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D.H. Shankaramurthy's contributions to Karnataka politics an overview

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Abstract

The political and economic democracy would not be much developed with out the true leaders of the nation. That is why Plato rightly asserted that "The philosopher king must rule the kingdom". With out the rich knowledge of the ruler the nation will not be in the proper forwardness. In this article, the researcher tries to study how the leadership qualify helps to the nation development and also explain the contribution of D H Shankar Murthy to Karnataka politics and particularly to Shimoga district. The data used for his research article for the secondary data which has been collected from the books, journals, Periodicals etc.

Keywords: Leader, democratic governance, people's development, parliamentary democracy, contributions, politics

Introduction

Shimoga is one of the district of the Karnataka state, is situated roughly in the mid-south-western part of the state. It had an eventful history and has rich cultural traditions. It is bestowed with abundant natural recourses. The western area of the district consists of a mountains terrain while on the eastern side, there is a striking transition from malnad and semi malnad to maidan. The district has witnessed many veteran politicians for their true ideas for sustainable development of the state in general and Shimoga district in particular. We can mention some of the great leaders like Kadidal Manjappa, Shantaveri Gopala Gowda, J.H. Patel, Kagodu thimmappa, Sarekoppa Bangarappa, B.S Yadiyurappa, D.H Shankara Murthy and others.

Politics refers to achieving and exercising positions of governance – organized control over a human community. Particularly state. Politics is the operation of a constitutional system of government and public politics in government associations. A leader or a politician can be anyone who has taken up the responsibility of governing a tribe, city, state, region or even an entire nation. History has given us a plethora of political leaders, both good and bad, who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of their countries and the people living in the country. Political leaders are not just people who govern nations, during peace times but also during times of crisis. They are the people who are responsible for making and implementing strategies and policies meant to better serve the interests of the country they govern. These leaders are chosen through various processes, some examples of which would be through election in a democratic nation and through lineage or birthright in case of a monarchy or even dictatorships wherein one individual declares himself the lead of the state. Main political leaders of Shimoga was-Kadidal Manjappa (1908-1992) Was the third chief minister of Karnataka and he was a freedom fighter and a true Gandhidian. Manjappa was a freedom fighter and a true Gandhian who led many struggles in the state for probity in public life. He served as a minister in various central and state governments for 32 years. He played an important role in initiating land reforms in the early 1950s by introducing laws related to the abolition of absentee landlordism and recognition to the right of cultivators. He is remembered for introducing the Tenancy Act. Several other progressive acts like the abolition act came into being because of vision. He joined protests against emergency excesses in 1976 and later, headed the Karnataka state unit of "Congress for Democracy" Shantaveri Gopala Gowda (14 March 1923 – 9 June 1972) was a socialist politician who was thrice elected to Karnataka Lokasabha, the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka, in 1952, 1962 and 1967.

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Gopala Gowda was born in Sagar, Karnataka. He is considered as one of India's most important socialist leaders, and a pioneer of socialism in Karnataka. He was influenced by Ram Manohar Lohia. His leadership began as early as 1951. He was considered "charismatic" and he "gained many followers".

He mentored several socialists in Karnataka including J.H. Patel, Bangarappa, S.M. Krishna and D. Devaraj Urs, who became the chief ministers of the state. Urs was inspired and understood the depth of Gopala Gowda's mind and life which was devoted to the poor and working classes, especially the farmers. The Land Reforms Act and renaming of the state from Mysore to Karnataka are thanks to his association with Gopala Gowda.

Upon the publication of his biography, N. Dharam Singh, chief minister of Karnataka, said that "the agitation and the political contribution of the late Shantaveri Gopala Gowda are significant in the history of the Legislature".

He was a firebrand politician who knew the culture of the land, and being a villager himself had a great following among the farmer community of Karnataka. A well-read person with a strong love for the Kannada language, he had been a friend to many intellectual and sensitive literary figures of Karnataka like the poet Gopalakrishna Adiga, the novelist Dr. U.R. Ananthamurthy, the writer and journalist P. Lankesh, and the farmers' association leader M. D. Nanjundaswamy. In fact, Dr. Ananthamurthy wrote the novel *Avasthe* ("State of Life") based on the life of Gopala Gowda. It was also made into a sensitive film, with actor Anant Nag playing the lead role. A real idealist and daredevil leader his 'Kagodu satyagraha' — the indefinite fast he held to provide justice to the farmers of Karnataka — is evergreen in the minds of Karnataka people. His death at an early age heralded the slow demise of socialist movement in Karnataka. M. D. Nanjundaswamy, was one of the few leaders to carry forward the movement along the lines that Gowda had envisaged. Gowda's political role was pivotal as it once again drew the attention of the nation on the plight of the farmers.

