



# AIM FOR 150, ELSE BJP WILL 'STEAL' GOVERNMENT: RAHUL GANDHI IN KARNATAKA

**PATNA: CONGRESS DARPAN**

**Bengaluru:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said there is a strong undercurrent in favour of Congress in poll-bound Karnataka but pressed on his leaders to ensure that the party wins at least 150 seats so that the next government is not "stolen" by a corrupt BJP.

He also reminded everyone that people in the party have a duty to defend the idea of India from the RSS and BJP amid hatred, violence and attacks on the country's institutions.

The Congress leader arrived in Karnataka on a two-day event to take part in a series of events in Kolar, Bengaluru and Bidar before flying back to Delhi.

"Most of us are aware of what the BJP is doing to the nation in terms of hatred and violence, the attack on institutions. These are the things that are visible to everybody," Mr Gandhi said after inaugurating Indira Gandhi Bhavan.

Dwelling on his party's prospects in the May 10 Karnataka Assembly election, he said, "We are facing an election now in Karnataka and I am quite happy to see that there is a very strong undercurrent in favour of the Congress and I am confident that the party is going to win the election." The Congress leader expressed happiness that there was "certain amount of unity" among party leaders in the state. "I am happy to see also that there is a certain amount of unity among all our leaders, unity of purpose and unity of action. I saw all the leaders of Karnataka during the Bharat Jodo Yatra," he added.

Winning elections in a close manner will not work in Karnataka,



Mr Gandhi said urging his leaders to win at least 150 seats of the total 224 in the Assembly.

"We have to win the election with 150 seats because the BJP is a corrupt organisation. The BJP has a huge amount of money that they have stolen from the people of Karnataka and they will attempt to steal the next government as well," he underlined.

The Congress leader said he was confident that if Congress campaigned in a united manner and stood together, then the party will win the election hands down.

"The essence of our country, the nature of our country is being attacked and it is our duty as Congress people, as people who have helped build the modern idea of India, as the institution, the organisation that has helped build the modern idea of India to defend it from RSS and the BJP." Lashing

out at the Basavaraj Bommai-led dispensation, the former Congress president said everybody knew the state government in Karnataka is one of the most corrupt in the country. "The tag '40 per cent Sarkar' has stuck. Everybody understands that the BJP in Karnataka is a symbol of corruption," Mr Gandhi said pointing out that the people of Karnataka are keen to teach a lesson to the '40 per cent Sarkar'.

Stating that the BJP government has "gone beyond being corrupt", Mr Gandhi underscored that no matter what Prime Minister Narendra Modi said or did, it was very clear to the people of Karnataka that the BJP wasted its time. "They have stolen five years of theirs because this government did not belong to them. This was a non-BJP government that was elected and this was a government

that has been stolen," the Congress leader said.

Congress has made corruption as a poll plank alleging that the ministers demand 40 per cent commission on public works from contractors.

Appealing to the Congress workers to work hard in this election, he said a message should be conveyed that the party is coming to power with a serious purpose to deliver things to the people of Karnataka.

In the outgoing 224-member Assembly, the BJP currently has 119 seats, followed by the Congress with 75 and the JD (S) with 28 seats. Two seats are vacant.

While polling for the Assembly election will take place on May 10, the results would be declared on May 13.



## AMID DAIRY ROW, RAHUL GANDHI VISITS BENGALURU'S NANDINI MILK PARLOUR

**PATNA: CONGRESS DARPAN**

Bengaluru: In the backdrop of the Nandini vs Amul battle, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday bought a Nandini ice cream and termed the brand "Karnataka's pride."

He also termed Nandini, the flagship brand of Karnataka Milk Federation, the "best." The Congress leader's move came in the wake of the state party leaders throwing their weight behind the homegrown dairy brand, amidst fears of its takeover by Gujarat's Amul.

On a two-day visit to the poll-bound Karnataka, Mr Gandhi bought the ice cream at a Nandini store here while flanked by Congress state president D K Shivakumar and party general secretary K C Venugopal.

