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An inspiring story of Satish Laxmanrao Jarkiholi rising to power

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Abstract

Satish Laxmanrao Jarkiholi is a political leader and an activist from Yemakanmardi constituency representing Indian National Congress. He is dynamic and protagonist in many fronts. He is different and a character which falls apart from other politicians. He files his nomination in the Rahu Kalam, a period considered as inauspicious as per Indian vedic astrology. He is very popular with his graveyard-stay programmes organized in Belagavi city during the death anniversaries of B.R. Ambedkar. A visionary and multi-faceted personality with his developmental initiatives in Belagavi constituency is very popular. The present article is an attempt to give a brief account of Sri Satish Laxmanrao Jarkiholi.

Keywords: Politician, activist, constituency

Introduction

Satish Laxmanrao Jarkiholi is an INC political activist and a Member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly representing the Yemakanmardi constituency.

Personal Details	
Born	1 June 1962 (age 58) Gokak, Belgaum, Karnataka, India
Political party	Indian National Congress(2006 onwards)
Other political affiliations	Independent(2005-2006) Janata Dal (Secular) (1999 - 2005) Janata Dal (till 1999)
Spouse(s)	Shakuntala
Spouse(s)	1 Son and 1 Daughter
Relatives	Ramesh Jarkiholi (brother), Balachandra Jarkiholi (brother)
Residence	Hill Garden, Gokak-591307, Belgaum District (R) 08332-25364,26764,26765
Profession	Agriculturist, Businessman
Website	www.satishsugars.com
Member of Karnataka Legislative Council	
In office 1998–2008	
Constituency	Belgaum District Local Authorities Constituency (MLC)
Political Details	
Working President of KPCC	
Incumbent	
Assumed office	
Minister of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka	
In office	22 December 2018 – 23 July 2019
Preceded by	R. Shankar
Succeeded by	Anand Singh
Member of the Legislative Assembly, Karnataka	
Incumbent	
Assumed office	2008
Preceded by	<i>Position Established</i>
Constituency	Yemakanmardi
Minister of Excise, Government of Karnataka	
In office	2013–2016
Succeeded by	R. B. Timmapur
Minister of State for Textiles, Government of Karnataka	
In office	2004–2005
Member of Karnataka Legislative Council	
In office	1998–2008
Constituency	Belgaum District Local Authorities Constituency (MLC)

Source: Wikipedia

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Belagavi Constituency

Belagavi has been a stronghold of the BJP since 2004, making it harder for the Congress. But the district is also home to powerful families like Jarkiholis and Kattis. Residents have in the past favoured local equations and loyalties to the families over political allegiances. In 2019, Suresh Angadi won 63.12 % of the vote share securing 761,991 votes against Congress's Dr Sadhunavar, who polled 370,687 votes, according to data from the election commission of India (ECI).

Angadi had won the seat consecutively since 2004 while the Congress's Amarsinh Vasantrao Patil had won it in 1999, according to ECI data. Interestingly, despite Satish Jarkiholi being from the Congress while his two brothers (Balachandra and Ramesh) are with the BJP, they are a tight-knit family and have come together in the past to thwart off any outside interference into the district, said a political observer.

The Jarkiholis enjoy political clout, particularly in Gokak, Arabhavi and Yemkanmardi areas in the district, where the brothers are currently MLAs. This is also the areas where there is a sizable Dalit population. Alongside the Jarkiholis, the Katti brothers - Ramesh and Umesh, also sugar barons, are influential in Hukkeri and Chikkodi and are with the BJP. According to the local leaders Known for his tactical skills, Satish was instrumental in helping former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah win from Badami in Bagalkote district in 2018.

A master strategist who has played a key role in Congress' victory in various Assembly elections, Satish Jarkiholi has carved himself a niche in state politics. After entering the political arena as a director of Belagavi District Central Cooperative Bank in 1992, he has gone on to win two Council and three Assembly elections. A Congress candidate in the bypoll to Belgavi Lok Sabha seat, he enjoys mass support in the constituency.

Family Background

Satish, who is from the Nayaka/ Valmiki community, is part of the influential Jarkiholi family from Belagavi. The five Jarkiholi brothers grew from being sugar barons to being influential politicians. Gokak MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi is the eldest son followed by Yemkanmardi MLA Satish, Arabhavi MLA Balachandra and Bhimshi and Lakhan. The five brothers are often political rivals. Satish and Lakhan are currently with the Congress while Ramesh, Balachandra and Bhimshi are with the BJP. They often try to ensure that at least one of the brothers is part of the ruling government.