J H Patel was the another important leader in Karnataka politics (1930-2000) he was 15th chief minister of Karnataka. He was also follower of Ram Monohar Lohia. He was inspired by Shanthaveri Gopala Gowda. He was elected to Lok Sabha from Shimoga constituency in 1967, and was the first Kannadiga to table his debates in Kannada. Patel created history in Lok Sabha in 1967 when he spoke in his mother tongue Kannada in the house. The then Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Neelam Sanjiva Reddy allowed and encouraged Patel to go ahead with his speech. The house heard him with rapt attention. The Indian parliament had been active for 17 years and Patel became the first member to speak in a regional Indian language. He did so in vindication of the eighth schedule of the Indian constitution in which all the great languages of India have been given a pride of Place. This prompted the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Sanjiva Reddy to decree in his famous ruling that henceforth any member of the Lok Sabha who is inclined to exercise his/her inherent right to speak in his/her mother tongue would do so without any hindrance.

Patel was imprisoned during the Emergency from 1975 to 1977. Later, he was elected to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly from Channagiri constituency in 1978. He was elected for the second term in 1983, and served as a cabinet minister in the Janata Party government headed by

Ramakrishna Hegde. Patel also served as a minister in S R Bommai's government, and became the Deputy Chief Minister in 1994 when the Janata Dal returned to power under the leadership of H. D. Deve Gowda. He succeeded Gowda in 1996 following the latter's elevation to the post of Prime minister. He was the first Chief Minister of Karnataka who was never a member of the Indian National Congress.

The most significant achievement of Patel's government was the formation of seven new districts in the State which was a long-delayed decision. His administration also gave impetus to Information Technology and attracted foreign investment. His government was also known for investing Rs. 4,800 crores on irrigation projects such as Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, modernisation of Visvesvaraya Canal, work on Varuna Canal and near completion of the Alamatti Dam across the Krishna River.

Patel witnessed turbulent days as Chief minister following the expulsion of his mentor Ramakrishna Hegde from the party and the split in the Janata Dal into the Janata Dal (United) in which he remained; and the Janata Dal (Secular), led by Deve Gowda. His political acumen came to fore when he deftly handled stiff dissidence from fellow partymen throughout his tenure. When party affairs took a turn for the worse, Patel stunned every one including his detractors by recommending dissolution of the state assembly, six months ahead of the assembly polls in 1999. He merged his faction with Hegde's Lok Shakti and entered into an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party. In his last election, a young candidate Vadnal Rajanna defeated him and his party also suffered a massive defeat.

Patel died at the Manipal Hospital, Bangalore on 12 December 2000. He was buried with State honours at his native village, Kariganur. During his last days, Patel had been making efforts for the merger of the two Janata Dal factions.

Kagodu Thimmappa he was speaker 14 th Karnataka legislative assembly and worked as the Minister in many times, he was interested in social service. He was interested in Social Service. He was a member of Taluk Board from 1961 where and then worked as the President of Taluk Board from 1967 to 1974. He was a member of both Fifth Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council in 1980 and later served as Minister for Food and Forest in Sri Gundu Rao Ministry and then became the Minister of Public Works during the same year.

He was the founding President, Sanjay Polytechnic, Sagar, (2 terms), founding President of Janata Educational Society, member of 9th Legislative Assembly, chairman of Karnataka Housing Board in Veerendra Patil and S. Bangarappa Government, later he served as Minister for Social Welfare in the cabinet of Veerappa Moily.

He was elected to the 10th Legislative Assembly, then re-elected to the 11th Assembly from Sagar Constituency in 1999 and appointed as Minister for Social Welfare, Horticulture, Family Welfare & Health and Information in the Council of Ministers headed by S. M. Krishna on 17 October 1999. He was appointed also the President of Congress Nadige Janara Balige (Congress march towards people) Programme on 16 July 2011 by the Karnataka Pradrsha Congress Committee. He traveled across the Karnataka state and made the program successful. Later he was elected to the 14th Legislative Assembly from Sagar Constituency and unanimously elected as Speaker of

Karnataka Assembly on 31 May 2013. He served as the minister for Revenue department between June 2016 after the cabinet reshuffle, and May 2018. He lost his seat at the 2018 election to Hartalu Halappa by a margin 8,093 votes ^[8]. Two months later he announced his retirement from active politics.