Mr Gandhi later posted his photo on Twitter with a caption, "Karnataka's Pride — NANDINI is the best!" The row involving



the two unions started recently, after Amul announced it would supply its milk varieties in Bengaluru. The opposition Congress and the JD(S) said the

BJP wanted to 'kill' Nandini by allowing Amul in Karnataka. They also expressed fears that a scarcity of Nandini products would be created to make way

for Amul to take over. The Basavaraj Bommai led BJP government, however, denied the charge saying that there was no threat to Nandini from Amul.



**Jarbom Gamlin**  
16 April 1961 - 30 November 2014  
**Former CM of Arunachal Pradesh**



**Kandukuri Veerasalingam**  
16 April 1848 - 27 May 1919  
**Father of the Telugu Renaissance Movement**



## ‘MODI JI, CASTE CENSUS DATA...’: RAHUL GANDHI ON POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

PATNA: CONGRESS DARPAN

**Bengaluru:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has called for removing the 50 per cent cap on reservation for Other Backward Classes at a Karnataka election campaign speech in Kolar district, the same place where he made the "Modi surname" speech in 2019 that led to his conviction in a defamation case last month.

Mr Gandhi also challenged the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release the data of the caste census started by the previous United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in 2011. This will show whether Other Backward Classes (OBC), Dalits and adivasis don't have enough representation in the country's politics proportionate to their population, Mr Gandhi said.

"When we talk about Dalits, OBC, the people of India, what is the biggest question? The biggest question is which section has the highest population. If you see the number of secretaries in the government, only 7 per cent are OBC, adivasis and Dalits. The question is what is the population of OBC, adivasis and Dalits in the country before you talk about the distribution of wealth and political representation," Mr Gandhi said at the rally in Kolar, a mining region in Karnataka.

"The UPA government started caste-based census in 2011... It is important to know the population of every section to determine their political representation if you want to take everyone along on the path to development," Mr Gandhi said, adding the 50 per cent cap on reservation for SC/ST should be removed and kept proportionate to their population.

The BJP government does not want a caste-based census. It told the Supreme Court in September 2021 that such a census would be "administratively difficult and cumbersome" and excluding such information from the purview of the census was a "conscious policy decision".

Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar in a tweet criticised Mr Gandhi for calling to increase reservation percentage at a time when the Congress itself in Karnataka wants to reverse it.

"While Karnataka Congress leaders want to reverse reservation, Rahul 'dropped' into



Karnataka today and said he wants to breach SC (Supreme Court) limit on reservations and so the Congress politics of lies and promise and scoot continue. That is why voters chose BJP because we deliver what we promise," Mr Chandrasekhar said. Mr Gandhi's call to breach the 50 per cent reservation cap, however, is an endorsement of the stand taken by other opposition parties such as Rashtriya Janata Dal, Janata Dal (United), Samajwadi Party, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the DMK. Tamil Nadu had already breached this ceiling in the 90s.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar also yesterday indicated he would rework caste reservations once the caste count and socio economic survey exercise, which has been going on in Bihar, are released.

The BJP government in Karnataka, too, had passed a resolution to increase the quota and bring it under the 9th Schedule of the Constitution so that it is not subject to legal scrutiny.

"Modi ji, you should release the data of the caste census. Everything will become clear after that. If you don't do this, it is injustice to the OBC. You talk about the

welfare of OBC, so show the nation how many of them are in the population and then explain why only 7 per cent secretaries in your government are OBC, adivasis and Dalits," Mr Gandhi said.

"The second important thing is the quota for SC/ST should be made proportional to their population. Third, the 50 per cent cap that you have put on reservation should be removed. Then let's talk who is doing great injustice to OBC," said the Congress leader who was disqualified from the Lok Sabha after his conviction in the "Modi surname" defamation case.



CP Shri Mallikarjun Kharge addressed the Jai Bharat Rally in Kolar, Karnataka. The atmosphere was electric with exciting energy as people gathered in large numbers to show their support.

#KarnatakaWantsCongress

