



## Critical Analysis on Karnataka Elections 2018

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### ABSTRACT

The fifteenth Karnataka Legislative Assembly decision was hung on twelfth May 2018 out of 222 bodies electorate of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. The decision was delayed in Jayanagar and Rajarajeshwari Nagar, following the demise of the MLA BN Vijaya Kumar and a voter extortion outrage individually till May 28, 2018.[2] The race saw a voter turnout of 72.13%, which is the most astounding in Karnataka since 1952 Assembly polls.[3] The checking of votes occurred on fifteenth May 2018. [4]

### Controversies

#### Spilled decision dates

The Election Commission of India kept running into a noteworthy humiliation on 27 March 2018, when BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya and Karnataka Congress' web-based social networking in-control, Srivasta, tweeted the dates previously they were formally discharged in any case, them two got the including day inaccurate their tweets. Both the tweets were erased after a shock on Twitter. Amit Malviya later guaranteed that he got the data from Times Now, a 24-hour English news channel. The news was allegedly additionally appeared by a nearby Kannada news channel. Later it was uncovered that even Times Now got the considering day erroneously May 18, 2018, rather than May 15, 2018.

Om Prakash Rawat, the Chief Election Commissioner of India, shaped a council to explore into the affirmed leak. The terms of reference of the framed board of trustees included examining certain media outlets and Congress' web based life head Srivasta, however not BJP's Amit Malviya this incited affirmations of the Election Commission of India being one-sided for the BJP by the Congress.

On 14 April 2018, the board said that the media reports were insignificant theory and not a break.

#### Voter ID extortion case

On 11 May 2018, Congress MLA Munirathna and 13 others were reserved in a charged phony voter ID scam. On 8 May 2018, just about 10,000 voter ID cards, alongside a few PCs, were found in a level in Bengaluru claimed by previous BJP pioneer Manjula Nanjamar Apart from the voter IDs and workstations, the Munirathna's flyers were likewise discovered, which turned the needle of doubt on Munirathna. After the FIR, Munirathna said "I've conveyed 40,000 leaflets requesting votes in favor of me in my body electorate and you will discover them in each home in my portion. I've been named as blamed no. 14 since one such flyer was found in the level that was struck. This is an absurd protest against me and part of the purposeful publicity to annoy and mortify me.

The surveying in RR Nagar was deferred to 28 May 2018 and the tallying of votes was done on 31 May 2018.

#### Kaveri waterway water embarrassment

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly decision started reactions from Tamil Nadu over the Karnataka's legislature for not tending to the issue on legitimately and for its postponement in setting up a Kaveri Management Board. The Supreme Court likewise issued a strict notice to the Karnataka state government for utilizing the Karnataka Legislative state race as a reason to determine the Kaveri riverwater emergency with Tamil Nadu can't be worthy. The race was one of the most blazing focuses considered by the pundits for the eventual fate of

Karnataka in managing the opponents, Tamil Nadu over the Kaveri River water question.

The Congress party chose to help the JD(S) to shape a coalition government. The Congress acknowledged Kumaraswamy for the post of Chief Minister. The senator Vajubhai Vala, be that as it may, welcomed the BJP, the single biggest gathering after the race result, to frame a Government. He gave the gathering a time of 15 days to demonstrate its quality on the floor of the get together.

There were a few affirmations from the Congress and JD(S) that the BJP was endeavoring to "poach" their MLAs. Congress discharged 6 sound accounts, purportedly endeavoring to induce their MLAs to vote for the BJP government, in return for extravagant offers. One of the calls was supposedly made by Yeddyurappa himself, to the Congress administrator B. C. Patil. JD(S) boss Kumaraswamy said that their MLAs were being offered Rs. 100 crore to cross vote. Association Minister Prakash Javadekar denied the claims.

Congress and JD(S) moved toward the Supreme Court for a midnight hearing to stop the swearing-in function. The hearing began at roughly 2 AM. A three-judge seat comprising of Justices A.K Sikri, S.A Bobde and Ashok Bhushan heard the request. Despite the fact that the swearing-in service was permitted to proceed, on 18 May 2018, the Supreme Court diminished the period took into account the vote of certainty to 24 hours. The court issued five purposes of direction:

The floor test must be led by 4 PM on 19 May 2018.

The Protem Speaker ought to choose the method of test.

There ought to be no mystery ticket.

The legislature ought not choose the Anglo-Indian Representative.

B. S. Yeddyurappa's legislature ought not take any real approach choices.

Dismissing the tradition of picking the most senior MLA as the Protem Speaker, the Governor designated BJP MLA K. G. Bopaiah to the post. The Congress tested this in the Supreme Court, taking note of that Bopaiah was not the most senior MLA, and furthermore that he had a terrible reputation as the speaker. The Supreme Court enabled Bopaiah to

remain as the Protem Speaker, yet requested the live communicating of the floor test on all channels.

The Chief Minister Yeddyurappa, unfit to gather enough help for the trust vote, surrendered in the wake of giving an enthusiastic discourse.