Sarekoppa Bangarappa (1933-2011) he was the 12th Chief minister of Karnataka from (1990 to 1992) he was continuously elected to the Karnataka assembly and Lok Sabha. His supporters called him Solilada Saradara (A leader who cannot be defeated) he was leader of congress, BJP, Samajawadi party and Janatha dal (Secular) various time. He was also socialist. anagarappa began his career in politics as a socialist. He was elected to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in 1967 from the Soraba constituency of Shimoga district. He became known as a champion of the backward classes, of which his Deevuru origins made him a member ^[6]. Subsequently, he joined the Indian National Congress (INC) and became a minister in the government of Devaraj Urs, with his first appointment being as Minister of State in the Home department in 1977. This post was followed by that of Cabinet Minister for the Public Works Department in 1978 and then Revenue and Agriculture Minister between 1980 and 1981. In 1979, he served for a year as President of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.

In 1983, he left the INC and became involved with the Karnataka Kranti Ranga (Karnataka Revolutionary Front, also known as the Kannada Kranti Ranga) that had been established a few years earlier by the now-deceased Urs. A brief alliance between the KKR and the Janata Party (JP) resulted in the 1983 election of the first non-INC government in the state. Although there had been speculation that he would be appointed Chief Minister in that government, this post went instead to Ramakrishna Hegde of the JP. Bangarappa gradually realigned himself with the INC after spending some time supporting the government of Hegde.

Bangarappa was appointed as the Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in 1985 and held that post until 1987. Following the Congress victory in 1989, he became Agriculture Minister in the Veerendra Patil cabinet. He was appointed as Chief Minister of the state in 1990 after Patil was removed on the orders of Rajiv Gandhi, allegedly on health grounds. Subsequently, in 1992, Bangarappa was replaced as Chief Minister by Veerappa Moily ^[5]. During his tenure, he promoted three popular programmes: *Aradhana* (to revive and rebuild 36,000 religious shrines), *Ashraya* (to build houses for the poor) and *Vishwa* (financial aid for rural artisans and cottage industries). His term had been marred by several allegations of his involvement in scandals, such as that involving Classic Computers, although he was cleared of any B S Yeddyurappa – who was the 19th Chief minister of Karnataka. And currently President of Karnataka BJP. He was the first person from the BJP to become the Chief minister. He has been associated with the RSS from college days. He is the strong opposition leader in Karnataka Legislative Assembly. Having been associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh from his college days, Yeddyurappa's public service began when he was appointed as Karyavaha (Secretary) of the Sangh's Shikaripura unit in 1970. In 1972, he was elected to the Shikaripura Town Municipality and was also appointed as the President of the

Taluk unit of the Jana Sangh. In 1975, he was elected President of the Town Municipality of Shikaripura. He was imprisoned during the Emergency in India and lodged in the Bellary and Shimoga jails. In 1980, he was appointed President of the Shikaripura taluk unit of the BJP and later went on to become the president of BJP's Shimoga district unit in 1985. In 1988, he became the State President of the BJP in Karnataka. He was first elected to the lower house of the Karnataka Legislature in 1983 and has since represented the Shikaripura constituency six times. He has been a member of the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Twelfth and Thirteenth Legislative Assemblies (lower house) of Karnataka. Following the 1994 state assembly elections, he became the Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. In 1999, he lost the elections but was nominated by the BJP to become a member of the legislative council (upper house) of Karnataka. Again, he was re-elected in 2004 and became the Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly during the chief ministership of Dharam Singh.

His first stint in power when he helped was Janata Dal (Secular) leader H. D. Kumaraswamy to bring down the coalition government headed by Dharam Singh and form an alternative government with BJP. An agreement was made between the JD (S) and BJP, which specified that H. D. Kumaraswamy would be the Chief Minister for the first 20 months, after which Yeddyurappa would become the Chief Minister for the remaining 20 months. Yeddyurappa became the Deputy Chief Minister as well as the finance minister in Kumaraswamy's Government.

However, in October 2007, when it was Yeddyurappa's turn to become Chief Minister, Kumaraswamy refused to relinquish his post. This forced Yeddyurappa and all the ministers from his party to resign and on 5 October, the BJP formally withdrew the support to the Kumaraswamy government. Karnataka came under President's rule which was revoked on 7 November as the JD(S) and the BJP decided to bury their differences and this paved the way for Yeddyurappa to become the Chief Minister of Karnataka. Yeddyurappa was sworn in as the 25th Chief Minister of Karnataka on 12 November 2007. However, JD(S) refused to support his go.

In the same way another important political leader from Shimoga D H Shankaramurthy. He associated himself in the activities of the RSS a non political revolutionary organisation since 1966 he served as a Member of Karnataka Legislative Council in 5 terms, Opposition Leader, Education minister, Deputy chairman of planning board and 8 years long term Chairman of the Karnataka legislative council.