Early life

Satish Jarkiholi was born in a prominent sugarcane growing family in Belagavi district. His brothers Ramesh Jarkiholi and Balachandra Jarkiholi are both politicians and represent Gokak and Arabhavi legislative constituencies respectively.

Qualities

- He is a Soft-spoken person
- He is in a different political league and enjoys massive support from people of all castes.
- He enjoys mass support in several parts of the constituency, including the two Assembly segments of Arabhavi and Gokak, represented by his brothers — Balachandra and Ramesh. He also has the backing of

the cooperative sector, and several of his sympathisers are in power in many local bodies.

Fights superstition

He curls upon a grave and spends the night at the crematorium on December 6th every year. He is the forerunner of Kalyan Rajya in Karnataka, a movement against superstition.

- "He (Satish) has had good control over the district and has been in touch with all sections over the last two months. He is actively vocal about issues like price rise, farm laws and other issues which have aggravated voters in the district.
- He is very dynamic and well potent in the resources and network of party workers

Leadership Capabilities

Powered by his leadership capabilities, the congress could win elections to several assembly seats in north Karnataka in the past two decades. Many believe he played an instrumental role in the victory of former Cm siddaramaiah in Badami in last assembly election.

Political Career

- He has worked as MLA, MLC, and minister for 20 years. Former excise minister makes, one night every year, year after year.
- People have elected him five times as a legislator for the development works he has taken up.
- He served as Minister in the previous coalition government led by H.D. Kumaraswamy and the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government prior to it.
- He has won two elections to the state council and three to the Assembly so far, besides having rich experience in handling important portfolios in various state cabinets.
- Represented the Yamakanmardi reserve constituency (ST) in Belagavi district, which falls under Chikkodi parliamentary constituency in the Legislative Assembly.
- The Congress has finalised the candidature of former Minister and incumbent MLA Satish Jarkiholi for the byelection to the Belagavi Lok Sabha constituency, which will be held on April 17, 2021.

'Sahukars of Gokak'

Members of the Jarkiholi family, which belongs to Gokak in Karnataka's Belagavi, are popularly called "*sahukars*" or businessmen of Gokak among local residents. Born on 1 May 1960, Ramesh Jarkiholi is one of five brothers. The others are Satish, Balachandra, Bhimashi and Lakhan. Their father Laxmanrao Jarkiholi was an excise contractor who later expanded his business and went on to own several petrol pumps in the region. The family subsequently ventured into the sugar business, tapping the claim to fame of a region known as the "sugar bowl of the state". Now famous as "sugar barons of Gokak", the family owns five major sugar mills.

The Jarkiholis are known to wield much power in the state's sugar bowl, which accounts for 18 of Karnataka's 224 assembly seats. They are wealthy and are known to splurge on family events. At his son Santosh's wedding in 2016,

Ramesh Jarkiholi set up a two-acre *mandap* shaped like Kolhapur’s Mahalakshmi temple at Gokak. The entire town was decorated, and around 1.5 lakh guests were invited to the wedding. A helipad was built on the outskirts of the town for the arrival of VIPs on special charter flights. The family feud between the two brothers — Ramesh and Satish

— for ministership in the Siddaramaiah cabinet was the starting point of trouble that led to the widening of their differences. Even though the brothers are known for constantly changing their allegiance from one party to another, the shift hasn’t affected their hold over Belagavi in North Karnataka.



Source: Prabhu Mallikarjunan (2021) Jarkiholi brothers: The famous 5 with deep roots in Karnataka politics Retrieved from <https://thefederal.com/news/jarkiholi-brothers-the-famous-5-with-deep-roots-in-karnataka-politics/>

The brothers have switched parties to remain on the winning side and bag a spot in the cabinet. Ramesh moved from the Congress to the BJP in 2019, while Satish had changed his allegiance from the JD(S) to Congress in 2005. Balachandra had jumped to the BJP bandwagon from the JD(S) in 2013 and Bhimashi had quit the BJP and contested as an independent candidate in 2013. Although Lakhan hadn’t entered politics until now, he is said to have been torn between choosing Ramesh and Satish. He has finally joined the Congress ahead of the bypolls. While Lakhan and Satish joined the Congress, Ramesh, Bhimshi and Balachandra have been with the BJP. Today, the Jarkiholi brothers wield control over mining, education, sugar mills among several businesses and influence the 18 Assembly seats.