On 23 May 2018, H. D. Kumaraswamy took promise as the Chief Minister of Karnataka, alongside G. Parameshwara as his representative. A few pioneers including Mamata Banerjee, Sitaram Yechury, Mayawati, Akhilesh Yadav, Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, Pinarayi Vijayan, Chandrababu Naidu were available amid the function. It was accounted for as a show the solidarity of the resistance in front of the 2019 general election. On 25 May, Kumaraswamy won the trust vote with the help of 117 MLAs, while the BJP MLAs had exited in front of the floor test. The succession of sordid spectacles that recently unfolded following the Karnataka assembly poll's fractured mandate has yet again raised disquieting questions about the transaction and efficiency of our current form of electoral democracy. The twists and turns in government formation – though not witnessed for the first time in the country's electoral history – have heightened the sense of crisis building around the practice of electoral democracy.

In India, like elsewhere in the world, elections are today synonymous with democracy. But with elections becoming more an exercise in reproducing state power than addressing concerns of citizens, it may be time to ask: Are elections no longer a trustworthy index for judging the robustness and legitimacy of our democracy? Given the audacious manipulateness every political party is prone to – going so far as to even subvert the very principles of the democracy they swear by from every public platform at their disposal – how truly representative are elections of the popular will?



Given the nature of contemporary political culture, the mere mention of political ethics is likely to provoke sniggers among many who believe all tactics are fair

in winning elections. Such unethical cynicism is wrapped up in realpolitik. No wonder that fielding candidates with serious criminal charges against them has become an “acceptable” practice, just as it has become acceptable to push through partisan appointees in high constitutional posts. For instance, we have just witnessed how Karnataka governor Vajubhai Vala, a BJP man, tried to rescue his party, knowing full well that giving B.S. Yeddyurappa 15 days to put together the requisite numbers meant promoting horse-trading.

It is for good reason that the public perception of politicians over the last decade or so has rapidly grown more and more cynical. Alarming, it's not just the political class which is eyed with suspicion and even contempt, the institutions they represent too are fast losing credibility. Interestingly, though, the people's lack of faith in the political class and political institutions has not lessened their interest in politics itself. In other words, even as the hiatus between voters and legislators has widened, politics has not been divested of the pull it continues to hold over the people.

Let's consider in this context some nuggets from the outcomes of the Karnataka poll and subsequent attempts at government formation. Even while emerging as the single largest party, the BJP fell short of the magic number needed to form a government. On the other side, the Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) – which had fought the polls separately, and even each other in several constituencies – notched up the numbers to form a coalition government. Rather than accepting the challenge of sitting in opposition as it has done in the past five years, the BJP whipped out every possible device in its tactical armoury to capture power. That the Supreme Court's intervention foiled the party's wink-nudge attempts is a separate matter altogether. Few would accuse the BJP of not trying hard enough to play the system.

The Congress and its new-found ally, on their part, ferried their respective legislators to a resort outside the state – a pre-emptive move to prevent them from yielding to temptations the BJP may have dangled before them. The parties' strenuous as well as nervous attempts to keep their flock from straying is part of the same narrative as the BJP trying to throw that flock in disarray. Both narratives point to how easily electoral systems have come to be manipulated, and the lack – if not absence – of enduring principles of

politics and ethics that could act deterrents against legislators switching sides. As the politics of opportunism completely takes over, parties need to devise measures of stealth and cunning in order to force a sense of political loyalty that in an ethical environment would need no prompting.

Hence, it has become common practice in any situation of electoral volatility to transport vulnerable legislators to a safe distance from the site of temptation. One may reasonably wonder: how can people hold their elected representatives in esteem when party leaders themselves cannot depend on them to stay true to the party and its politics, especially at a time of crisis?

Actions on both sides of the electoral divide in the still continuing Karnataka saga underline the frailties that are diminishing the idea of electoral democracy. They bring to the fore the limitations of elections in strengthening democracy in public life. It goes without saying that the intention here is not to argue a case for dispensing with elections, but to underline that electoral democracy is only one instrument – one which is becoming increasingly blunt – for thinking about democratic politics. In his book *Against Elections: The Case for Democracy*, David Van Reybrouck shows how the lack of popular trust in institutions and electoral democracy has deepened across the world. Reybrouck believes that the continued attrition of people's faith in politics, even as their interest in politics grows, has tended to create an “explosive” situation. “What does it mean for the stability of a country if more and more people warily keep track of the activities of an authority that they increasingly distrust? How much derision can a system endure, especially now that everyone can share their deeply felt opinions online?” he asks.

Paradoxically, fifty years ago, Reybrouck says, the world we lived in was marked by greater political apathy and yet a greater trust in politics. According to the World Values Survey, there has been an increasing tendency over the past decade to root for strong leaders. A leader who would be indifferent to parliament and elections, which has led Reybrouck to comment: “It would appear that people like the idea of democracy but not the reality of it, or at any rate not the current reality.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://thewire.in/politics/karnatakas-political-drama-underlines-the-deepening-crisis-in-our-practice-of-electoral-democracy>