D H Shankaramurthy was born on 30-04-1940 at Shimoga (Karnataka south India) in a highly respectable family. His parents being Sri Hanumanthappa and Smt. Kamakshamma. He is completed B.Sc from university of Mysore. He associated himself in the activities of the RSS (Rashtriya Swayam Sevak) a non political revolutionary organisation since 1966. He served as district general secretary and state general secretary of Jan Sangh.

In 1980 he became the state general secretary of Bharathiya Janatha Party a National political party. He actively participated in Bangla Sathyagraha and underwent imprisonment in Tihar Jail in 1975 during the emergency period. He was detained under MISA (Maintenance of Internal Security Act) for 19 months. In prison at Belgaum.

He has also undergone imprisonment at various places at Bangalore, Belgaum, Shimoga etc. for the cause of general public. Along with him totally 17 members of his family including 6 ladies have been detained and imprisoned during the emergency this creating a national record in India.

He was the Chairman of Karnataka milk federation in 1984. Rendered human service for the promotion of milk and its products and created national record for all round development of the organisation. For the first time he was elected from south west Graduate constituency in 1988 and entered the upper house respectfully, again he was elected five times consecutively during 1994, 2000, 2006 and 2012 he triumphed a record being a legislator continuously for 30 years in the legislature history of Karnataka.

He is the only leader among all the political parties to occupy three important positions of the upper house viz. its opposition leader and immediately as leader of the house and chairman of the same house. He officially visited united states of America to represent Karnataka at AKKA conference. Under the banner of Indo-China relations. He visited China heading a team of legislators to study the economic and agricultural development of the region. The style of his function in conducting the business of the house is praised by both parliamentarians and the bureaucrats. The way in which he conducts the business of the house will find a golden entry in the history of Karnataka legislature.

D.H. Shankaramurthy approving and starting of 184 degree colleges thus bringing a radical change in educational system as a education minister in Karnataka during (2006-2008) I go to these colleges to study the strength and found there are 2000-3000 students studying. Many places I have asked the students if this college was not there. What you would have been doing? Reply was especially in rural colleges girl's strength is more. They would say "our parents would have arranged the marriage and sent us away if the college was not there". I would consider this as one of my most important achievement among others which helps whole society, spread over the state. In 2011 he delivered wonderful speech at 57th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in London, United Kingdom.

Contributions of D H Shankaramurthy

1. He was the chairman of Karnataka milk federation in 1984 rendered yeoman service for the promotion of milk and its products and beat a national record for all round development of the organisation.
2. He was the leader of the opposition in the upper house continuously for 4 years during this period he has discharged his responsibilities in highly disciplined manner in up holding the prestige of the house (2001-2002)
3. D.H. Shankaramurthy approving and starting of 184 degree colleges thus bringing a radical change in educational system as a education minister in Karnataka during (2006-2008)
4. He monitored creation of document viz: Karnataka 'vision – 2020' which gives a new shape to the all round development of the state as a deputy chairman of the state planning board.
5. He visited china heading a team if legislators to study the economic and agricultural development of the region. He is instrumental in development of business relationship with UK under the banner of UK Karnataka business meet.

6. He is instrumental in constituting the Karnataka state Bio-fuel board (first of its kind in the country)
7. He was only leader to occupy three important position of the upper house Viz: as its opposition leader and immediately as leader of the house and chairman of the same house.
8. The style of his function in conducting the business of the house is praised by both parliamentarians and the bureaucrats. The way in which he conducts the business of the house will find a golden entry in the history of Karnataka legislative council.
9. He was establishing a Chair on Labour Research at Bangalore University in honour of labour leader Allampalli Venkataram. He is the architect of the chair.
10. He gave the provision to discuss about the child rights issues in the council in his tenure. He is instrumental in establishing a huge statue of Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi in meditation posture (tallest in the world) in between Vidhana Soudha and Vikasa Soudha. He mooted the plan to renovate the council he introduced suit culture in the house. (He is recognized across the political parties in the country for his honesty, integrity and intellect.
11. As a senior leader of the Jan Sangh and Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr. Shankaramurthy had guided many leaders, including him. This was why they were able to enjoy power and serve the people.

Conclusion

Shimoga is known for the veteran leader who fought for the welfare of the people. Most of them adopted in socialism ideology. Sri D.H Shankaramurthy is one of the humble and value oriented leader of the state. We must follow and adopted in true principles for the development of the country and the state in Karnataka.

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