elections

-NDTV

February 20, 2018

The assembly elections in Karnataka barely months away, the BJP has started a high-profile campaign in the state, spear-headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party president Amit Shah. BJP Party President Amit Shah reached the State before PM Modi left after a two-day visit. Amit Shah is in the poll-bound State on a two-day visit. Karnataka is the only state in the south where the BJP had been in power and it is going all-out to wrest the state from the Congress in the upcoming assembly elections. The party has pitched the lack of law and order enforcement as one of its key allegations against the Congress. At a function on February 19, 2018 at Mysuru, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the Congress government of non-performance, calling it a "government of commission".

Read more at:

<https://www.ndtv.com/karnataka-news/karnataka-assembly-elections-2018-pm-modi-amit-shah-raise-political-pitch-1814662>

Congress Young Turks Reach Out to Modi's Youth Votebank

-The Economic Times

February 20, 2018

The Congress is trying to reach out to the millennials who have so far been the staunch vote-bank of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Unlike the BJP which regularly holds youth interactions, this is the first time the Congress is trying to directly reach out to the youth across class, gender and caste to voice their aspirations. The party is set to conduct around 100 townhalls across the State targeting the youngsters between 17 and 27, the invitations for which would be made available online and offline, and would also be livestreamed in social media. The participating leaders will answer questions and take suggestions on the social media platform also.

Read more at:

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/62996411.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

BJP Trains Social Media Warriors for Karnataka Polls

-The Economic Times

February 21, 2018

Party Chief Amit Shah met the social media workers at an hour-long social media interaction session held at Uchchila, Udupi district. The session was not open to the media. The party's social media activists are adding students on their WhatsApp groups as the party seeks its clout in coastal Karnataka, largely because the party holds only two out of the 13 seats in Dakshin Kannada and Udupi districts while the ruling Congress holds 10. BJP's social media cell convener Balaji Srinivas requests their social media activists to devote four hours a day, especially on WhatsApp and Facebook, so that the party reaches Shah's target of winning 150 assembly seats. BJP, he claims, has conquered 80% of social media in Karnataka, but cautions that opposition parties, having understood the importance of social media, will give them competition. He added that it is possible to pull sections of 'undecided' voters toward BJP using social media tools.

Read more at:

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/63022380.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cpps

Karnataka Election 2018: Amit Shah Asks Party Cadre to Ensure PM Narendra Modi's Victory March Continues in State

- Financial Express

February 22, 2018

BJP President Amit Shah stated that there is public anger against the ruling Congress in Karnataka and asked party workers to make sure that the victory march of Narendra Modi enters the South through the State. Amit Shah had been on a tour of Dakshin Kannada and Uttara Kannada districts since February 19, 2018 canvassing for the upcoming Assembly elections in the State. He attacked the Siddaramaiah Government on charges of corruption. The party President also asked the workers to strengthen the organisation at the booth level. He cut short his visit and left for Delhi on February 21, 2018.

Read more at:

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/karnataka-election-2018-amit-shah-asks-party-cadre-to-ensure-pm-narendra-modis-victory-march-continues-in-state/1074799/>

Karnataka Polls 2018: Is the BJP-JD(S) On-Off Relationship Beyond Repair?

-The News Minute

February 22, 2018

The absence of former Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda on February 19, 2018 when he was expected to share the dais with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of festivities at Shravanabelagola has led political observers to believe that the alliance talk between the two parties have failed ahead of the upcoming polls. Less than a week before the event, Deve Gowda, during a media interaction had strongly signalled for a plausible alliance between JD(S) and BJP. Earlier, the JD(S) successfully joined hands with the BSP and NCP for the 2018 Assembly elections.

Read more at:

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/karnataka-polls-2018-bjp-jds-relationship-beyond-repair-76858>

Karnataka Elections: Minority Candidates May Get Fewer Congress Tickets

- The Economic Times

February 23, 2018

The Congress may not give as many tickets to the candidates from minority communities in the upcoming elections as it did the last time. At present, the party has 16 MLAs from minority communities including Mr. Zameer Ahmed and Mr. Iqbal ANsari who quit JD(S) to join the Congress party. However, the party is confident that the Muslim, Christian, Jain and other communities would favour them as BJP is trying hard to corner the majority Hindu votes. The minority population in Karnataka is estimated at 16% of 6.5 crore total voters.

Read more at:

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/63037065.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Who Stands to Gain from Modi vs Siddaramaiah in Karnataka Polls?