Rise to power

Over the years, powerful families which had an interest in

the sugar business – the likes of Kattis, Koujalgis and Jolles – controlled politics in Belagavi. The Jarkiholis were a new entrant in the early 2000s. The family rose to power when the region started to expand as a sugarcane belt, overtaking the traditional sugar industry of Mandya in the Old Mysore region. It was a time when the family shunned its illicit liquor business to expand to other businesses.

Wielding a stronghold over the Gokak region, they set up five sugar factories – Satish Sugars Ltd., Belgaum Sugars Pvt. Ltd., Ghataprabha Cooperative Sugar Mill, Soubhagya Laxmi Sugars and Shri Laxmanrao Jarkiholi Sugars Ltd. -, started a mining company called J&G Mines and Minerals Exports Ltd while also establishing Sanjivini Welfare Foundation, a social organisation. Besides, the family had control over Gokak Steels Ltd. and set up educational institutions offering courses in science, arts, commerce and law in the Gokak area.

It was also a time when the family nurtured ambitions to wield power in the north Karnataka. Belagavi has the second-highest number of seats for a district (18 seats) after Bengaluru (28 seats). It remains important for political leaders to establish their stronghold in the Lingayat heartland of North Karnataka.

The Congress backed the Jarkiholis to keep the Reddy brothers, hailing from another influential political family, at bay in North Karnataka. The Congress push for the Jarkiholis became stronger after the mining scam (Rs 35,000 crore illegal mining scam between 2006 and 2011) left the image of the Reddy brothers tainted. The Congress supported Jarkiholis who belong to Valmiki community to beat BJP's Sriramulu, a close confidante of Reddy Brothers, who hailed from the same community and was emerging as the BJP's face in the absence of Reddy Brothers.

Congress frontrunner for Belagavi LS ticket

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee working president Satish Jarkiholi has emerged as the party frontrunner for the ticket for Belagavi Lok Sabha bypoll. Jarkiholi has asked for time to think it over, according to sources. The bypoll is necessitated following the death of Union Minister of State for Railways Suresh Angadi, who represented the seat, due to Covid-19. The 11-member selection committee of senior Congress leaders headed by M B Patil held its second meeting in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

The committee held discussions about several top party leaders who have the potential to enter the fray, but Jarkiholi emerged as everyone's favourite. For his popularity and experience, the leaders said, he was capable of helping the party bounce back to power in the constituency. After his entry into active politics in 2000, Jarkiholi has won as MLC twice and MLA thrice. As MLA of Yamakanamardi constituency for the past three terms, Jarkiholi has given a new fillip to the process of rural development in his constituency and also at his hometown of Gokak.

The committee not only found Jarkiholi a suitable candidate to take on the BJP but also suggested to face this bypoll under his leadership. For the past four terms, BJP's late Suresh Angadi had been winning the Belagavi seat. With the BJP not having a candidate of Angadi's potential in Belagavi to face the bypoll, the Congress wants to grab the opportunity to bounce back. The name of Belagavi Rural MLA Laxmi Hebbalkar also figured at the meeting, given her popularity and winning chances in Belagavi region. The committee is expected to finalise the candidate within the next few weeks and convey it to the KPCC.

Issues backed up by Satish Jarkiholi Stand on privatization

He raised his concern over reducing education and job opportunities for the deprived communities by privatizing all industries. He contends that all the communities that are agitating for reservation and other benefits should realize it.

Urging nutritional food to zoo animals as a Government responsibility

He showed his concern over wild animals in zoos in the state and outside which need meat of cattle which is getting difficult due to beef ban in the State.

Conclusion

Satish Laxmanrao Jarkiholi, an INC political activist and

Member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly representing the Yemakanmardi constituency. Being from an influential family in Belagavi district is well known for his resource and network of party workers. He has fought against varied social issues. He is very well known for the developmental works. He has carved a political niche for himself. Being from a very rich and political family has acquired a prominent position in the Indian National Congress. He has been a game changer for the Indian National Congress many a times. He is an unsung hero with good political career.

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