-News 18

February 25, 2018

Though the Chief Ministerial candidate of BJP has been declared, as the poll pitch is reaching a crescendo, there are signs that the party may be seeking votes in the name of PM Modi unlike the trend in the previous Assembly elections in Karnataka. Focussing its election campaigns around Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid the BJP rich electoral dividends, except in Delhi and Bihar in 2015. CM Siddaramaiah has played happily along with the BJP's attempt to make it a CM v/s PM contest. He's quite consciously weaved a sub-nationalist undertone to his poll narrative. Many believe the JD(S)-BSP combine may turn the contest tri-polar leading to a hung assembly. In the last five years, very few states have done that.

Read more at:

<http://www.news18.com/news/politics/who-stands-to-gain-from-modi-vs-siddaramaiah-in-karnataka-polls-1671369.html>

As Polls Near, Netas Seek Divine, Tantric Powers with Pujas, Homas

-The Times of India

February 26, 2018

State politicians have no qualms conducting rituals and religious ceremonies, hoping they will impact their electoral fate. The on-going election season is witnessing an increase in such practices. A few have even been accused of taking recourse to sorcery and black magic. Among the most sought-after rituals are Mohanagauri Yaga, which empowers the performer to win an empire; Shatru Samhara Yaga to overcome rivals and Raja Vashikaranam to gain advantage over rivals. The list includes eerie rituals like Swetha Varaha where a white pig is buried alive and Ashta Varaha where eight black pigs are interred alive.

Read more at:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/as-polls-near-netas-seek-divine-tantric-powers-with-pujas-homas/articleshow/63074974.cms>

Rahul to Hold Public Meetings, Visit Temple in Poll-Bound Karnataka

-The Statesman

February 26, 2018

In his second round of visit, Congress President Rahul Gandhi addressed a series of public meetings and also visited numerous temples. The party President was on a three-day visit to the northern region since February 24, 2018 on the 'Jana Ashirwada Yatra' ahead of the state assembly election in late April or early May. Earlier, in the first round of visit Mr. Gandhi had visited seven districts of the region earlier this month. On February 25, 2018, he flagged off a marathon to promote environment and ran with a few participants at the historic Gol Gumbaz monument in north Karnataka's Vijayapura district.

Read more at:

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/rahul-hold-public-meetings-visit-temple-poll-bound-karnataka-1502592111.html>

Karnataka Elections: BJP Focus on Farmers as PM Narendra Modi Reaches Davangere Today

-The Indian Express

February 27, 2018

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a rally to address farmer's issues organised by the Karnataka unit of the BJP to mark the 75th birthday of state BJP president and CM candidate B S Yeddyurappa, in the central Karnataka district of Davangere. While the BJP has played the Hindu card in coastal districts, it is attempting to win over the farming community in much of the rest of Karnataka by highlighting farm distress and the occurrence of 3,000 farmer suicides in the last five years. The BJP has cited Congress failure to facilitate central schemes in the state like crop insurance as a cause for the deaths.

Read more at:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/karnataka-elections-bjp-focus-on-farmers-as-pm-narendra-modi-reaches-davangere-rahul-gandhi-5079444/>

Diary of Political Developments

KARNATAKA STATE ELECTIONS -2018



The Siddaramaiah Government Presents Its Fifth Budget

The Siddaramaiah Government presented its fifth budget on February 16th, 2018. The Budget focused mainly on agriculture, healthcare, education and urban development. For Bengaluru, the budgetary allocation focused on better roads, footpaths, lakes, groundwater replenishment and a suburban rail project.

JD(S) Ties Up With NCP For 2018 Karnataka Assembly Election

JD(S) led by former Prime Minister H.D. Deva Gowda announced a political alliance with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on February 15th, 2018. The alliance is made for the upcoming State Assembly elections. The JD(S) had earlier announced an alliance with the BSP.

PM Narendra Modi Addressed Poll-bound Karnataka

Prime Minister Narendra Modi began his second visit to address the poll-bound State on February 18th, 2018. During his two-day visit he addressed gatherings at Mysuru where he flagged off the Humsafar Express and also attended various public functions at Mysuru and Bengaluru

Congress President Rahul Gandhi Campaigned In Karnataka For 3 Days From February 24th

During his second leg of campaign Rahul Gandhi covered Belgaum, Vijayapura (Bijapur), Bagalkot and Dharwad districts of the Mumbai-Karnataka region of the State as part of the Jana Ashirwada Yatre.

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